

# 25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

## STYLE CONFIDENCE

*Design ideas with vision and verve*

From conversions  
to cottages,  
we've got it covered

**PATTERN POWER**  
A London townhouse  
to inspire

SOLD AS PART  
OF A MULTIPACK,  
NOT FOR RESALE

## SPACE PLANNING

SMART LAYOUTS, CLEVER STORAGE AND MORE



# CAPITAL GAINS

A clever spatial reconfiguration has resulted in a well-proportioned, family-friendly interior in Abby and Chris Hollins' city home

FEATURE JACKY PARKER PHOTOGRAPHY GUIFRÉ DE PERAY



## SITTING ROOM

Neutral tones are punctuated with brass accents for an air of glamour and sophistication.

Walls painted in Slate V pure flat emulsion, £48.50 for 2.5L, Paint & Paper Library. Channels Copper rug, from £1,729, The Rug Company. Eichholtz Harvey coffee table, £2,765, Sweetpea & Willow





## REPLANNED

### HOME TRUTHS

#### THE PROPERTY

Victorian end-of-terrace

**LOCATION** West London

**ROOMS** Sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, cloakroom, five bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom, shower room

**PURCHASED** 2014

#### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a new-build flat in Manchester before moving to London,' says Abby.



#### KITCHEN

As this space benefits from plenty of natural light, Abby and Chris were able to be brave with their colour choices.

Cabinetry painted in Deep Green Blue Grey interior eggshell, £60 for 2.5L, Marston & Langinger. Lillian bar stools, £59.99 each, Wayfair

Abby Hollins did not expect to move to London and be able to have a house with a garden and room for guests. Having relocated from Manchester to the capital with her husband, Chris, and their two children, Jackson, now five, and Isla, four, Abby was drawn to Chiswick for its village feel. 'We couldn't find a completed home in our budget,' she says. 'Instead, we looked at properties that could be developed.'

The couple asked their friend, Felix Milns of design and build firm Zulufish to look at a three-bedroom Victorian house. 'Felix got really excited when he saw this place,' says Abby. 'It's end of terrace, on a corner and hadn't been extended, so there was plenty of scope to create something special, which encouraged us to go for it.' Abby and Chris wanted to take their time and get their home right, so

they moved in before starting work. 'That helped, as the way we lived soon became apparent,' says Abby. 'The garden was at the front and the gate opened onto the road, so we couldn't let Jackson out on his own. The kitchen was tiny but had a utility room, which I loved. We quickly realised which rooms we'd spend most time in.'

Abby and Chris also loved the large kitchen-diner and family space that Felix and his wife, fellow designer Caroline Milns, had created in their home. This helped them formulate their ideas and, once the pair knew what they wanted, Felix reconfigured the layout of their home, increasing the volume of the interior by half, and submitted the planning applications. The ground floor was extended to the side and rear into the wedge-shaped garden, the floor was lowered to increase the ceiling height, the staircase moved and the



### FAVOURITE FEATURE

*'The patchwork parquet flooring is brilliant. I love how it looks and it's great at withstanding scooters and pushchairs'*



**MAIN BEDROOM**  
When closed, the doors to the en suite perfectly match the bank of wardrobes. Bespoke wardrobes, from £7,800, HUX-London, painted in Pearl Ashes eggshell, £55 for 2.5L, Fired Earth



**CHILDRENS' BEDROOM**  
The gentle grey backdrop is boosted with pastel blue linens and accessories. Classic single bed, £375, The Little White Company



front door relocated into the middle of the side elevation, opening up into a panelled entryway. 'Having the front door in the centre is a revelation,' says Abby. 'It's increased the floor space and allowed us to have a utility room and concealed storage in the hall, as well as the large kitchen-diner and an enclosed garden. We were able to have 60 people here for Isla's fourth birthday party.'

With their extended families in Liverpool and Manchester, the couple wanted to be able to accommodate guests, particularly the children's grandmothers. Zulufish was able to create two guest bedrooms and a shower room in the loft space. 'We knew our mums would be frequent visitors,' says Abby. 'So being able to convert the loft into a guest suite was a dream come true.' Caroline encouraged the couple to create Pinterest boards so they could visualise a design

scheme throughout the interior. Images of Crittall windows kept reoccurring, along with concrete, steel and leather. 'Things get spilled in this house, so we wanted hard-wearing surfaces where marks would either not to be noticeable or add character,' says Abby. 'The kitchen had to be durable, as we both love cooking, so that relaxed, urban, industrial look really appeals for practical reasons, too.'

During the 10-month renovation, the family stayed in a short-term let and also with friends. 'We were living out of suitcases – I'd buy toys from charity shops, then drop them off again when it was time to move on,' recalls Abby. 'It's surprising how little you can learn to live with. So to move here and have this space and the ability to entertain family and friends is amazing. We knew it would be good, but we didn't realise just how good.' 25