

no. 6

SITTING ROOM

'I love the 1970s disco aesthetic of Studio 54,' says Vix. 'My cowhides add sex appeal, texture and fun.' Similar 75cm mirror ball, £702, Stage Depot. Zebra printed cowhide rug is similar, £495, Graham and Green

A SPECIAL BLEND

A mix of cultural experiences from abroad influenced the interiors of Vix and Don Brenninkmeijer's family home

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRENCH
STYLING MARISHA TAYLOR/VIXSTARELLA INTERIOR STYLING



SITTING ROOM
 Mexican vases were made into lamp bases to go with the Chinese shades. 'I filled them with seeded balls from a Brazilian flower market and colourful glass,' Vix explains. Similar Chinese antique sideboard, €4,850, China Collection. Chinese



DINING ROOM
 'Finally, I've been able to bring together my whole Mexican star light constellation,' says Vix. Try Stella star pendant, £165, Pooky vintage adverts, £8 each, Vintage Wall Graphics on Etsy have this look

KITCHEN
 'Our gallery wall is a reminder of wonderful people and places,' says Vix. 'I especially love my signed Bucks Fizz photograph!' Striped Ooty kilim rug is similar, £59.99, Soul Destiny. Notonthehighstreet.com is a good source for frames, from £9.50



SNUG
 Vix knew instantly that the patterned curtain fabric would bring together the cherry red chairs (opposite, top right) and khaki green walls. Curtains in Kimono linen in Chilli Mocha, £130m, Lewis & Wood. Leopard cushion, £160, Oka. Try Fibre silk lampshade, £150, Lighting Lover



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

1800s detached house

LOCATION

South-west London

ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, snug, study, cloakroom, six bedrooms (three en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2019

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We rented a detached house in Germany,' says Vix.

Vixstarella



KITCHEN

The raw brick walls, vintage chandeliers and brass bar were inspired by the Olympic Studios members' club. Ballroom chandeliers, £780 each, Venice Beach House. Bar painted in Burnham Red, £42 for 2.5ltr, Neptune

A rollercoaster lifestyle with moves between Latin America, China and Europe took interior designer Vix Brenninkmeijer of Vixstarella Interior Styling to places all over the world. Fired by her experiences, she returned to London and shaped an eclectic maximalist look for the new home she shares with husband, Don, and children, Theo and Ferdie, both 12, Rafaella, 10, and Reuben, five. 'Ideas for this house started percolating the moment I moved to Brazil in 2005, where Don was working for a retail company,' says Vix. 'We spent 15 years abroad and our house has been informed by every place we've lived.' Vix studied fine art and worked for BBC Radio before moving to São Paulo, where she taught English and made shower caps for a local boutique. 'I loved the joy and hope in the colourful Brazilian folk art and was fascinated by the enormous flower market, all of which inspired me to decorate our flat,' she says. 'Soon friends were asking for advice, and when we moved to Shanghai, I launched an interiors business helping expats make their rented properties feel like home.'

GLOBAL INFLUENCES

Another move with Don's work took the family to Mexico and then four years later they went to live in Germany. When Don's career changed direction, the couple settled in the UK to be near family and bought a period property close to one of London's parks. 'We were both in awe of this large house overlooking a green space yet on the doorstep of central London,' Vix says. 'We modernised the traditional look with Crittall windows and opened up the kitchen and dining rooms to have a place to gather all the people we'd missed for so long.'

Working with architectural lighting designer Isla James Interiors and expert builders Roland Woodward and RBuild, Vix let her creativity run riot. A disco ball in the sitting room sets off party vibes echoed in animal prints and a trio of chandeliers above a bold brass and red kitchen island. 'It reminds me of our heady lifestyle in fast-paced Shanghai and the fun of Annabel's club in London,' she says. 'We've experienced so many different aesthetics, I'm also influenced by New York loft style, Gatsby grandeur, Mexican hacienda – the list goes on.'

STYLE CONNECTION

Vix established continuity throughout with paint colours – relaxed neutrals upstairs and a more vibrant feel downstairs with dusky pink, khaki and red. Furniture is from Brazil, China and Mexico – warm red wood tones for energetic spaces and lime-washed in calmer rooms. Framed vintage Chinese cigarette adverts decorate walls alongside Brazilian carved doves and street art. Mexican star lights form a constellation and spherical Chinese lampshades in varying proportions catch the eye. 'We've made homes worldwide and I've held on to everything,' says Vix. 'It's so lovely being able finally to bring all our treasures together. It might be a mash-up of styles but somehow everything makes sense here, like they've found a resting place, perhaps a bit like us – for now.'

EN SUITE
 'Abigail Ahern inspired me to use tadelakt plaster, which has a gorgeous sheen that's also waterproof, over the walls and ceiling,' says Vix.
 Tadelakt in Perfectly Pink, £147.50sq m, Roland Woodward.
 Karndean Korlok Baltic Washed Oak flooring, £39.95sq m, Flooring Supplies



HALLWAY
 'The dove is a spiritual symbol in Brazil,' says Vix.
 Similar silk Lotus lamp, £35, Shimu



Fantasia Jungle Animals wallpaper in Light Pink, £12.49 a roll, World of Wallpaper. Vanity painted in Vintage Denim, £52 for 2.5ltr, Designers Guild
 Similar Natalie table lamp, £79, Cotswold Company. Black and white stripe cushion, £45, Trouva



BOYS' BATHROOM
 Vix gave each of the bathrooms a different feature wall.

MAIN BEDROOM
 'The celadon blue of the lamp is a typical Chinese colour,' says Vix.



THEO'S BEDROOM
 Theo loves Cornwall and the sea and the colour scheme reflects that.
 Hemnes day bed, from £279, Ikea