

SITTING ROOM

The chocolate brown wall and mustard colour accents set the perfect tone for the vintage furniture and lighting.

Deep Reddish Brown is a similar shade, £56 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Whitechapel four-seater sofa in vintage leather is similar, £1,989, Old Boot. The artwork is by Richard. Anglepoise Giant 1227 floor lamp is similar, £3,195, Holloways of Ludlow

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Gillian and Richard Milner embraced the history of their 1970s house – giving it a retro look that’s truly groovy

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HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

1970s detached house

LOCATION South London

ROOMS Sitting-dining room, kitchen, disco room, shower room, indoor swimming pool, five bedrooms, two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2004

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a two-bedroom flat in Battersea,' says Gillian.

Gillian Milner had the urge to buy an unusual property when she and her husband, Richard, decided to move out of their Battersea flat back in 2004 and buy a family home before the arrival of their children, Jack and Lola, who are now 17 and 14. 'I didn't want to live with the narrow proportions of a typical Victorian terrace and instead went looking for an old warehouse or factory building or similar with big open spaces and lots of light,' explains Gillian, who runs Location Creation (locationcreation.co.uk) promoting properties for film and photography location shoots. 'Then, by chance, we spotted this house on a random property website. It's one-of-a-kind house, built by a property developer in the 1970s.'

Although Gillian was unimpressed with the 'blocky' exterior, she was delighted with the space, light and original 1970s fixtures and fittings inside – including a Formica kitchen, avocado and canary yellow bathroom suites and wood panelling. However, the ground-floor disco room and indoor swimming pool really blew her away. 'It was absolutely incredible,' says Gillian. 'The whole of the ground floor looked frozen in time as though a 1970s pool party was about to begin.'

SITTING ROOM

The oversized Pixar-style lamp came from a friend working at Babington House after the interiors were updated. The painting is by Richard. Try Anglepoise Giant 1227 floor lamp, £3,195, Holloways of Ludlow. Untitled (Blue, Yellow, Green, Red) framed print by Mark Rothko is similar, £200, Heal's

DINING AREA

'Most of my lighting is from Harvest Moon Lamps because they use original bases and lampshades made from vintage fabrics,' says Gillian. Bespoke table lamp, £130, Harvest Moon Lamps on Etsy



KITCHEN

In 1970s houses, the original cook space hatch is often blocked up but here it's become the perfect breakfast bar.

Carson bar stool in Vintage Tan Brown, £139.99, Lakeland Furniture, would work in this space



DISCO ROOM

'The mirrored shelving has glass shelves that I have filled with Babycham glasses,' says Gillian. Mid-century teak cocktail bar is similar, £285, Vinterior. Try white rattan hanging chair, £389.99, Belliani





INSPIRATION

‘Soho House’s 180 House in London – it has a wonderful 1970s decor with parquet flooring, shagpile rugs and amazing furniture’

Even though the purchase was a huge step up for the couple, they decided to go for it. ‘We loved that the house was different from the norm and we hoped it might help pay for itself as a location shoot, which it has over the years,’ says Gillian.

After moving in, Gillian knew the existing magnolia walls weren’t in keeping with the era of her new home, so she replaced them with vintage-inspired wallpaper more in keeping. ‘We’ve got different colours in each room – oranges, yellows, browns, greens and pinks – and they also make a great backdrop for the photo shoots.’

Another big change came when a client asked if they could paint one of the sitting room walls dark brown for a shoot. ‘When we saw how fabulous the wall looked, we kept it like this,’ says Gillian. ‘Over the years, quite a few changes came from the input of stylists on shoots, where we preferred where they’d placed furniture or a lamp or plant.’

The couple were pleased the previous owner was willing to sell lots of their original furniture, such as a G Plan coffee table and sideboard, leatherette bar stools, and bed frames with built-in bedside shelves. Over time, Gillian has added to the collection or has been given pieces by friends. ‘We seem to be top of the list when someone inherits a 1970s piece they don’t want,’ she says. ‘And everyone knows I’m happy with anything from the era as a birthday or Christmas gift – I’ve asked for another disco ball for my birthday.’

Shagpile rugs, floral dinner sets, vases and clocks are still things Gillian looks out for and she especially likes cushions and lampshades made from vintage fabrics. ‘I love that people come over and smile when they recognise a sideboard that their grandmother owned or remember an avocado wash basin they had growing up. The house is nostalgic for everyone,’ she says. ‘We love this place and we will never move – this is our forever home.’

MAIN BEDROOM

‘I was obsessed with using this wallpaper print in our room,’ says Gillian. ‘I love the classic mustard yellow and brown print.’

A.S.Creation’s Apollo wallpaper, £17.94 a roll, Wallpaper Shop. Energi Rock table lamp by Magnus Elebäck & Carl Öjstam for Ikea, £300, Pamono

BATHROOM

The canary yellow suite still features the same brown tiles and round bath with carpet up the side.

Clays Cotto tiles, £38.40sq m, Porcelain Superstore, are a good match