



KITCHEN
Instead of extending, the couple added floor-to-ceiling glazing and a skylight to get the light-filled room they wanted. Clerkenwell Super Matt kitchen, from £8,000, Howdens. Reeded glass pendant lights, £142 each, Spark & Bell. Terrazzo Nouveau Ivory floor tiles, £57.60sq m, Mandarin Stone. Try the Ola Graphic Weave bar stool, £295, Graham and Green



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian semi-detached

LOCATION South London

ROOMS Sitting room, snug, kitchen-diner, cloakroom, four bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2010

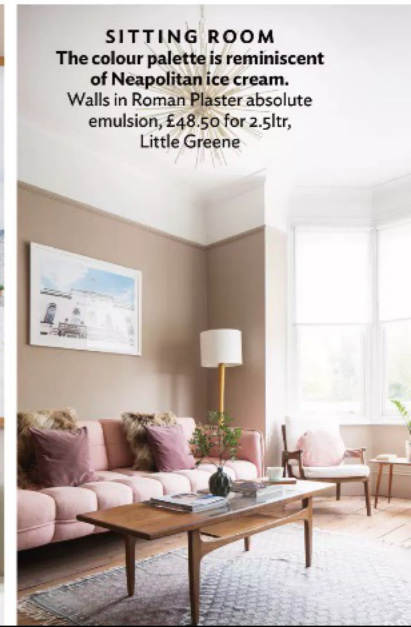
PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here, we lived in a Spanish-style villa in Melbourne, Australia,' says Jane.

VINTAGE blend

Jane McCarthy and her husband Ian Harman combined their love of mid-century design with inspiration taken from time spent living in Australia

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRENCH
STYLING MARISHA TAYLOR



SITTING ROOM
The colour palette is reminiscent of Neapolitan ice cream. Walls in Roman Plaster absolute emulsion, £48.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene

MAIN BEDROOM
 'My grandma crocheted the
 bedspread for my 21st
 birthday,' says Jane. 'It's a
 wonderful piece of history.'
 Knoll Saarinen white Tulip
 table, £804, Cimmernann.
 Frosted Bubble chandelier
 (below), £149.99 with 12
 baubles, Dowsing & Reynolds.
 Origami desk is similar,
 £399.50, Maisons du Monde



BATHROOM
 A slimline shower
 tray creates a
 wet-room look.
 Aspect Grey Hexagon
 tiles are similar,
 £33.95sq m, Walls and
 Floors. Picasso
 free-standing bath,
 £1,395; Picasso basins
 (below), £198 each,
 Lusso Stone. Round
 gold metal mirrors,
 £218 each, Maisons
 du Monde

After enjoying living in Melbourne, Australia, for four years, Jane McCarthy and her husband, Ian Harman, moved back to their London home with children, Stanley, now 15, and Wilf, 14.

'We'd been living in a villa covered in pretty bougainvillea and came home to a house with mould on the kitchen walls and a jungle of a garden,' says Jane. 'We'd got used to space and light so we decided to extend into the side return. We contacted architect Darren Oldfield, who was recommended by friends.'

The couple originally bought the house for its space, sizeable garden and period features, but had never been happy with the kitchen, which had been extended some 40-odd years before. 'We should have benefited from the morning sun, but a tiny back door made it always feel gloomy,' Jane explains. 'The layout was back-to-front with a table as you came into the room and cupboards at the far end but no view to the garden.'

Jane and Ian were surprised when Darren discouraged them from extending. 'I had a vision of a kitchen with a sofa and log burner, but he rightly pointed out we already had comfortable seating and log burners in the other two downstairs rooms,' she says. 'We're amazed how much bigger the kitchen looks just by rebuilding on the same footprint and changing the layout.'

Bold glazing ideas added to the sense of space with floor-to-ceiling doors across the back and a glazed window box on the side. 'We fell in love with Darren's design, especially the window seat,' says Jane.

Darren project-managed the renovation for the couple, who both work full-time. Unfortunately, not long into the building process, a problem arose with a drain that resulted in an expensive solution to re-route the pipes, which meant scaling back the kitchen budget. 'Darren suggested we look at Howdens' kitchens, which I was a bit unsure about at first, but I was pleasantly surprised by the range.'

After the building work finished, Jane rolled out her vision for the kitchen, influenced by interior design in Melbourne's many city centre coffee shops. 'One of my favourite places had pink and brass fittings and an amazing terrazzo floor,' she says. 'I chose brushed gold taps, blonde wood furniture, handleless cupboards and sleek black appliances.'

Jane used a similar colour scheme throughout the house to complement their collection of mid-century furniture. Stylish lighting and intriguing artwork add finishing touches to the rooms. 'Sometimes I find myself sitting in the kitchen early on a Saturday morning when everyone else is still in bed,' says Jane, 'and I think how lovely our home is. It's a good feeling to be here.' 🏡



FAVOURITE ITEM
 'I really love the
 mid-century look
 of the reeded glass
 pendants in
 the kitchen'



STANLEY'S BEDROOM
 A painted black floor grounds
 the neutral scheme.
 The Ella chair in Moss Green velvet,
 £239, Cult Furniture, would work

