



PROJECT DETAILS

DESIGNER

Athina Bluff, founder of Topology Interiors (@topologyinteriors)

PROPERTY

A Victorian terraced house over four floors

WORK

Part of the space planning and interior design for an open-plan basement

LOCATION

Southeast London

GOOD VIBES

Relaxed earthy tones and vintage styles brought personality back into a previously plain white living space

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD KIELY

A couple with different tastes asked Athina Bluff to draw their styles together. 'Nick loves vintage looks and Madeline is drawn to minimalist designs,' says Athina. 'Mixing old and new is what we do and they felt our approach would provide the solution.'

1 CREATE A FOCUS

The sitting room is within the basement of the home of this couple who have four children. It forms part of an open-plan kitchen-diner with garden access. 'This area was a white box with nothing in it and we wanted to make the chimney breast wall more of a focal point,' Athina recalls. 'They didn't want a fire or wood burner so we concealed the opening and had joinery made to fit the alcoves to give the room more character and storage.'

2 HARMONISING THE DECOR

'Nick and Madeline gave us two base points to work with,' Athina continues. 'We built the scheme around an Anthropologie antique-style rug in pinks and blues and Farrow & Ball's Setting Plaster paint. The dusky pink is lovely though quite strong so the bottle green sofa tones beautifully. Choosing linear designs and focusing on wicker and rattan materials bring Scandi vibes and texture.'

3 CONSIDER PRACTICALITIES

'Access via the staircase was tight so we made the joinery on site,' says Athina. 'Our biggest challenge was finding a modular sofa we could physically get into the room and in a corner design to frame the space. Luckily the neighbours were kind enough to let us use their garden to bring the furniture through the back!'

4 DETAILS MATTER

'Displaying accessories on the shelves responds to the vintage look that Nick loves. We went to The Style Pad for their expertise in sourcing original accessories from antique fairs. They took inspiration from our mood board and curated a collection of simple, minimalist pieces. Nick and Madeline were so easygoing to work with and they love the results.'

A WONDERFUL BACKDROP

'The sitting room is central in the open-plan space so to draw the eye we only decorated in the warm beige pink in here,' says Athina. 'It marks the space as somewhere separate to relax.'

Walls in Setting Plaster modern emulsion, £59 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Squisharoo sofa in Wine Bottle clever velvet, £3,975, Loaf. Wilton rug is similar, £359, Trend Carpet. Pelham velvet grey armchair is similar, £349.99, Daals. Chadwick coffee table, £659, West Elm. Similar Ritta rattan and willow weave pendant light, £139.99, Lightzey