

no. I2

KITCHEN-DINER

This large living space was once a rabbit warren of small rooms. The inclusion of London Stone bricks contributes to the industrial look the couple wanted.

Kitchen cabinets, price on request, Caz Myers Design and Point 5 Kitchens. Arlington leather stools, £150 each, Peppermill Interiors. Similar vintage cut pendant lights, £170 each, Lighting Agency. Parquet Herringbone oak floor, price on request, Istorla Wood Floors



Starting OVER

Gina and Mark Mills decided to embark on a complete overhaul of their Victorian home when the children flew the nest - they only wish they had done it sooner

FEATURE KAREN JENSEN-JONES | PHOTOGRAPHY NICK SMITH

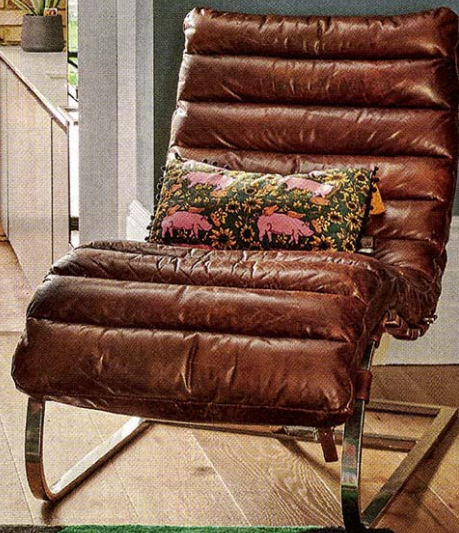


HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Victorian townhouse

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

LOCATION
North London



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hen our children left home a couple of years ago, we knew it was time to update the interior of our tired looking house,' remembers Gina Mills, an event planner with a keen interest in interiors. 'We've lived here for over 15 years, and it's been a lovely family home but living as a couple again, we wanted to make better use of the space and update the look.'

On the recommendation of a friend, Gina appointed Caz Myers from Caz Myers Design (cazmyers.com) to oversee the renovation and improve the outdated layout. 'The kitchen was a warren of small rooms with a cloakroom and utility area and it didn't feel like a space to relax in or entertain,' explains Gina. 'Caz could see that we weren't making the most of the space and suggested opening up the back of the house into a light-filled, open-plan living area with a breakfast bar.'

The ground floor was stripped of the smaller rooms and Caz proposed black metal-framed windows to bring in the light and create an uninterrupted view of the garden. She also suggested bringing London Stone exposed brickwork into the scheme, in keeping with the period of the house. And to soften the natural materials, Caz thoughtfully curated the couple's beloved artwork across a feature wall, which designates the more formal dining area. Using colours from the gallery, she designed a luxurious, velvet banquette for relaxing, with a scattering of colourful cushions.

'I probably spend most of my time in the kitchen-diner now as it has such a friendly vibe and has evolved into a more sociable space,' confesses Gina.

SNUG

Sliding pocket doors (seen above) separate this space from the sitting room for flexibility.

Walls in De Nimes estate emulsion, £54.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Starburst rug in Green, £738.50, Bazaar Velvet. Austin leather armchair, £209.99, is a similar style, Homescapes. Jewel Country Pig cushion by Laura B Interiors, £58, Wolf & Badger



'We're also keen on the benefits of plants, natural light and eating outdoors and we knew Caz had really understood our brief when she suggested an outdoor seating area. It's versatile and easy to maintain.'

Another difficult space was the room between the kitchen and the sitting room, which had become nothing more than a corridor. 'It was a waste of space because it wasn't really used for anything other than passing through,' recalls Gina. 'Caz knows we're both keen music lovers and her idea to create a snug with a space for the piano and our precious vinyl collection was the perfect solution. The dark paint colour creates such a moody atmosphere which we love.'

Upstairs, Caz has updated the main bedroom using muted colours and contemporary wooden furniture, and the en-suite makeover has included interesting tiling and a floating vanity unit to create a more spacious feel. 'I'm especially pleased with the upstairs study as it's such a useful room as we both often work from home,' enthuses Gina. 'The daring, dark paintwork on the window surround, another great Caz idea, and the exposed brickwork have brought this unused room literally back to life and given us an exciting new home for the next chapter of our lives.' 25

SITTING ROOM

The scheme was designed around the colours in the painting, with velvets, leather, wood, marble and old glass all enhancing the scheme by adding subtle tones and depth. Sedgwick mirror, £850, Oka. Dancer artwork by Liz Sutherland. Easytime Narrow three-seater sofa in Petrol, £2,590, Camerich





**'THE MAKE-UP STATION IS A LOVELY
LUXURY AND THE TUCK-AWAY STOOL
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MAIN BEDROOM

The black in the graphic cushion is picked up in the wall-hung vanity in the en suite (shown left) and also in the fittings of the space-saving, barn-door style en-suite door.

Pick wall light in black and brass, £110, Pooky. Rebel Knit Onyx velvet cushion, £70, The Curious Department. Loully sisal and raffia mirror (above bed), £101.75, La Redoute, is similar. Norrebro bedside table in acacia and brass, £269; Fresco dressing table, £499, both Swoon. Crosswater Svelte two-drawer vanity unit and basin, from £1,379, Drench

