25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

LAID-BACK LIVING
RELAXED SPACES FULL OF ASPIRATIONAL IDEAS

PASSION PROJECT
An island cottage filled with personal details

Innovative glazing solutions for a light-filled home

COUNTRY · CITY · COASTAL

CAPITAL STYLE

There's a freshness to Maryam and Omar Hani's terraced townhouse that's simply outstanding

FEATURE JACKY PARKER | **PHOTOGRAPHY** GUIFRÉ DE PERAY

After relocating to London from their home in Dubai, Omar and Maryam Hani and their two daughters, Aysha, 10, and Sara, eight, were drawn to Primrose Hill in north London for its quintessentially English architecture and bohemian feel. 'We love all the independent shops, cafes and restaurants,' says Maryam. 'And when we saw this house, we loved its original period features.'

The couple, who both work in the oil industry, had visited the capital many times – and as true Anglophiles and self-confessed 'culture vultures', were looking forward to having theatres, museums and galleries on their doorstep. In fact, it was the couple's art collection that formed the basis of their home's design. Having scoured the internet looking for a design and build company to take on the renovation of their new home, the couple discovered Zulufish, run by Caroline and Felix Milns and loved their portfolio of projects. 'Moving to the UK, we wanted our home to have an eclectic British feel,' says Maryam. 'We loved Caroline's aesthetic and use of colour and thought Zulufish could create the home that we wanted.'

Originally set over four storeys, the property itself was tall and thin with lots of boxy rooms, which made it feel dark and poky. Omar and Maryam wanted their home to feel light and spacious but the family also had a lot of possessions so good

1 KITCHEN-DINER
Bespoke storage provides a home for the children's books and toys.
Cabinetry, price on request, HUX London. Cabinetry in Strong White estate eggshell, £64 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Bespoke rug, price on request, Jennifer Manners

2 GARDEN
Floor tiles unite the interior and exterior, while the cushions add a burst of colour.
Garden design by Ruth Willmott. Beren dark grey porcelain floor tiles, from £60sq m, Tiles to You. Cushions, from £145 each, AMWA Designs

3 SITTING ROOM
Brass finishes add to the classic yet luxurious look.
Dahl sofas, price on request, George Smith. Siena coffee table, from £1,510, Tom Faulkner

storage and a way to display their art collection was paramount.

Adept at maximising space and light, the Zulufish team removed the dividing walls at the rear of the lower ground and dug down by half a metre to increase the ceiling height and create a spacious kitchen-diner, which leads out to a smart garden. A wall of custom-made cabinetry was designed to fit within an alcove to house the children's books and toys, while further hidden storage was disguised under the banquette in the dining area.

A similar approach was taken with the layout throughout the house, with internal walls removed to create large connecting dual-aspect rooms, such as the family snug and study on the ground floor and the double sitting room on the first floor. The loft was converted to incorporate a bedroom each for Aysha and Sara, plus a bathroom.

When it came to the colour palettes, Caroline considered the couple's art collection early in the design process. 'We wanted to weave them into the scheme, so we mapped out which pieces would go in which rooms from the outset and used the art as the backbone of the design.'

The family now has an abundance of space and storage, as well as a beautiful base to start their new life. 'We can't believe how much more height and light there is in the house,' says Maryam. 'We can't wait to have our extended family over to visit.' 25

4 **MASTER BEDROOM**
The dusky pink textural wallcovering makes the room feel cosy and calm.
Painting, from £950, Netta Carey

5 **BEDROOM**
Storage was built in behind the bed.
Marrakesh Blue Crocus wallpaper, $31.38 for 30yd roll, Innovations. Petrol bottle, £195, Sophie Cook

6 **EN SUITE**
The veining on the marble tiles wasn't matched for a unique look.
Liberty marble honed finish floor and wall tiles, from £78sq m, Artisans of Devizes

7 **BATHROOM**
Pink chevron tiles create a fun feel.
Herringbone pink matt tiles, £4.99 each, Tiles Direct. Starck shower head in polished red gold, from £495, Axor