



HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY**  
Top-floor flat within a Victorian building

**LOCATION** South London

**ROOMS** Hallway, kitchen-diner/living area, two bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2017

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**  
'Before moving here, I lived in a smaller flat nearby,' says Will.

**KITCHEN**  
'I asked the builders to customise the island with glass doors and shelves to make it look like a smart piece of furniture,' says Will. British Standard cupboards, £535 for a 44cm unit, Plain English. Island in Down Pipe estate eggshell, £62 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Try Maisons du Monde's Factory metal clock, £44



MODERN UPLIFT

Will Perrott made some clever design decisions to utilise every inch of available space in this bright, contemporary apartment

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREW BEASLEY



**LIVING AREA**  
Three rooms were knocked into one to create the living, dining and kitchen space. Try the Renn UK Harry coffee table with hairpin legs, £325, Notonthehighstreet.com

When Will Perrott took on a project to renovate and extend into the loft of his top-floor apartment, interiors decision-making went hand-in-hand with architectural changes.

'Flats have the tendency to feel small and I wanted my home to look architecturally interesting with a sense of light and space,' says Will, who works in commercial real estate. 'I knocked three rooms into one kitchen-diner/living area, painted all the walls white and used a dark-grey shade on

the kitchen island, steel staircase, doors and window frames to give a sense of contrast.'

Will had used a loft conversion company in his previous home and been disappointed with the 'bland and generic' outcome. In this property, he was keen to create impact. Will met Ben Hawkins from architecture and interior design practice Granit and he liked the firm's modern approach. Ben's plan for the flat included a steel staircase that draws light down through the interior. 'A side dormer creates space for the stairs, which has open treads and a glass balustrade

to disperse the light,' explains Will. 'The steel is spray-painted in a charcoal grey to match the shade I've used elsewhere.'

Ben's clever design manages to marry the planner's regulations to keep the ceiling with a decent head height in the new bedroom — all by lowering the floor. 'The en suite floor level drops down again to fit in the shower and loo,' says Will. 'Directly below, the kitchen sash windows appear to finish at the ceiling as we had to retain their height.'

IQ Living carried out the building work on the flat, which was stripped back to a shell



**DINING AREA**  
Oversized pendant lights help to anchor the table in the open-plan room. Pooky's larger Soprano concrete pendant lights, £79 each, are similar



**HALLWAY**  
Artwork in black and white and a smart grey radiator echo the shade of the steel staircase



**MASTER BEDROOM**  
 'I kept the brick wall exposed to reflect the room's previous life as an attic,' says Will. Try the Duck Egg Union Jack cushion, £45, English Folly

and reconfigured to add a new bedroom and en suite. Will began to execute his interior ideas, taking cues from Hilary Robertson's book *Monochrome Home*. 'It encouraged me to add contrast with a darker tone, though I tried to avoid black as that absorbs too much light,' says Will. Childhood holidays in East Anglia were also a big influence. 'Norfolk is all about beaches and huge open skies so I used washed-out greys and blues with sandy tones,' he says.

Flooring is simplified with engineered oak in the main living spaces and on the stair

treads, which Will treated with lye to remove the pigment and lighten the timber. 'Using wood was important to create a sense of warmth and texture,' he says, 'but I didn't want to whitewash the floors, otherwise the apartment would have felt too cold.'

Continuity applies to other materials, too – slate and marble kitchen worksurfaces echo the Victorian marble fire surround in the living area, as does the stone used in the bathrooms. Furniture and furnishings continue the monochrome theme and help to create separate zones. 'It's a large room

so my mother, who's an interior designer, encouraged me to think about how to segment the space,' says Will. 'The dark-grey island divides the kitchen from the dining area. This charcoal grey then nods to the original fireplace in the living area and inspired the lighting I chose.'

