

RELAXED ELEGANCE

Changes to this family home allowed a wonderfully laid-back refinement to be restored to the sitting room

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY ROBIN QUARRELLE

PROJECT DETAILS

OWNER

Claire Totman of
Claire Totman Designs
(clairetotman
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PROPERTY

A four-bedroom
Edwardian terrace

WORK

Part of the renovation
of the whole house

LOCATION

Surrey

Claire Totman is passionate about period properties and sympathetic renovations. 'It's what my clients come to me for, so I wasn't put off by this run-down Edwardian house,' she says. 'The period architecture was beautifully intact.'

1 ARCHITECTURAL BONES

Laminate flooring and white decoration hid the damp around the sitting room window. 'The huge bay is one of the nicest features and once we'd sorted out the problems, we replaced the plastic frames with traditional sash windows,' says Claire. 'The room is impressive with high ceilings and original details we didn't need to touch.'

2 EVOLVED LIVING

At first, Claire decorated in cool grey tones, but once the kitchen extension got underway a couple of years later, she knew the family would migrate into the new space. 'Now this could become our grown-up sitting room without a TV or toys,' she says. 'We had the classic period features in place and I wanted to bring out a more formal elegance.'

3 COLOUR PALETTE

Decorating the dark home office in a deep grey-green influenced colours in the adjoining sitting room. 'A square archway separates them but I treated the room as one by staying with warm tones,' says Claire. 'We get a lot of sun in here so walls are light with a green undertone and I bought a sage green sofa, which I fell in love with after seeing it in the Arlo & Jacob showroom.'

4 FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS

Claire designed bespoke joinery for the alcoves. 'I wanted the look of freestanding dressers so they're not full height,' she says. 'They're Shaker style with a base deeper than the shelves and a cornice around the top.' Patterned textiles and inherited blue and white china bring touches of colour, while a large sisal rug adds texture and warmth. 'The finishing touches bring the room to life,' says Claire. 'I'm really happy with the changes – the room looks completely different, it's quiet and classically timeless, just as I like.'

CLASSIC LAYOUT

'Positioning the furniture in a traditional arrangement either side of the fireplace with a coffee table in the middle sets the formal scene,' says Claire.

Walls in Slaked Lime Deep; **joinery** in Slaked Lime Dark, both Little Greene. **Henry sofa** in Linara Caper; **Henry armchair** in Belgium Linen Flax; **striped cushion**, all Arlo & Jacob. **Nottingham parquet coffee table**, La Redoute. **Console**, Cox & Cox. **Table lamp**, Pooky. **Sisal rug**, Crucial Trading

