



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Victorian link-detached house

LOCATION Southeast London

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, study, utility room, five bedrooms, two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2015

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived close by in a house we'd built ourselves,' says Shauna.

Victorian ROMANCE

Shauna O'Handley and Adam Glabay couldn't resist the charms of their period home

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRENCH



SITTING ROOM

Pink and blue tones are weaved throughout the house to tie all the rooms together.

Julianne sofa in Blush Pink, £999, Made.com. Try the vintage coffee table by Rodney Kinsman, £198, Retrospective Interiors



SITTING ROOM
A Victorian cabinet matches the age of the house.
Victorian cabinet, £150, Windsor Antiques of Dulwich



KITCHEN
Shauna loves the bespoke design and says it is an affordable option when you work with the right supplier and use local artisans.
Cabinetry, Piqu Kitchens; painted in Oval Room Blue dead flat, £62 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Cupboard upcycled with Emperor's Silk chalk paint, £19.95 for 1L, Annie Sloan



DINING AREA
'The mid-century Polish Cyrk posters make me so happy,' says Shauna. 'I love the vibrant colours and the style.'
Pamono sells vintage Cyrk posters, from £240



LIVING AREA
The houndstooth rug is made from an offcut of carpet that Shauna and Adam liked.
Fabula Living Tilia rug in Yellow/White, from £885, Utility Design, has a similar look

LIVING AREA

The space is big enough to have a second seating arrangement. Try Vinterior for a mid-century leather swivel armchair, £550



HALLWAY

A sisal stair runner is a visual transition between the downstairs hardwood floor and upstairs carpet, while the blue trim nods to the blue kitchen. Rosanna Trellis wallpaper, £65 a roll, John Lewis & Partners, is similar

The desire to tackle a Victorian house renovation was what pushed Canadians Shauna O'Handley and her husband, Adam Glabay, to sell their London self-build and start another project. 'There's a real romance to a period property and we were keen to put some shine back into an old house,' says Shauna. 'We wanted a calm colour scheme with rooms that flowed, yet with each having its own separate identity.'

Adam, a software engineer-turned-property developer, viewed the house first. He noted the sizeable ground floor already extended to the side and rear, with a conservatory tagged on the back. Although it was leaking and unpleasant, it was clear the extension could be rebuilt, and they could convert the loft. Shauna clocked the uPVC windows.

'I've always dreamed about living in a house with sash windows,' she says. 'Reinstating them is what this house deserved and it restored the Victorian feel.' The couple also put back coving in the knocked-through sitting room, reinstated the fireplace and built a Victorian-inspired staircase. 'The staircase is now over three floors and ties the newly converted loft space into the rest of the house, making it feel as though it has always been here,' Shauna adds.

PERFECT BALANCE

When the building work got underway, the couple put together a core palette of restful materials to anchor the interior decoration. All the joinery is painted in Farrow & Ball's Pointing and the same floral wallpaper runs up both stairwells. 'It was hard to find a pattern that didn't look old-fashioned but would still be sympathetic to the house,' says Shauna. 'This one struck the right balance and went on to inspire the blues and pinks in the rest of our home.'

In the sitting room, teal mid-century chairs are combined with a blush pink sofa – with a nod to the Victorian era in the solid cabinet – pulled together with a multicolour rug and throw. 'Pink is more notable here with a touch of blue on the way to the blue-painted kitchen,' says Shauna. 'Sticking to the two colours keeps the restful sense throughout.'

CREATING FLOW

Upstairs has a similar feel – bedrooms decorated in soothing shades of blue and bluey-green – and then in the bathroom, the twin-colour scheme hits the loud button. 'Red artwork and a turquoise blue cupboard are a clash that we really love in here,' says Shauna. Furniture is arranged to encourage a good flow of space throughout the house. Mid-century chairs on wheels can be moved around to separate or bring together both ends of the sitting room. A steel-framed breakfast bar extends the kitchen island and makes the space feel open.

Art and mementos finish off the house, personalising rooms to connect the couple with a place, person or feeling. 'We buy something if we have an immediate reaction to it, whether it makes us laugh or take a closer look,' says Shauna. 'In the hallway, I've hung my late mum's scarf on a hook so she's the first thing I see when I come home. The project was tough compared with our self-build, but we're really pleased with the outcome. The layering of colour and our mix of new and old has created a home that we absolutely love.'

FOR STOCKISTS GO TO WHERE TO BUY



BATHROOM

'The *Psycho* print, positioned opposite the shower curtain, is a bit of cheeky fun,' says Shauna. Poster Lounge has *Psycho* poster prints from £5.95. Tevah Coral bath mat, £15, Dunelm



MASTER BEDROOM

The plaid wallpaper has a relaxed grey-blue tone that works with the natural textures. Ralph Lauren Egerton Plaid wallpaper, £57 a roll, Designer Wallpapers



GUEST BEDROOM

Farrow & Ball's Cromarty is a muted period colour but Shauna and Adam have dialled the decor the other way with the addition of vivid yellow. Cromarty estate emulsion, £46.50, Farrow & Ball. Lucia bed, £375, Habitat