

# Another

*The sheer amount of work Rebecca Bethell took on to bring this Edwardian home back from the brink is impressive*

# level

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## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Edwardian semi-detached house

**ROOMS** Sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, teen den, utility room, cloakroom, second kitchen, guest bedroom, four bedrooms, four bathrooms

### LOCATION

South London

### KITCHEN

'Off-white cupboards go well with the dark parquet floor, which I sourced to be a close match to what would've been here before,' says homeowner Rebecca Bethell.

Worn Vintage Oak parquet, Broadleaf Timber. *The Colours of London* framed poster, Tate Modern. *Hollywood Star Chart* by Dorothy, East End Prints





**DINING AREA**  
‘I grew up with this Danish teak dining table, which my parents bought in Brussels when we lived there in the 1970s,’ says Rebecca. Vintele dining table is similar, La Redoute. Try the Greta sisal rug, Benuta



**SITTING ROOM**  
‘I bought the 1930s chair 10 years ago on eBay – it’s been reupholstered in an Ian Mankin fabric,’ says Rebecca. Bespoke shelves, Bethell Projects. Try suzani silk hand-embroidered cushion, My Little Wish. Lampshades, Pooky



Rebecca Bethell believes the worst house makes the best project so she was delighted to come across an Edwardian semi that had been empty for a couple of years. The large square rooms, high ceilings and location close to school for sons, Max, 17, and Felix, 15, ticked all the boxes. However, the first viewing revealed the property’s true condition.

‘Seventeen people had lived here in nine bedsits, there were holes in the walls and floors and I could see straight up to the roof,’ recalls Rebecca. ‘When I looked around I had to cover my nose, but I wasn’t put off by the horrors,’ she explains. ‘I welcomed them – I absolutely love a ruin.’

Rebecca is a project manager and interior designer for her business, Bethell Projects. She took on the renovation for her family with great enthusiasm using trades she knew and trusted – much to the relief of her husband, Mark, a lawyer. With all the space the couple needed over four floors, Rebecca knocked through the kitchen and dining room and created en-suite bedrooms. New electrics, plumbing and heating were installed while windows and period features were reinstated. Rebecca dug down the basement to create useful head height, too.

‘Now it’s a teen den with a guest bedroom, kitchen and laundry,’ says Rebecca. ‘The separate entrance to the garden is useful when film crews use our house for location shoots.’ Rebecca started out with a black kitchen and decorated the room a forest green. However, the paint began to chip off the cupboards during the fit-out and a panicked phone call resulted in replacing them with a cream kitchen. ‘It’s a much better choice, warmer than white and the paintwork is more forgiving.’

‘For the walls I chose cream, which is warmer than white – the neutral backdrop works well for changing things up later on’



**LIVING AREA**  
A pretty archway frames the perfect seating nook by the window and is one of the few original features in the house.

Similar Chinese chest, Vinterior. Blue Elephant wall clock, Wayfair, is a good alternative. Riad wall light, Bespoke Lights, is similar





**MAIN BEDROOM**  
Dark walls showcase the African wall decorations Rebecca's parents bought there during the 1970s. Walls in Grey Moss, Little Greene. Similar wall baskets, Sifa Designs on Etsy. Paper ceiling shade, John Lewis, has a similar look



**HALLWAY**  
'The original staircase reminds me of the Edwardian properties I lived in as a student,' says Rebecca. Custom-made shoe rack in Off-Black, Farrow & Ball. Find antique Turkish textiles at Rug Store



**BEDROOM**  
A bright yellow velvet bed pops out from the blue walls, which also emphasise the off-white period details. Leamington button bed in Turmeric Yellow velvet is similar, Daals. Walls in Inchyra Blue, Farrow & Ball. Similar mid-century teak side table, Pamono

says Rebecca. 'It wasn't long before I found the dark green walls too oppressive during the evenings, so I painted them cream, too – the kitchen looks so much lighter now.'

Back in the hallway, the decoration deepens to a dark grey colour with green undertones for a warm, relaxed feel that's echoed in the sitting room. 'I've always loved the combination of rich greens with reds,' says Rebecca. 'I grew up in a house with many Middle Eastern kilims and rugs as my parents worked abroad. I snapped up the red vintage Turkish rug after seeing it on eBay in Germany – it was well-priced and exactly the right size for the large room.'

Up on the first floor, colours and textiles follow the thread with mossy green walls and touches of black in bedside tables and lighting. 'It feels cosy to fall asleep in a dark room and the deep tone emphasises the off-white period details we reinstated,' says Rebecca. 'Throughout the house, I brought in vibrant lampshades, rugs and cushions so if you took everything out, rooms would look quite neutral, which works well for changing things up later on – and for location filming.'

The hallway was one of the last projects to be completed. Here, Rebecca was delighted to be able to restore the staircase and give it a modern edge painted black.

'Although a challenge, I really enjoyed bringing the house back from the brink, I know the bones are solid and lasting and I love how all the rooms look,' she says. 'We can't possibly grow out of living here – we have all the space we need.'

Rebecca's house is available for location shoots on [locationcreation.co.uk](http://locationcreation.co.uk); [bethellprojects.co.uk](http://bethellprojects.co.uk)



**EN SUITE**  
'Pale grey and black is a nod to monochrome Victorian bathrooms but the bath adds a modern edge,' says Rebecca. Cielo bath, C.P. Hart. Herringbone floor tiles, European Heritage. Similar vintage rug, Rugs of London. Pom Tassel curtains, Anthropologie