

# 25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

## LIGHT AND BRIGHT

*Airy houses oozing summer style*

**Blue-sky spaces  
for seasonal  
entertaining**

### **INSPIRED DECORATING**

**Beautiful colour  
schemes to love**

### **EYE FOR DESIGN**

**An intriguing  
conversion  
in Derbyshire**





# TREASURE TROVE

Georgia and James Broome have revived their once-neglected home by filling it with mementos from years living overseas

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## DINING AREA

Kitchen cupboards were used to make the sideboard, which doubles as a desk. Metod wall units, from £19; Veddinge grey doors, £13 each, all Ikea. London Bus Blinds & Signs sells framed bus blinds, from £345

Georgia and James Broome took design cues from a collection of varied and exciting times they had enjoyed while living in Brixton, Dubai and Toronto, plus Georgia's childhood in the South of France, when they finally settled in their first family home in Oxfordshire. 'I couldn't wait to decorate and properly unpack all our belongings we'd collected over time,' says Georgia, a furniture upcycler and interiors blogger at [homemadeproductions.co.uk](http://homemadeproductions.co.uk).

The couple bought the property a few years ago after finding a bilingual school for their

children, Olivia, seven, and Charlotte, five, who are fluent in French. At first, Georgia wasn't interested in viewing this house, put off by a questionable loft conversion and side extension that didn't meet building regulations. 'By then we'd had offers rejected on six other properties and this place was the last on the shelf, so to speak,' says Georgia. 'It had been empty for two years and was in a poor state, but I was completely taken by the Fifties parquet floor.'

Space was another deciding factor, with the loft big enough to create an office for James, who works in software development. As was



## GARDEN

Georgia designed the deck and pergola herself, inspired by outdoor living in their Canadian home. Tolix-style metal side chairs, £59 each; Tolix-style metal stools, £45 each, both Cult Furniture



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Fifties semi-detached house  
**LOCATION** Oxfordshire  
**ROOMS** Sitting room, kitchen-diner, office, cloakroom, playroom, three bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

### PURCHASED 2016

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**  
'Before moving here, we were renting a semi-detached house in Toronto, Canada,' says Georgia.



**DESIGN TIP** 'Try to find interesting ways to reuse or upcycle pieces and you'll end up with something completely unique'



#### SITTING ROOM

Bursts of red complement the parquet flooring and introduce warmth. The Inventors Red Eiffel armchair, £67.99. Only Home, is similar. Try H&M Home's velvet cushion cover in Dark Blue, £6.99



#### GIRLS' BEDROOM

The elephant wall decoration came from a French flea market. For a Babar print, £12.99, see BvdBDDesign on Etsy. Mosslanda shelf, £9, Ikea

the chance to reconfigure the layout to suit their lifestyle, including adding an en-suite bathroom and creating a playroom for the girls.

Work got underway soon after the couple bought the house – with strict instructions to the builders to preserve the original parquet floor. Energy efficiency was a priority, and the property was remodelled with extra insulation, triple-glazed windows and A+ rated appliances.

Georgia picked a colour scheme of warm beige and grey with bright accents on walls, furniture and art. 'The Blue was inspired by a collection of china and glass I inherited from grandparents,' she says. 'We already had the blue dining chairs, and painting our bedroom walls in a navy hue added warmth.'

An ethical approach to design led Georgia to buy end-of-line tiles, and use the kitchen worktop cut-offs for the pantry shelves and a small tabletop. She also experimented with upcycling craft projects, like making hanging plant holders using yarn from T-shirts, and now shares this know-how on her blog, where she also sells pre-loved furniture.

Most of the couple's belongings have moved with them, marking the stepping stones of their life experiences. A framed London bus blind notes the routes Georgia and James used to travel, and framed old French school posters are a nod to Georgia's childhood in France. The dining table and bed are from Dubai. 'I like that our belongings tell a story,' says Georgia.

The garden, finished last year, was the last project, and when the bifold doors are open Georgia says it is like the place doubles in size. 'This was the house no one wanted and we're proud of what we've achieved,' she says. 'It's lovely to give our things a new lease of life and finally live somewhere that feels like home.'



#### GUEST BEDROOM

A wardrobe is hidden behind a decorative wall, which also acts as a pretty headboard. Boråstapeter Wonderland Hanna Werning Vildtuta wallpaper in Midnight, £99 a roll, Wallpaperdirect



#### MASTER BEDROOM

A group of artworks, including a drawing by Georgia's dad, creates an interesting display. Painted Lady 22 print, £75, Jessica Harrison