

AS GOOD AS NEW

Why move when there's amazing potential in your own home, as Emma and Nick Berry found out

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DINING AREA
A bare brick wall adds warmth and texture. Eero Saarinen-style Tulip table, £699, Pash Classics. *Black Graffiti Lips*, canvas, from £66, Skulpta



KITCHEN-DINER
The palette of blues and greys lends a feeling of harmony. Swag light, £75, John Lewis & Partners. Lucja bar stools, £119 each, Cult Furniture



SITTING ROOM
Tier-on-tier shutters make a feature of the bay and highlight the ceiling height. Blue Penelope accent chair, £139; Madison corner sofa, £899, both Cult Furniture. Five-arm brass chandelier, from 232, Spark & Bell



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian terrace
LOCATION North London
ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, kitchen-diner, three bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom, study/guest bedroom
PURCHASED 2009
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'Before, we lived in an apartment in Australia,' says Emma.



Having lived in their home for 10 years, Emma and Nick Berry felt the need for a change and started to think about moving house. But after a chance meeting with interior designer Caz Myers from Caz Myers Design, their plans radically changed. 'We love living in Crouch End as it's such a vibrant neighbourhood and we just couldn't find anywhere we liked better,' recalls Emma. 'Fortunately, I met Caz at a friend's house where she was finishing a beautiful renovation and I thought, why don't we do the same?'

After a positive first meeting with the interior designer, plans were drawn up and the project was underway within a

couple of months. 'When Caz showed us her detailed mood and furniture boards, there was very little we didn't like,' says Emma. 'Our brief was to create a stylish space where we could entertain friends, but equally it needed to be a practical family home for us and our baby daughter, Florence. We didn't want anything too formal, preferring unusual features.'

Caz suggested a neutral wall colour as a starting point in the sitting room, introducing plush blue upholstery and soft furnishings. 'The layout of the house hasn't changed but we have opened up the kitchen, which has created a much lighter space,' explains Emma. 'I'm most delighted with the exposed brick wall, which Caz suggested. She sourced and bought brick



MASTER BEDROOM
Slimline furniture and a neutral backdrop give a spacious, uncluttered feel. Pink Celine accent chair, from £195, Habitat. Mini cot, £119, moKee



BATHROOM
A wall-mounted vanity unit adds to the floor space. Assorted Monogeo floor tiles, £3.74 per tile, Topps Tiles



BEDROOM
‘Painted floorboards give a vintage look that suits our array of styles,’ says Emma. Floorboards in Loft White, £69 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Feather-effect metallic wings, £180, Rockett St George. Isla footstool (below left), £89, Julian Joseph



DECORATING TIP ‘Don’t be afraid to experiment with colour and consider using darker shades on woodwork and doors to create unexpected contrasts’



BEDROOM
‘The idea behind the guest room was an unfussy look with warm tones to make it welcoming,’ says Emma. Sydney rocking chair in faux leather in Grey, £129, Cult Furniture. Metalwork nightstands, £299 each, West Elm



slips, which are essentially real bricks but half depth and had the wall properly pointed so that it looked like an original solid brick exposed wall. The texture has warmed up our scheme and added another unusual feature to the house.’

After drafting a detailed furniture board, something Caz always recommends to her clients, an unusual oval dining table was chosen to maximise the space further and add a touch of contemporary style. A mid-century sideboard, a favourite piece of Emma and Nick’s, was sourced by Caz and integrates well with the modern mood of the kitchen and dining space.

‘I wanted the house to have a natural, calm flow and Caz’s suggestion for wooden floors downstairs and painted

floorboards in the bedrooms really appealed to me,’ says Emma. ‘I like the idea of repeating texture, colour and mood throughout the house because it creates harmony.’

Emma and Nick have no regrets about reworking their house instead of moving to a new area and are still amazed at how straightforward their renovation project turned out to be. ‘I think we were so lucky finding Caz because she really listened to what we wanted and that’s one of the most important considerations when choosing your interior designer. We do have similar taste, but she brought so much more to the project than we ever imagined and has turned our tired Victorian house into an exciting new home.’