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DINING AREA

The pretty fabric blind is a soft foil to the characterful wooden pieces. Similar farmhouse table, £850, Vintage France Design. Vintage Swedish bench, £420, Ardingly Antiques Fair



# LOVE AND CHERISH

*Continuing the family passion for antiques, Kerry and Andy Warren filled their home with treasured pieces*

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## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY**

1870s Victorian semi

**LOCATION** West Sussex

**ROOMS** Sitting room, kitchen-diner, office, utility room, cloakroom, playroom, four bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms

**PURCHASED** 2009

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We lived in an 1870s terraced house in Brighton,' says Kerry.

## KITCHEN

Painting the walls and ceiling the same colour heightens the room. Simple shaker cupboards complement the age of the house.

Neptune's Chichester is a similar style unit, £780 for a 600mm cabinet. Samsung quartz worktop in Kauai, £540sq m, World of Stone





**SITTING ROOM**  
 'I've started each room with something I love, like this gorgeous pink fabric I used to cover the sofa,' says Kerry. Sofa in Iona fabric in Rosebay, £90m, Linwood. Sofology's Stamford sofa in Heron Rose, £1,249, is similar

**K**erry Warren and her husband Andy have a deep-rooted attachment to all things old and original having both grown-up around antiques. 'Andy's father was an antiques dealer and his shop was in a converted stable block attached to their Georgian home,' says Kerry. 'When I visited with Andy, we both loved looking at the antiques, which is how they became the foundation for our own home.'

When the couple decided to move out of their Brighton Victorian terrace with children, Paddy, now 17, and Toby, 15 and into the Sussex countryside, a period property was a must. Kerry says the mood of the house really sold it to them. 'It felt cosy, not sprawling, but with plenty of space and character,' she recalls.

Since the property was in good shape, and neither Kerry nor Andy wanted to extend or modernise, the only changes were to put it back to how it had once been. Missing staircase spindles were matched to the originals by a craftsman, while uPVC French doors and a bedroom window were replaced with traditional styles.

Planning the room schemes came naturally to Kerry (@thedeclarativemum), who studied textile design and sometimes advises on fabrics and colours for interiors projects. She

leans toward classic styles with a carefully chosen fabric at the heart of each room.

The couple arranged much-loved antiques, combining eras with ease – the French farmhouse dining table, Victorian side tables and a French chandelier were all in their previous home. 'When we first moved in together, we didn't consider buying new, as antiques are beautifully crafted and often cheaper – our sitting room chandelier cost less than £50 and that was 20 years ago,' says Kerry.

The pair have also inherited pieces that spark happy memories: a late Georgian writer's bureau was Andy's doctor grandfather's in his front living room surgery; they also have Andy's grandmother's 18th-century footstool. Kerry likes to mix in the whimsical, too, with old paintings, mirrors and fabrics. 'I'm a romantic at heart and living with males, I like to have a little bit of prettiness in rooms,' she says. 'I'm drawn to 1940s and 1950s floral paintings and gilt-framed mirrors, especially those with a mottled effect that show their age.'

Kerry and Andy love how their house has turned out. 'Our home serves us well as a family and the location is perfect,' says Kerry. 'It's taken us years to collect our lovely antiques and if we ever moved, the house would have to fit right in with them – our furniture is part of who we are.' 🏡



**1 SITTING ROOM**  
 The stripped fire surround echoes the pine floorboards and window joinery. 'One of our first purchases for this house was the 1870s gilt-edged mirror,' says Kerry. Mirror, £380, Canterbury Auction Galleries. Similar Famille Rose Chinese porcelain, £61 for a mug, Vinterior

**2 TOBY'S BEDROOM**  
 Striped textiles and a metal bed strike a simple, utilitarian note. Blind in Blue ticking, £90m, Kate Forman. Try Toast's organic cotton Pyjama Stripe double duvet cover, £89

**3 BEDROOM**  
 'The floral oil painting picks out the pinks in the room,' says Kerry. Painting, £160, Ardingly Antiques & Interiors. Pooky's Trafalgar antique brass table lamp, £226, is similar



**4 MAIN BEDROOM**  
 The cast-iron fireplace is original and matched with a 19th-century oval mirror from the same era. Gilt oval bevelled mirror, £735, Pamono, is similar. Italian chandelier, £145, Franklin's Antiques and Interiors

**5 & 6 BATHROOM**  
 'I like that I catch a glimpse of the oil painting above the bath as I come up the stairs,' says Kerry. 'The colours pick out the pinky-reds in the blind and the blue tones in the grey walls.' Traditional fittings and small details, like the pine apothecary cupboard, bring the classic look together. Walls in Pavilion Gray and Skimming Stone estate emulsion, both £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Hampshire towel radiator, £327; Whitechapel basin, £157; both Bathstore, are similar. Painting, £120, Ardingly Antiques & Interiors