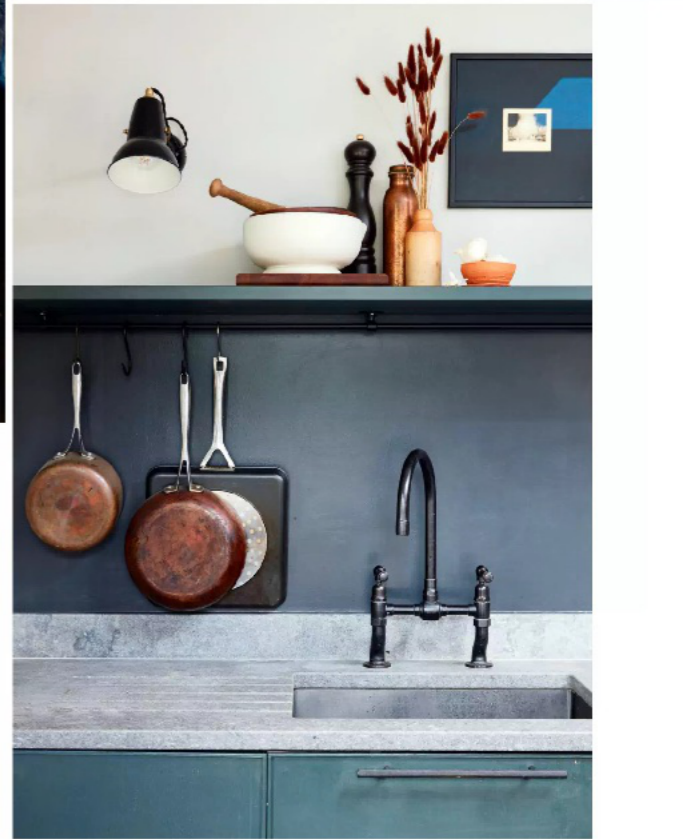


no. 3

KITCHEN

'We spent more on the worktop, handles, light switches and sockets so that everything we touch feels excellent quality,' says Rebecca.

Ekestad fronts and Metod units, Ikea; painted in Studio Green, Farrow & Ball. Black Skyscraper knurled handles, Dowsing & Reynolds. Rugged Concrete 4033 worktop, Caesarstone. Putney Bridge dual lever tap, Caple. Gris riven slate floor tiles, Mandarin Stone



Conservation method

The Victorian heritage of Rebecca Buckland's flat informs its rich and atmospheric interiors infused with antique finds and natural materials

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY MATT CLAYTON

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Ground-floor flat in a converted Victorian house

ROOMS Kitchen, sitting room, two bedrooms, bathroom

LOCATION South London



SITTING ROOM
 Panelling the wall and making the pocket door ceiling height creates a pleasing vista. Rebecca stripped back the old mantel, showcasing the original azure blue tiles. Panelling, B&Q; painted in Off-Black, Farrow & Ball. Terre Sage 04 artwork in a lime-waxed tray frame, Editions London. Wood Zion cabinet, Naken Interiors. Sagrada chair, Soho Home



‘I’m drawn to things that have been discarded but deserve to be appreciated, so I’m always looking on salvage websites’

Re-loving old things is how interior designer Rebecca Buckland likes to approach her interiors so it’s not surprising she relished the challenge of updating a Victorian flat with her husband Fred, an engineer. Rebecca’s ethos is also how she came to set up Editions London, a shopfront selling unique artwork she creates from antique art and curios. ‘I’m drawn to things that have been discarded but deserve to be appreciated,’ she says.

The couple settled on Herne Hill in their search for their first home, liking the village feel of the London suburb and hoping to find a wreck that was still possible to live in while they renovated. Despite overfilled bedrooms, a damp basement bathroom and overgrown garden – where they later discovered 25 car tyres and the Belfast sink now repurposed into a wash basin – the property proved perfect. ‘I’m a keen gardener and got started before we built the extension so we’d have a

flourishing garden when it was done,’ Rebecca explains. The extension became the new entry point to the flat. ‘The original entrance came into the side of a narrow hallway so you couldn’t open the door without stepping to the side,’ she explains. The whole flat needed new heating, plumbing and electrics while the guest bedroom lacked its original period details, something the couple were determined to address. ‘We found a local company who made coving and the ceiling rose and



MAIN BEDROOM
The oak screen is an antique and was part of an Edwardian shopfront. It makes the sleep space feel more private. Walls in Pure & Original's Fresco lime paint in Ashes, Village Chic. Vintage 60s/70s walls lights, Vinterior



BATHROOM
Space is used wisely here with a wet-room style shower and a line of horizontal windows. Pure & Original's Marrakech Walls in White Rhino, Village Chic. Bluestone tumbled marble, Mandarin Stone



BEDROOM
The couple built the headboard panel with a shelf so there's no need for bedside tables. Panel in Juniper Ash, Little Greene. Bespoke seascape art with silver gilt frame, Editions London

reinstated them,' she says. 'We also re-used the beautiful old floorboards by turning them over and sanding them down.'

An important feature in the main bedroom is the Edwardian oak screen shopfront that reaches the ceiling. 'I'm always looking on auction and salvage websites to find special pieces for my art and the screen caught my eye,' Rebecca recalls. 'I wasn't sure if my idea was too bonkers but I kept being pulled back and decided to go for it.'

When it came to decoration, Rebecca picked her favourite darks in blue, grey and green tones as a nod to industrial London. She took the opportunity to experiment with different finishes, which she could also show to her interiors clients. 'Fresco lime paint in the main bedroom is anti-fungal, anti-bacterial and breathable with a cloudy finish that looks soft and tactile,' she says. 'Marrakech Walls in the bathroom has the look of traditional Moroccan plaster tadelakt when it's finished in lime soap.'

Rebecca bought vintage lighting or pieces made by independent artisans found on Etsy, and also favours natural materials where possible – a linen sofa, leather and iron dining chairs, a leather armchair – wanting her things to feel good, age well and last. Her bespoke artwork is the last layer of character. 'These pieces encapsulate our approach to the flat – taking care to preserve the old and beautiful and reimagine its life for people to enjoy now.' editionsldn.com

'The fresco lime paint in the main bedroom is anti-fungal and breathable with a finish that looks soft and tactile'