

Home COMFORTS

A home that speaks to a colour palette of neutrals, charcoal and warm gold – with a hint of Italian – gave Gloria Gambini the calm, familiar feeling she craved

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN
PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS SNOOK

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Victorian terrace

ROOMS

Sitting room, kitchen-diner/family room, snug, utility room, cloakroom, four bedrooms, dressing room, two bathrooms

LOCATION

Buckinghamshire

DINING AREA

'The table was made to match the length of the island,' says Gloria. 'The company belongs to a charity that helps teach young people furniture-making skills.'
Bespoke table and bench, Goldfinch Furniture.
Ghost chairs, Kartell

'OAK PANTRY INTERIORS ADD A WARM, ORGANIC FEEL TO THE GREY KITCHEN'



KITCHEN
 'I wanted a stand-out statement pendant and I love the materials, colour and that it's handmade,' says Gloria. Long John pendant, Rubn. Kartell Charles Ghost stackable stools, Made In Design. Cleaf cupboards in Charcoal, New Line Kitchen Design



After growing up in Italy's Umbrian countryside, Gloria Gambini craved green space and was always keeping an eye out for a house in the right location with her husband, Stuart Ellerby, and their children, Sebastian, six, and Lewis, four. With a dual interest in house renovation – Gloria is an interior designer and Stuart is a director at MoreSpace, a residential construction company – they were also keen to find a house that needed work.

'We moved when I was pregnant with our eldest and Gerrards Cross was the perfect location being in the greenbelt with good schools, close to my in-laws and commutable to London,' says Gloria. 'The terraced Victorian house, built in 1904, was a good buy as we could extend and add value to the property.'

The couple were able to move in and concentrate on family life during the first year while they made plans. Obvious changes were to extend the galley kitchen with a wraparound extension, and knock through the dark, middle room with the sitting room. They also wanted to convert the loft.

'In phase one, Stuart's company created two bedrooms and a bathroom on the second floor and we turned the third bedroom on the first floor into our walk-in dressing room and en suite,' says Gloria. 'The main bedroom was already a good size and it's made this space lovely and luxurious.'

The following year the extension was built and finished in three months. In both phases, Gloria put together a lighting and electrical scheme and planned the furniture layout. When it came to



SITTING ROOM

'We made the fireplace the focal point with a new white marble surround in keeping with the era,' says Gloria. Ektorp armchair is similar, Ikea. Selina brass floor lamp, Soho Home. Kenzie Champagne mirror is similar, Decorative Mirrors Online. Walls in Cornforth White, Farrow & Ball

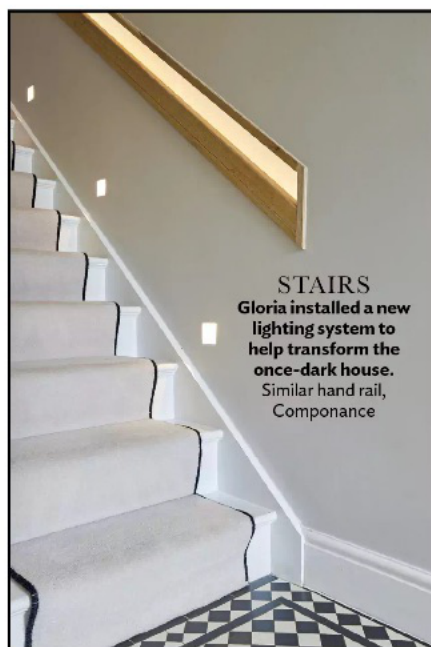
'I WAS INSPIRED BY MONOCHROME AND CALM HOTEL BEDROOMS WITH A BIG BED AND ELEGANT SIDE TABLES'



MAIN BEDROOM
Black elements tie the pretty curtain trim in with the mirror and bedside table.
 Trellis Border Onyx trimming by Villa Nova, Westcot House.
 Reyna bedside table, Swoon



BATHROOM
'The lively tiles suit the children's space,' says Gloria. 'I carried them over the bath to make the room look bigger.'
 Hampton Blue porcelain tile, Tile Experience



STAIRS
Gloria installed a new lighting system to help transform the once-dark house.
 Similar hand rail, Companance

decoration, she had no hesitation in opting for neutrals in a timeless contemporary style. 'For me, I like my own home to feel calm and comfortable so it was my goal to come through the front door and instantly feel relaxed,' she explains.

With a subtle pale grey scheme throughout, Gloria went darker in the kitchen with charcoal cupboards complementing beige wall cabinets and a corner section of oak panelling for warmth. The drama in here are the eye-catching brass lights that hang on leather straps above the island. 'Varying textures is important so a modern neutral scheme doesn't feel cold so I've used oak, gold, leather, marble and glass throughout the house,' says Gloria. 'Since the kitchen is north-facing, I chose a gloss finish on the wall cabinets to bounce the light.'

Colour and pattern has been used sparingly in rooms – a vignette of bright artwork, the window seat fabric mirrored in sofa cushions, funky rugs. 'A rug anchors a room and a print lifts a neutral space,' says Gloria. 'I particularly love the handcrafted collections at Holmes Bespoke as they do amazing designs that are like paintings.'

Italian artwork features throughout the couple's home but Gloria hasn't consciously followed an Italian style – though friends think otherwise. 'I'm told there's an Italian quality to my interiors,' says Gloria. 'Certainly Italians like to dress their homes and invest in good quality window treatments, furniture and lighting, so perhaps that's what I've instinctively adopted. Now we're finished, we've definitely achieved our goal, it's a beautiful house – but I can't help thinking about our next project...' 25

@gambini.interiors; ineedmorespace.co.uk