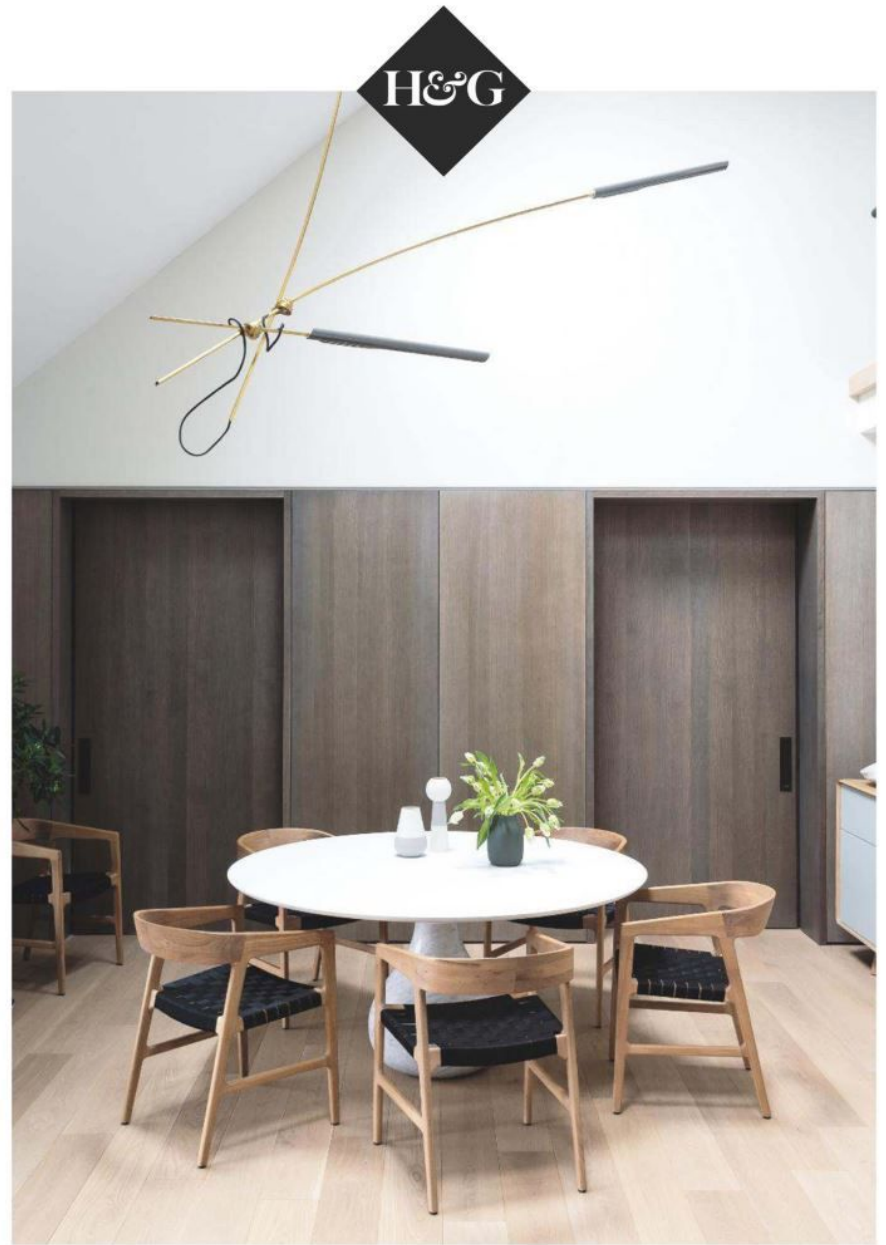
Will is especially pleased with how the light and dark tones have come together in his renovated home. 'The whole apartment is a good place to hang out,' he says, 'and the design of my loft bedroom is exactly as I hoped it would be. I couldn't be happier.' 25



**BATHROOM**  
 A mirrored panel behind the bath helps make this room feel more spacious. For a similar Roman blind, try the Faux Silk Silver blackout, £35, Dunelm



**EN SUITE**  
 Will chose pebble floor tiles as a reminder of childhood beach holidays. Caribbean Candy Pebble tiles, £49.29sq m, Mandarin Stone



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