

# IN A NEW LIGHT

*Gareth Jones and Mary Pittman-Jones radically redesigned their apartment to get a plethora of light and space*

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREW BEASLEY



## HOME TRUTHS

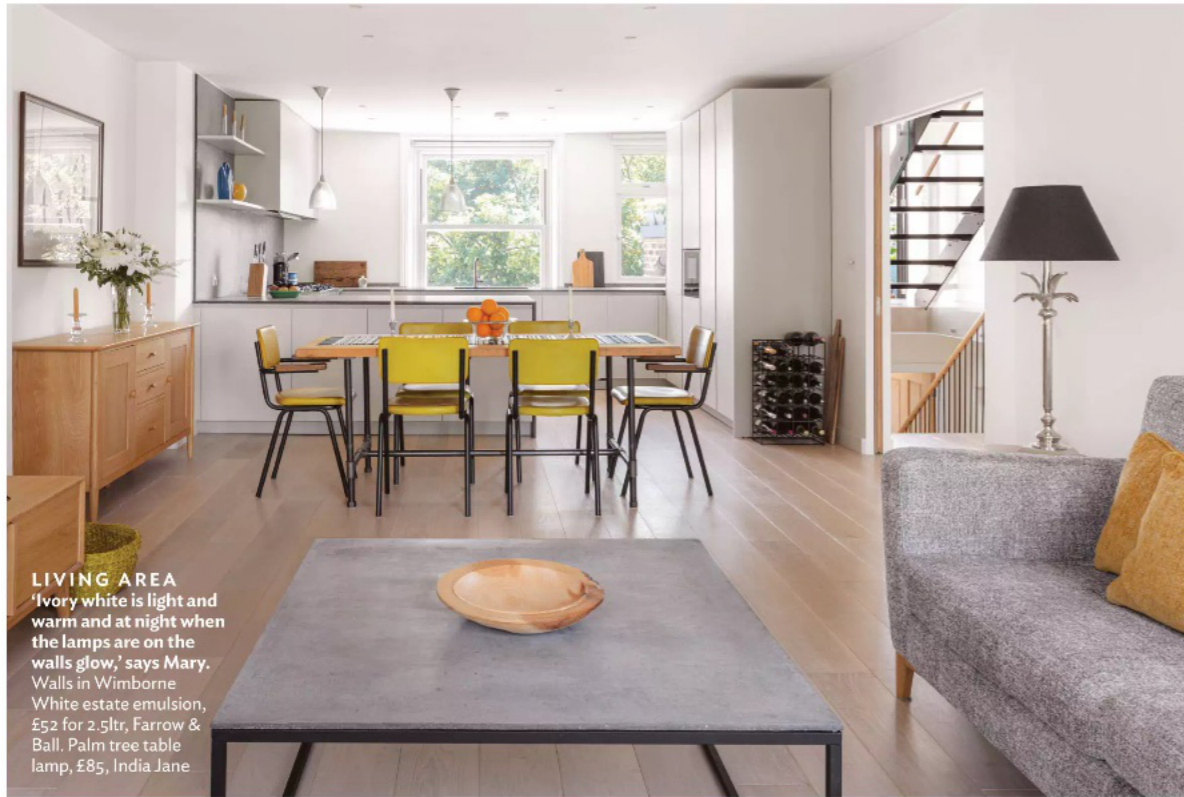
**THE PROPERTY** Top-floor flat in a Victorian building  
**LOCATION** South London area  
**ROOMS** Kitchen-diner/living area, office, utility room, bedroom (en suite), bathroom  
**PURCHASED** 1983  
**PREVIOUS PROPERTY** 'We lived in a two-storey house in Abu Dhabi before living here,' says Gareth.

