



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian terrace

LOCATION North London

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, snug, five bedrooms (three en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2003

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in the downstairs maisonette and later bought the upstairs maisonette, and turned them into one home,' says Lisa.



POLISHED GEM

Lisa Gordon craved a chic interior-designed home and found the answer in a jewel palette of blues and golds

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY SIOBHAN DORAN



KITCHEN-DINER

'We swapped our kitchen and dining area around so we could enjoy eating while sitting by the window,' says Lisa. The rich blue kitchen looks smart and modern. Kitchen cupboards, from £335 for a single cabinet, Naked Kitchens; in Hague Blue estate eggshell, £67 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Dulwich extending table in oak, £2,615, The Conran Shop



When architects and interior designers, The Vawdrey House, showed Lisa Gordon their suggestion of dark blue floor tiles shot through with an eye-catching gold pattern for the hallway, it resonated with her immediately. 'I've always gone overboard with too many swirls and curls in my design ideas,' says Lisa, 'and I needed expert help with this house,' she says. 'My husband Guy and I both loved their suggestion and knew they'd be perfect to guide us through the project.'

Lisa and Guy moved here when Lisa was pregnant with their eldest daughter, Mae, now 18, buying the maisonette on the ground and lower ground floor. Four years later, Lisa was expecting their second daughter, Scarlett, now 14, and the chance arose to buy the maisonette above. The couple reinstated the building back into one house, but Lisa says money was tight back then and the conversion had always felt disjointed. 'The top two floors didn't inform the bottom two floors and my design ideas were the wrong side of quirky,' she says. 'As the years went on, things started to break and fall apart, and the house became really depressing to live in.'

Lisa and Guy considered moving but decided to stay with a focus on fitting a new kitchen, better storage and decorating throughout. While browsing an interiors magazine for ideas, Lisa spotted a project by The Vawdrey House. 'I particularly remember one picture – a window seat with a bright pink,

SITTING ROOM

The mustard armchair contrasts with the rich grey wall and follows the colour thread that runs throughout the house. Gladstone armchair in Dijon, £1,295, Love Your Home. Walls in Lead 117 absolute matt emulsion, £53 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Kala tribal cushion is similar, £55, Graham and Green



HALLWAY

'Replacing the old floor with these blue patterned tiles inspired the colour scheme in the whole house,' says Lisa. Mosaic del Sur patterned tiles 10521 BF/M3/M7, £98sq m, The Vawdrey House. Burmese teak parquet is similar, £55sq m, The Antique Oak Flooring Company



BEDROOM
A small stud wall separates the storage from the sleeping zone.

Walls in Parma Gray estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Anglepoise Type 1228 wall light in copper lustre, £147, Made In Design



velvet cushion that looked unpretentious yet had a gorgeous touch of glamour,' she recalls. 'I wanted our home to look magazine-worthy too, and this project seemed to capture it all.'

After meeting with The Vawdrey House to discuss their modest ideas, the team offered to return with plans that would show the full potential of the couple's house.

'Once I saw the concepts and the floor tile sample, I couldn't unsee them,' says Lisa. 'I decided there and then to spend the money to transform our home.' Space planning formed the backbone of the project, enabling the girls to have their own large bedrooms and bathroom on the top floor, while two bedrooms with en suites were added to the first floor, adjoining the main bedroom. Lisa also suggested moving the wall in the sitting room to make the adjacent kitchen bigger. 'We'd been struggling with how to fit in an island but once we'd come to terms with the need to remove the sitting room fireplace, everything fell into place,' she explains.

Decoration and furnishing followed, guided by The Vawdrey House's interior designer Sophie Chapman, who drew on blue and yellow tones inspired by the beloved floor tiles. The combination of a navy blue kitchen, brass fittings, ochre walls, and teal and turquoise bathroom tiles all delight Lisa. 'The whole project is a wonderful, restrained version of my excessive taste,' she says. 'Sophie has transformed all the rooms into beautiful and comfortable living spaces.' 🌿

BATHROOM

A wet-room shower was included in this compact space.

Claybrook's Confiserie Triangle tiles in Jade are similar, £80sq m, The Vawdrey House



BEDROOM

Bespoke storage around the bed is practical and stylish.

Delissa quilt is similar, £148, Anthropologie. Margot bed in Blush Pink, £649, Made


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