

MOOD MAKER

Every room in Melissa Murray-Serter's updated terrace has something unique about it and this adds up to a home that has a wonderful atmosphere

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY MATT GAMBLE



DINING AREA

'To make the space look more bespoke, our builder made the corner unit and bench seating using end panels from the same range as our kitchen cupboards,' says Melissa. Bespoke brass table, Quirky Interiors. Similar Ghost chairs, Fusion Living

SNUG

Panelling up to the ceiling and the blue paintwork create a cocooning effect. Walls and ceiling in Selvedge, Farrow & Ball. Globe silk lampshade, Studio + Store. Brondby corner sofa in Silver Grey is similar, Furniture Village



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
1920s terrace

ROOMS Sitting room, snug, kitchen-diner, utility room, cloakroom, four bedrooms, three bathrooms

LOCATION North London

Melissa Murray-Serter put mood at the heart of the interiors in her house renovation, driven by the character of the marble surfaces in the kitchen. 'I'm not a white walls kind of person but it's not necessarily about colour either, it's about making decoration interesting to create the right atmosphere,' she says. 'That might be a fun nursery wallpaper, dark cosy ceilings, or pattern, like the movement and vibrancy of the marble in our kitchen space.'

Melissa and her husband, Daniel, decided to buy a long-term family home not long before Margot, now two, was born. They fell for this 1920s terrace, which already had a loft conversion and rear extension. However, the work had been done in the 1980s and

desperately needed redoing. After moving in, the couple lived here for six months while they did their research.

'I found floorplans of neighbouring houses online so we could see the changes they'd made,' says Melissa. 'We wanted to buy once and buy well, creating a family home that was practical and stylish with space to host but also feel comfortable being just us.'

Melissa took her ideas to architect studio, Resi. 'We were allocated an architect who was the right fit for our project,' she says. 'We also liked its Connect service where we had access to vetted third parties such as a structural engineer, building contractor and surveyors.'

Having originally wanted a flat roof extension and a level ground floor, Melissa was advised against it. 'Resi



KITCHEN
An affordable high-street kitchen pairs with dazzling marble, prompting the blue decoration. Nordic Wave kitchen, Magnet. Cipollino Ondulato marble, MGLW. Oak engineered wood flooring, Wood and Beyond

SITTING ROOM
Dark green offers smart contrast to the room's neutral walls and picks out the colour in the fireplace tiles. Ceiling and skirting in Studio Green; walls in Bone, both Farrow & Ball. Corded pouffe is similar, John Lewis & Partners

EN SUITE
'The vanity is the signature piece in here,' says Melissa. Similar repurposed vanity unit, Revived and Restored. Luna bobbin mirror, Daals. Claremont fluted glass wall lights, Corston. Zellige handcrafted glazed tiles, Mosaic Factory

MAIN BEDROOM
The wall below the dado rail is the same blue as the snug. 'It's a restful colour,' says Melissa. Wall (below dado) in Selvedge, Farrow & Ball. Alma bobbin drawers are similar, Furniture123. Stork cushions, Ikea



'I like traditional furniture but mixed with modern styles so the decor doesn't look heavy'

advised the ceiling would feel low and suggested a shallow pitched roof, which was a great idea,' she says. 'I'd also wanted structural glass but the costs were astronomical, so they emulated the look with large skylights.'

When material costs began to spiral during the build, Melissa became smarter with their budget. She went to kitchen and bathroom companies offering 0% finance and elevated the look with high-quality lighting. 'I'd wanted real wood cupboards but I was pleasantly surprised by wood-effect style with long handles,' she says. 'Pared with the marble, the kitchen looks like a premium brand.'

Melissa made a last-minute switch on the marble itself. 'The original red vein looked too overbearing in the stone yard,' she continues. 'I bought a different one

on a whim and spent the rest of the project worrying! But it's just right -- timeless, different, loud.'

The snug's mellow blue decoration is repeated in the main bedroom, and in the en suite, a marble offcut was used on the vanity. Touches of brass, reeded glass, ceramic and silk pendant lighting uplift rooms; a dark sitting room ceiling has a cocooning effect; delicate wallpaper prints add a fun element in the cloakroom and nursery.

After moving eight times during the 10-month project, the couple are glad to be settled. 'Margot's bedroom is our happiest room because she loves it and we love playing with her in there,' says Melissa. 'Our home is stylish and homely -- and gives us all the right feels.' [resi.co.uk](https://www.resi.co.uk)



NURSERY

'I accentuated the dramatic angle of the gable with a pretty fern print wallpaper that's delicate rather than overpowering,' says Melissa.

Maidenhair wallpaper in Ivory, Living Quarters. Calico wall light in antique brass, Pooky

BATHROOM

'The yellow and white floor tiles led to the sandy shade for the wood panelling,' says Melissa. 'The colours look great with the brass fittings.'

Sweet Yellow square tiles, Bert & May. Panelling in Hay; walls in New White, both Farrow & Ball