**ROOF TERRACE**  
Double glass doors and minimal window frames let in lots of light. Oak 121 Lime Wash flooring, £95sq m, Turgon

**LIVING AREA**  
'The simple, minimalist style of mid-century furniture really suited the modern, breezy look we wanted in here,' says Mary. Ercol Marinello sofa in T239, £2,285, Barker and Stonehouse. Ercol Marino armchairs in ash, £1,600 each, Woods Furniture. Ercol Shalstone shelving unit, £799, John Lewis & Partners







**LIVING AREA**  
 'Ivory white is light and warm and at night when the lamps are on the walls glow,' says Mary. Walls in Wimborne White estate emulsion, £52 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Palm tree table lamp, £85, India Jane

After spending 30 years living in Paris and Abu Dhabi, Gareth Jones and Mary Pittman-Jones decided to retire to London. They moved back into the flat they had bought as newlyweds in 1983, but it was in desperate need of work. Thankfully, they only had to look to their neighbour for inspiration.

'Will lives in a similar flat next door and he'd opened up the space and converted the loft into an en-suite bedroom,' says Gareth. 'When we saw it, Mary and I were amazed. We had no idea it was possible to change our own home so radically and create so much light and space.'

The problem was that the kitchen, sitting room and bedrooms were crammed onto one floor, with a galley kitchen making it impossible for two people to be in the room at the same time. On the positive side, the position of the flat on the top floor gave them a great view over the common. 'We feel like we're living in nature,' says Mary.

The pair decided to work with Will's architect, Granit Architecture + Interiors, having seen the impressive results of its design first-hand. The couple's main objective was to create light and space. They wanted their new loft bedroom to have large windows and a similar concept downstairs,

achieved by knocking through rooms to make one open-plan layout. They were also delighted with the staircase to the loft. 'Our hallway had no light and Granit's solution was to fit doors to the terrace with maximum glass, and a steel staircase with open treads,' says Gareth. 'Light now travels all the way through the stairwell.'

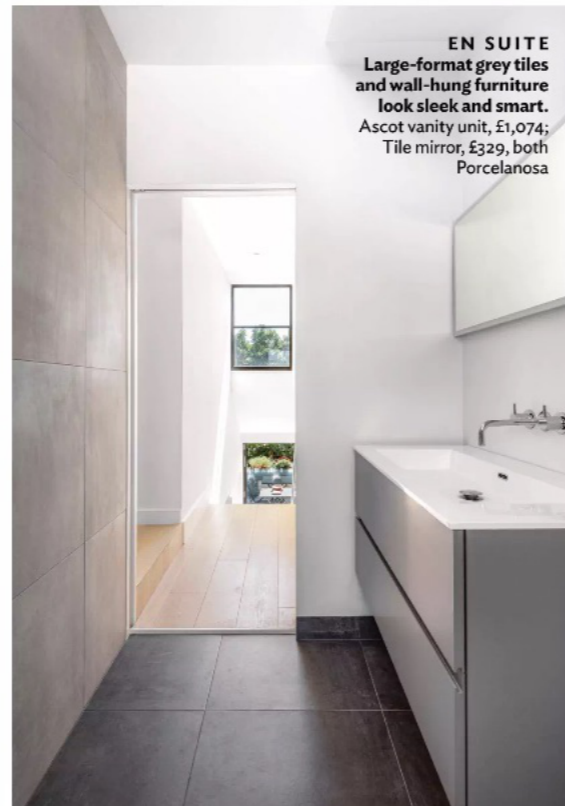
The couple appointed Granit's interiors team to develop designs for bathrooms, the kitchen and joinery, as well as providing advice on paint colours and flooring. 'Like the architecture, we wanted a light, airy, uncluttered look with pale oak floors and furniture,' says Mary. 'When we stumbled across an Ercol sofa while out shopping, we instantly loved the straight, clean lines and looked for other Ercol pieces.' They ordered chairs, a bed, side tables, two bookcases and a sideboard. Their mid-century furniture is individual yet cohesive, blending spaces and rooms, along with the neutral palette.

