

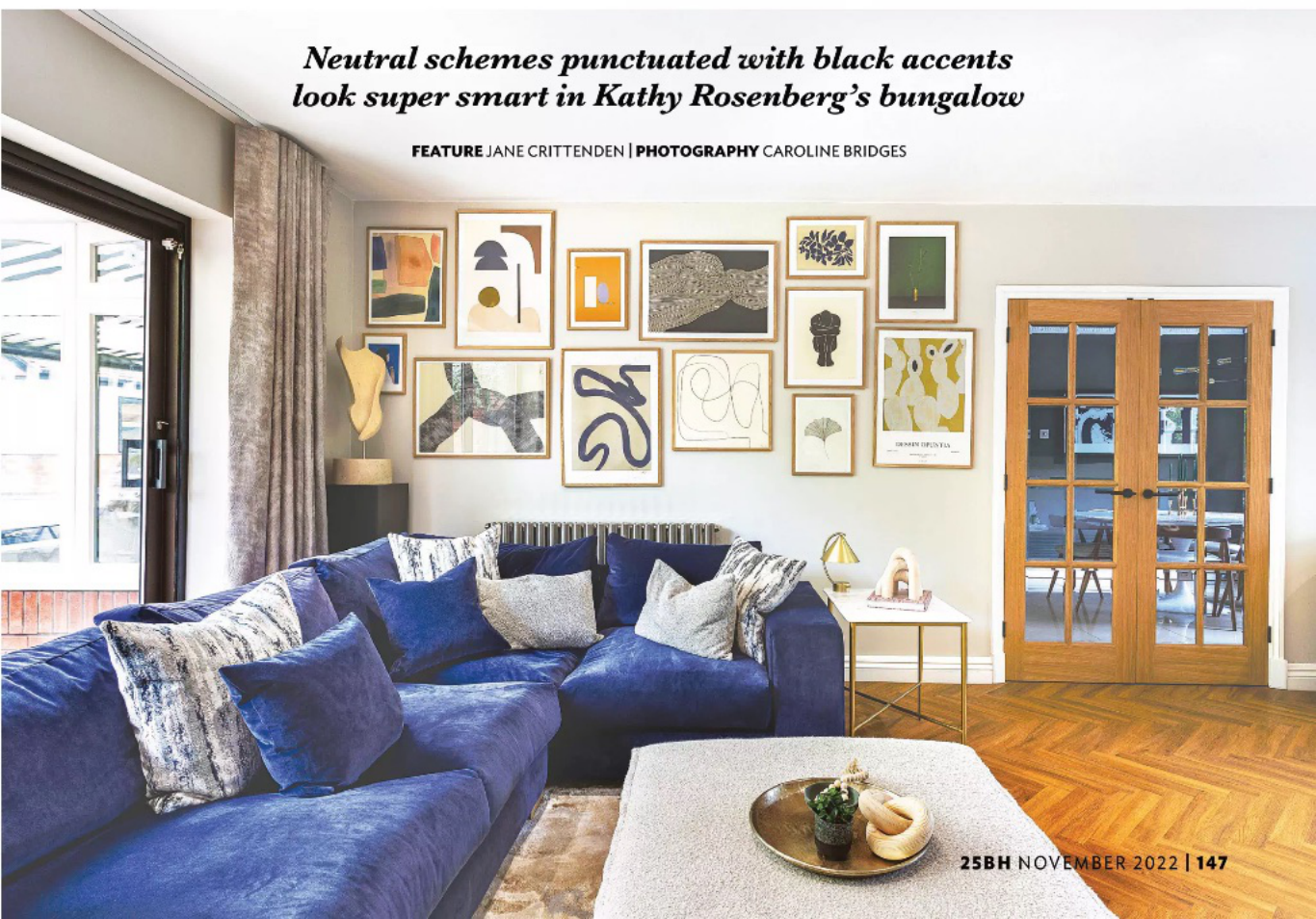


SITTING ROOM
A patterned fabric at the window complements the navy sofa to tie the two parts of this room together. Curtains and cushions in Sial in Oyster/Ink, £62m, Harlequin

LIGHT & SHADE

Neutral schemes punctuated with black accents look super smart in Kathy Rosenberg's bungalow

