



Bijou & beautiful

This compact cottage conversion was designed to be contemporary and cosy for a couple but also welcoming for their family and friends

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HOME TRUTHS**THE PROPERTY**
Cottage-style terrace**ROOMS** Open-plan kitchen/dining/living area, office, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, dressing room**LOCATION**
Southwest London**SITTING ROOM****A mid-century vibe is blended with elegant modern pieces.**

Renwick pendant and wall lights, lights&lamps. Hugo sofa in GP & J Baker's Olive velvet, Kingcome. Relax Barcelona chair, Knoll. Dario chairs; Jaslynn rug, Andrew Martin. Find a similar artwork at DaVic Gallery of Native Canadian Arts

KITCHEN

This streamlined space offers a calming ambiance in which to prepare and share food.

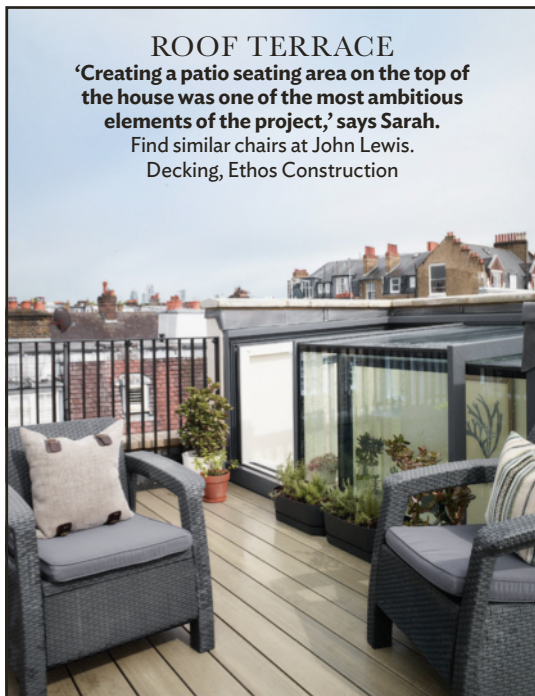
Cabinetry with surfaces in Cimstone Britannica quartz, Roundhouse. Walls in Strong White, Farrow & Ball.



ROOF TERRACE

‘Creating a patio seating area on the top of the house was one of the most ambitious elements of the project,’ says Sarah.

Find similar chairs at John Lewis.
Decking, Ethos Construction



This characterful period cottage renovation is my favourite kind of project,’ says designer Sarah Fox. ‘I was called in right at the beginning with a blank canvas to work on which is always the dream scenario. The clients were lovely and I had a great team to work with – it doesn’t get better than that.’

The owners – young Canadian couple Lisa and George Bell – have lived all over the world thanks to their work. She is a financier and he is an entrepreneur and early stage investor, but they had come to the conclusion that London is the greatest city in the world and it’s where their hearts lie. After two years of searching they fell in love with the leafy spot in southwest London which has a village-like atmosphere with independent shops and local restaurants. The property they discovered was a small early-19th-century three-storey townhouse in need of a top to toe renovation but with scope for a roof terrace.

‘Lisa and George knew exactly what they wanted – a home that felt contemporary and cosy for two yet effortlessly welcoming for visiting family and entertaining,’ says Sarah, ‘but they quickly realised that they were taking on a major project and that they needed an interior designer – that’s where I came in.’

Sarah, who has worked in Los Angeles designing homes for big-name Hollywood stars like Brad Pitt (who is renowned for his love of interiors) and Winona Ryder, came highly recommended through industry endorsements and instantly gelled with the couple. She worked with a great team – project manager Mark Taylor of Fulwell Property Consultants and Ethos Construction – and

‘In the open-plan downstairs, spaces were zoned with groupings of furniture and bespoke cabinetry contributes to the streamlined look’



DINING AREA

‘Rooms flow together thanks to a neutral colour palette enhanced with earthy tones and furniture that harmonise,’ says Sarah. Andromeda chandelier, Heathfield & Co. For fern prints and frames, try Canford & Co. Mid-century chairs reupholstered in Larsen Asti fabric in Forest, Colefax and Fowler



BEDROOM

A cocooning silver birch forest wallpaper was used as the accent wall.

Bosky wallpaper in Bruno, Lewis & Wood. Atrani Stripe cushions; Clarkson table lamp, Andrew Martin. Bed linen; throw, John Lewis. Penelope bedside table, West Elm



together they brought the renovation in on time and within budget.

'Lisa and George wanted to include some mid-century items that they already had – a dining table, chairs and a sideboard – which was helpful as it contributed to setting the tone for the direction of the design,' says Sarah.

Although she did much of the sourcing, the couple joined her on fun trips to try out key pieces like sofas, chairs, lighting and rugs as well as choosing the all-important kitchen. When it came to art the couple mainly picked their own pieces. 'That way it was truly a reflection of their individual personalities,' adds Sarah.

Given the house's compact nature it was especially important that rooms flowed together and the whole ground floor was opened up to create a seamless sitting, dining and kitchen area. Spaces were zoned with groupings of furniture with a cohesive palette of earthy tones, with shades of white and accents of deeper colours enhanced with natural wood and softer greens, blues and greys.

'With a small space it's important to make the most of every corner,' says Sarah, 'that's where bespoke fitted joinery comes in along with a fully fitted kitchen and bathrooms. Using custom carpentry was transformative in this house as it gave the rooms character and a sense of being completely resolved,' she adds. 25

foxinteriordesign.com; fulwell.co; ethosconstruction.co.uk



BATHROOM

Marble-effect porcelain tiles are warmed by oak cabinetry.

Imperial Gold Matt tiles, Stone & Ceramic Warehouse. Wood-effect vanity, C.P. Hart

MAIN BEDROOM

'Designed to follow the slope of the eaves, the wardrobes are finished in a soft creamy textile for warmth and softness,' says Sarah.

Wardrobes finished in Beige Textile by Egger, designed by Fox Interior Design with St James Interiors. Palati ceiling light, Visual Comfort & Co