

# Home of the brave

Knocking down a house and building another one takes guts – and that's just what the Newton family has done

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRENCH | STYLING MARISHA TAYLOR



## DINING AREA

Oversized lighting is scaled to suit the open-plan space while the gold finish complements the room's dark brown wood tones.

Melt pendant lights in Gold, Tom Dixon at Heal's. Santino dining chairs, John Lewis & Partners. Walnut rectangular dining table, De La Espada at Heal's





## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Self-build house

**ROOMS** Living area/dining area/kitchen, TV room, utility room, pantry, boot room, cloakroom, two offices, five bedrooms, five bathrooms, dressing room

**LOCATION** Southwest London



### KITCHEN

'We wanted to make the downstairs space feel as open as possible and each area to feel part of the whole,' explains Tiffany.

Notte herringbone engineered oak flooring, Havwoods

### STAIRCASE

'We chose an elegant, simple design with an oak handrail and treads stained to match the floor,' says Tiffany.

Bespoke staircase, Spiral. Industrial light tall bookcase, Woods Furniture

### HALLWAY

'A solid front gate allows us to have a glazed front door, where you can see all the way through to the garden without losing the feeling of privacy,' explains Tiffany. Joinery either side of the doors to Tiffany's office has been painted a deep red, adding depth to this space.

Melt ceiling light in Gold, Tom Dixon at Heal's. Sybil console table, La Redoute. Joinery in Grenache, Paint & Paper Library



Tiffany Newton and her husband Chris bought a dilapidated house in southwest London after falling in love with its unusually large garden and made the decision to start afresh after appointing architect Rob Beer at Life Size Architecture. 'The half-acre plot had an energy we couldn't resist and our boys Havana and Harley began running around outside straight away,' recalls Tiffany. 'Our aim was to create a home with plenty of space for everyone without losing the intimacy of being together.'

Tiffany and Chris immediately warmed to Rob who had experience working with the local planners. They also liked the building team at Woodmans -- recommended by Rob. As they went through the design process, it became clear that very little would be left of the original house so the couple decided it made

sense to build from scratch with the added advantage of the project being VAT zero-rated.

'Rob's design for the property started out with the classic Georgian features I had wanted but Chris persuaded me to change the traditional multi-pane windows to expanses of floor-to-ceiling glass,' explains Tiffany. 'It was absolutely the right thing to do -- our garden is our pride and joy.'

The new house sits on the old footprint and extends on three sides to create 4,350sq ft of living space. The revision has a more modern take with patterned brickwork and set back panels to catch light and accentuate the texture. 'Rob's design steps in and out, breaking up the large open-plan area downstairs and creating an undulating look to the exterior brick that's absolutely stunning,' says Tiffany. 'I love the

'The chocolate-brown decor in the open-plan space uplifts in the natural daylight and deepens at night for a cosier feel'

### LIVING AREA

'We wanted a fireplace and TV surrounded by bookshelves to create a cosy nook in the open-plan space,' says Tiffany.

Gold painted steel fireplace, Modus Fireplaces. Wall in Chocolate, Little Greene. Lazytime sofas in Granite, Camerich





creamy gold brick hues that we brought inside, too.' Features of brick, black metal frame glazing, dark parquet flooring and touches of bronze became the foundations for the interiors. 'With the garden backdrop we went for low key beiges and browns while upstairs is much bolder,' says Tiffany. 'My friend Najwa Mroue from Atelier NM was instrumental in guiding us towards suppliers of paints, wallpaper and tiles.'

Throughout the house, Tiffany has balanced her love for classic style with Chris's taste for the modern. An antique desk in her office, which belonged to the previous owner, sits well beside a new red bespoke bookcase. Upstairs, her parents' antique bedside tables and lamps add some classic character to a room painted in contemporary blue and mustard. Much of the built-in joinery has been designed by Chris, while

elsewhere, black metal shelves and a glass coffee table reflect the core palette, as does the chocolate brown kitchen and feature oak and glass spiral staircase.

'Concept Verre's staggered teardrop lighting is perfect for the double-height space and the colours go wonderfully with Tom Dixon's Gold Melt lighting,' says Tiffany. 'I also fell in love with Arte's wood veneer wallpaper used in the hallway and the dressing room.'

After a two-year project, the house was completed and the result is a spacious home that's designed to suit Tiffany and Chris's lifestyle perfectly. 'We're very lucky, this is an incredible place to live and our home has the most wonderful energy,' says Tiffany. 'It's great how we can have two people to dinner, or one hundred, and the space still feels intimate.'

