

AMAZING space



Emma and Peter Daniel's uninspiring 1970s house was completely rejigged to create one incredible family home

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY JENNY KAYE

HALLWAY

'Moving the front door was transformative as now we come into a welcoming entrance hall,' says Emma. Arteak Castano wood-effect are similar floor tiles, Porcelain Superstore. Artemis circular chandelier has this look, Pooky

SITTING ROOM

A wall of bespoke joinery creates focus and conceals the TV, too.

Joinery in Vert de Terre, Farrow & Ball. Garret round mirror (far left), Perch & Parrow, is similar

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Detached 1970s house

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, study, snug, four bedrooms, two bathrooms

LOCATION

Buckinghamshire

DINING AREA

Wipe-clean chairs don't shirk on design detail, while the washable rug is practical for family life.

Clear Ghost-style chairs, Fusion Living

KITCHEN

The structural post and curves of the island make it a statement, quirky piece.

Try the Brooklyn dome pendant, Industville. Wood bar stool is similar, La Maison Chic



Emma Daniel has a creative eye for space planning but struggled with the interiors of her home. However, she was concerned using a professional might not reflect her style. 'We wanted an impressive family house with a classic look that wasn't so precious we felt uncomfortable, but I didn't quite know how to achieve this,' explains Emma, who is a business journalist and lives here with husband, Peter, a solicitor, and children Charlie, eight, Georgie, six, and Izzy, two. 'Interior designer Gloria Gambini made the effort to get to know us and

created beautiful spaces that were also practical for our family. She knew exactly where to place furniture and lighting and added details that elevate and make our home feel special.'

When Emma first found this uninspiring 1970s property, Peter was reluctant to look around. But the space, garden and tree-lined street close to the station gave Emma a good feeling. 'The way the light came into the property at the back was really beautiful and I had ideas to extend into the side return,' she recalls. 'But the layout was odd – we came in through a

side front door and into a cramped hallway, though the adjoining garage had potential to be converted with a main suite above.'

Plans were drawn up and as the kitchen project got underway, Emma wasn't satisfied with the garage design. With the distractions of young children and a busy job, the couple decided to put the second phase of their project on hold.

'During lockdown, I took another look at the design and felt we could be bolder,' says Emma. 'The house is on a lovely plot and deserved a far grander entrance.' The front door was relocated to

the middle of the house, creating a generous entrance hall. The garage was replaced, extending forward into the large driveway to create a study, cloakroom and utility room, with a main bedroom, en suite and dressing room above.

Emma also spent time carefully considering the flow of the downstairs space – the sitting room was an annoying thoroughfare to the garden from the kitchen, hallway and snug. 'We changed one set of the double doors to a fixed picture window, creating a sight line all the way through from the front door to the garden,'

'DECIDING TO BUILD ABOVE THE GARAGE GAVE ROOM FOR THE NEW MAIN BEDROOM SUITE'

BATHROOM

The hard-wearing vibrant floor stands out against the neutral walls. Lily Pad porcelain pistachio tiles, Ca' Pietra

MAIN BEDROOM

'I loved Gloria's idea to use panelling across the whole wall as it makes the room feel big and grand,' says Emma. Headboard in Jane Churchill's Layla Green fabric, Gambini Interiors. Panelling in Treron estate eggshell, Farrow & Ball



explains Emma. 'Gloria's clever furniture arrangement makes the circulation much easier to navigate.'

Emma began working with Gloria Gambini Interiors to bring her ideas for a smart, classic home to life. 'Gloria was keen to reassure me she'd create interiors that were a reflection of us,' says Emma. 'From the start she and I were on the same wavelength.'

Emma's inspiration came from visits to family in the USA as Peter is half American. The panelled hallway with the oak staircase was a strong idea that the builders recreated from a picture, as was

choosing hardwearing porcelain herringbone floor tiles over real wood. 'Americans are often house proud and their interiors reflect the local surroundings,' Emma says. 'We live on the edge of the Chilterns so leaned towards a palette of greens and neutrals, which Gloria said should sing together – and that's especially important when you look back through adjoining rooms. She's made this house everything we hoped for and although Peter struggled to see the potential at the start, he's blown away with our home, too.' [gambini-interiors.com](https://www.gambini-interiors.com)