

25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

Stylish family homes made with love

SHORE THING
Exciting new builds overlooking the sea

MODERN STAMP
A contemporary scheme in a former sorting office

EXPERT ADVICE
Designing a mid-century look
Collecting art
Creating a mezzanine

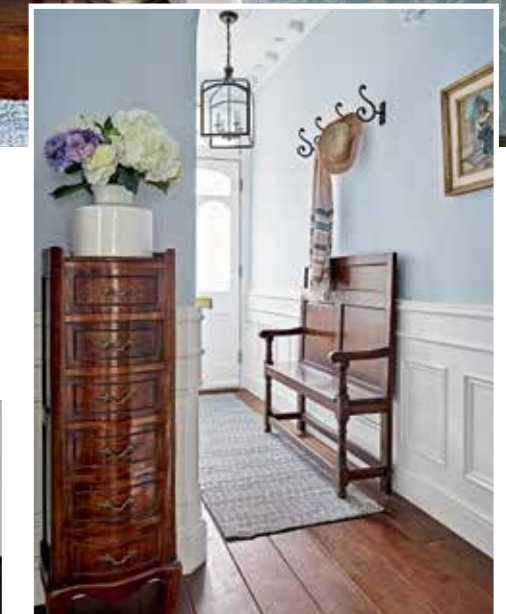
PATTERN & COLOUR
DECORATING IDEAS FOR ROOMS BIG AND SMALL



RECALL 2/5/18



DESIGN TIP 'Use natural materials, such as wood, marble, jute and linen, as they always combine beautifully'



INSPIRING

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Terraced house, built around 1890

LOCATION

Southwest London

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, cloakroom, four bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2013

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here, we lived in a flat in Pimlico,' says Lisette.

SUNNY DELIGHT

Bright, summery shades and antique furnishings bring casual elegance to Lisette Voûte's home

FEATURE AMELIA THORPE | PHOTOGRAPHY NICK SMITH

Having outgrown their cramped flat, interior designer Lisette Voûte and her husband Chris were longing for more space. 'We were fed up of living on top of our possessions and only being able to dry the laundry in the sitting room,' says Lisette. 'Then I inherited an old Dutch armoire from my grandmother and was desperate to find somewhere to put it.'

The search was on for a new home in Clapham, southwest London, as they had friends living nearby and because of the

area's family-friendly feel. So when they found a four-bedroom Victorian house on a quiet road, they moved quickly to snap it up. 'We liked the flow of the rooms, the sense of space and the feeling that we could put our stamp on it,' says Lisette. The property was structurally sound, with a recently completed glass-roofed extension making a light-filled kitchen-diner. In the last few years, however, the house had been rented out, so it was in need of refurbishment.

Out came the tired carpets and worn floorboards, dated bathroom fittings and



SITTING ROOM

Soft greens and pale blues create a fresh, uplifting feel.

Walls painted in Pale Power estate emulsion, £45 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Contemporary sofa, from £2,810, David Seyfried; covered in Darwin Green J624F-13 fabric, £53m, Jane Churchill. Bluebell armchair, from £640, Sofa.com; covered in Kenrick Old Blue F3920/02 fabric, £79m, Colefax and Fowler. The antique Oushak rug was bought in America; try Knots Rugs for a

similar bespoke design. Curtains in Carrera fabric, £83m, Zoffany. Sash mirror, £265, Oka

MID-SITTING ROOM

Matching lamps (top) lend a touch of classical beauty

Try elegant urn-shape distressed table lamps, £169 for two, Cowshed Interiors. For a similar floor lamp, look at the Toki, £405, Flamant

HALL

Semi-glazed vintage French doors enhance the spacious feel. Bespoke oak flooring, Walking on Wood



KITCHEN
The property's previous owners added a side extension to create this large, inviting room. Lisette chose rattan bistro-style chairs to add a touch of French charm. Made-to-order chairs, price on request, Maison Drucker. Bespoke cabinetry with Carrara marble worktops and splashback, Lisette Voûte Designs. Ashley

Bronze hanging lanterns, from £89 each, Overstock

DETAIL
A sideboard provides a place for mixing drinks and displaying favourite photos. Sweetpea & Willow's Kew botanical prints, £95 a pair, would also suit this setting. Try the Tenbury table lamp, from £99, Neptune. Soho Home's Heythrop tray, £75, is similar to this one

INSPIRATION 'I love wandering through antiques shops looking for unusual, one-off pieces for my home'

kitchen units. The electrics and plumbing were updated, new flooring was added and skirting boards and doors were replaced throughout. 'For me, getting the basics right was important,' says Lisette. 'It was like creating a canvas, from which I could build up layers of texture and colour.'

Lisette created a mood board for each room. 'Using Pinterest and magazines, I gathered ideas,' says the interior designer who carefully planned each area, creating a conversation circle in the sitting room and a dining zone in the kitchen. Selecting furniture with the right proportions and allowing sufficient 'air' around pieces enhances the spacious feel, as does plenty of storage. 'That doesn't mean I don't like pretty things dotted about, but I'm careful not to have an overwhelming amount that ends up looking cluttered,' she says.

Describing her design taste as 'casual elegance', Lisette says she enjoys combining her decorating ideas, inspired by visits to family in the Netherlands, grandparents in

France and holidays in the USA. 'I love Provençal style, and I'm also influenced by America's East Coast and old Dutch furniture,' she says. 'As long as the finishes or colours are similar, there's no reason why you can't have a mix of styles.' Nor is she afraid of antique dark-wood furniture, which has fallen out of fashion for some. 'Traditional pieces can work beautifully, especially if teamed with modern, clean-lined designs,' she reflects. Together they create personality and a timeless look that is classic, but also relaxed and unstuffy.'

Consistent throughout the house is a combination of light, fresh tones, which offset the rich brown flooring to create a natural flow from room to room. 'The palette of colours introduces a summery mood, which I love. It even works in winter because the rugs, cushions and curtains bring it all together and make it feel cosy and warm,' explains Lisette. And best of all? 'I adore the sense of space, and I can see us staying here for years to come.' 5



BATHROOM
This luxurious scheme includes a large shower with a marble seat. Mackintosh three-hole basin mixers, £557 each, Lefroy Brooks. Mandarin Stone sells similar Carrara marble, from £342sq m; and Jerusalem Ivory tumbled limestone floor tiles, £71sq m

MAIN BEDROOM
Lisette found the chest of drawers in an antiques shop. 'It fits this space perfectly, and the duck-egg colour is beautiful,' she says. Curtains made in Nina Campbell Benington NCF4093-01 fabric, £68m, Osborne & Little