[lifesearchitecture.co.uk](http://lifesearchitecture.co.uk); [woodmans.net](http://woodmans.net); [atelier-nm.com](http://atelier-nm.com)

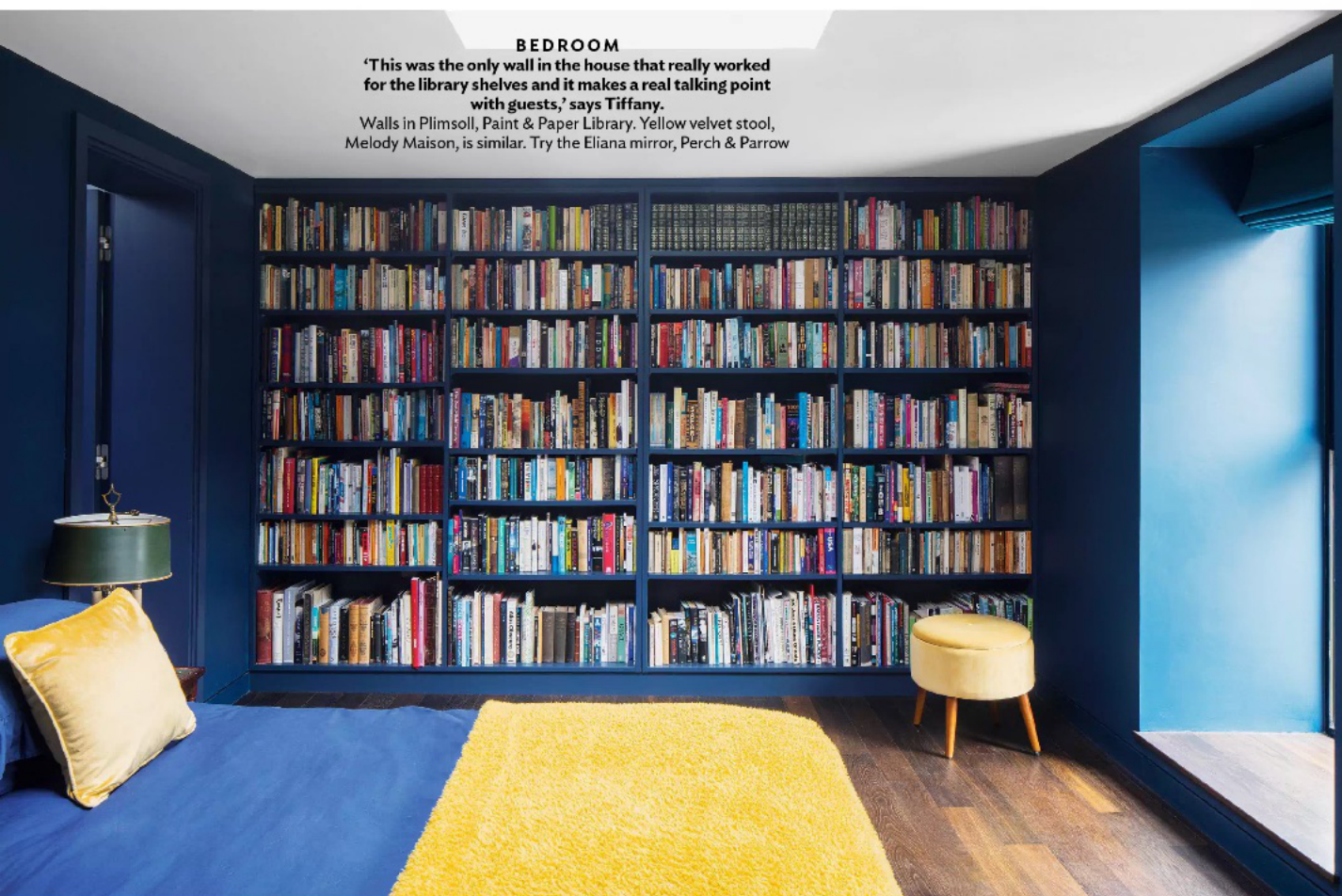


'Some of the rooms have the entrance door painted in the same colour as the walls for a seamless and cocooning feel'

#### BEDROOM

'This was the only wall in the house that really worked for the library shelves and it makes a real talking point with guests,' says Tiffany.

Walls in Plimsoll, Paint & Paper Library. Yellow velvet stool, Melody Maison, is similar. Try the Eliana mirror, Perch & Parrow



#### MAIN EN SUITE

The bath was chosen in a size that fits perfectly beneath the window.

Picasso stone bath, Lusso

#### MAIN BEDROOM

'Hotel rooms inspired us to put the bed in the middle of the room so we have a better view of the garden and can admire the trees we planted,' says Tiffany.

Joinery in Grenache, Paint & Paper Library. Mono Face cushion, Furn at Dunelm. Forsa work lamp; Knarrevik bedside table, both Ikea

#### CHILDREN'S EN SUITE

'The teal tiles are gorgeously vibrant with a real richness to the colour,' says Tiffany.

Zelij brick Peacock Green tile, Planet Tiles, is similar. Door in Mid Azure Green, Little Greene

#### HARLEY'S BEDROOM

The joinery has a symmetry to it and was customised in Harley's choice of decoration.

Cupboards in Slipper, Little Greene