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY CAROLINE BRIDGES





KITCHEN
Neutral walls and plenty of natural light prevent the black cabinets from feeling oppressive in the space. Cabinetry in Bone Black acrylic eggshell, \$36 for 1ltr, Zoffany at Designer Paint. Walls in Skimming Stone estate emulsion, £52 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Stools, £295 each, Cox & Cox



DINING ROOM
Deep green walls create an intimate mood. Walls in Studio Green estate emulsion, £52 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

DECORATING TIP *'Painting window frames black gives a great industrial look but it also helps to draw the eye outside'*



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
1980s chalet bungalow
LOCATION Nottingham
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen/living area, dining room, cloakroom, four bedrooms (two en suite), dressing room, bathroom
PURCHASED 2020
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'I lived in a five-bedroom country house nearby that had been extended,' says Kathy.

Kathy Rosenberg had a head start with her decorating project by buying a chalet bungalow that she knew very well. 'My friends owned this house years ago and had extended the kitchen and above the garage to create a huge bedroom suite,' she says. 'I knew they'd invested in a high-quality kitchen and bathroom, which were still in great condition.'

Kathy was looking for a new home in the village where she already lived, near Nottingham, after her divorce. She heard through the grapevine that the property was coming onto the market and was able to secure the sale

privately. 'I loved the location and the bungalow had lots of character,' Kathy says. 'I wanted a bedroom for each of my grown-up children – Matt and Emma have left home while Lucy is at university – and I was looking forward to tackling another house project.'

Kathy invited interior designer Nikki Deakin (ndinteriordesign.com) to cast her expert eye over the property. The pair had become friends after Nikki had worked on an extensive renovation project at Kathy's previous home. 'In that house, I didn't know where to start with the interiors and Nikki helped me figure out what I liked and didn't like,' says



LIVING AREA
Natural wood, jute and textured fabrics bring warmth to this space. Oak and marble nest of two tables, £350, Cox & Cox. Aftas jute rug, £349, La Redoute



BATHROOM
 'This room was in good condition so I simply added more storage under the basin,' says Kathy. Bespoke floating cupboard, £1,999, Nikki Deakin Interior Design

BIGGEST SUCCESS 'Changing the interior doors to oak and fitting them with black handles modernised the whole look of the house'



BEDROOM
 The warm golden tones of the lighting and wood combine with hues of duck egg and green to create a calming feel. Mosie tufted cushions, £32 each; Columba framed prints, £175 for a set of two, all Made. Mijali wall shelves, £28.95 for a set of three, Sklum, are similar



LUCY'S BEDROOM
 Geometric patterns bring striking definition to this chic monochrome scheme, softened by richly layered textiles. Novani side tables, £235 each, La Redoute. Cushions, £7 each, H&M Home. Fes pouffe, £95, Made

Kathy. 'She was amazing at sourcing products, bringing samples and showing me how things went together. It was so much easier for me to make decisions and I wanted to work with her again.'

Since most of the rooms are on the ground floor, Kathy felt they should flow together but still tell their own story. The main living spaces are decorated in neutrals while a warmer grey features in the bedrooms. 'Nikki's idea to paint the kitchen black was a big surprise,' says Kathy. 'As this is the main socialising space, I was nervous at first, but it doesn't feel dark at all – the black seems to recede because of the neutral walls

and big windows. Nikki also suggested painting the window frames black, which smartens the rooms and draws the eye. 'I'd have never come up with this idea.' The dark tone is repeated in the hallway – this time in a softer deep green that continues into the adjoining dining room and Matt's two-tone bedroom.

The furniture is new – Kathy decided to start afresh because the rooms are smaller than those in her previous home. But she kept to the contemporary and mid-century look that she is keen on. 'I'm not a fan of florals, fussiness or bright colours and I love the clean designs at Heal's, West Elm and Made,'

she says. 'My biggest concern was how to furnish and divide the long sitting room, which Nikki did by creating two focal points – a comfortable window seat at one end and a large corner sofa in a complementary blue at the other.' Nikki also organised buying the fabrics and having curtains, blinds and furnishings made throughout the house.

Kathy and Nikki went through the bungalow, refreshing and revamping room by room. 'I felt like I was walking into a completely different house,' Kathy says. 'My friends who used to live here can't believe the transformation. My home really feels like mine – I love it all.' 25