After all the changes, the couple are very content with their home's transformation. 'We thought downsizing to a flat would be a transition, but it wasn't. Being here feels like living in a bright, airy house,' says Mary. 'We have all the space and light we were looking for.' 🏡

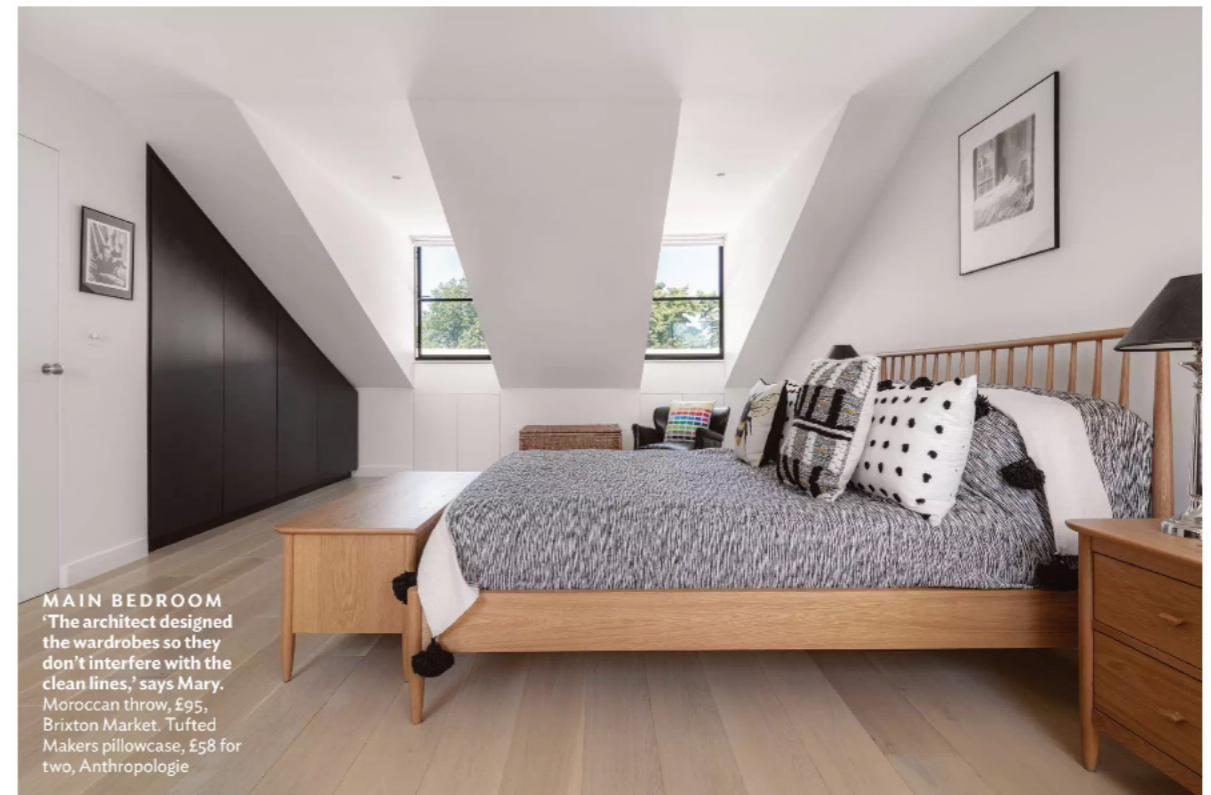
**FAVOURITE FEATURE** *'The steel staircase that leads up to the loft lets in so much natural light and we love the contemporary style'*



**STAIRWELL**  
 Having open treads means the light floods through the whole space. Joinery in Off-Black exterior eggshell, £77 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



**EN SUITE**  
 Large-format grey tiles and wall-hung furniture look sleek and smart. Ascot vanity unit, £1,074; Tile mirror, £329, both Porcelanosa



**MAIN BEDROOM**  
 'The architect designed the wardrobes so they don't interfere with the clean lines,' says Mary. Moroccan throw, £95; Brixton Market. Tufted Makers pillowcase, £58 for two, Anthropologie