

# NEUTRAL GEAR

*There's nothing bland about the neutrals used in Caitlin Chan's personality-packed apartment*

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD KIELY



## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY**  
Ground floor flat in a converted Edwardian house

**ROOMS**  
Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, study, two bedrooms, bathroom

**LOCATION**  
Southwest London

### SITTING ROOM

'Mixing modern and classic makes this room feel smart yet informal,' says Caitlin. 'The picture frame TV above the fireplace doesn't dominate and the shelves look balanced.' Metal and velvet lounge chair in Chocolate, Six The Residence. Walls in Beige 02, Lick. Robin sofa in Pecan, Arlo & Jacob



**'I LIKE A CLASSIC LOOK WITH A MODERN TOUCH THAT WON'T DATE - SOHO HOME IS GOOD FOR INSPIRATION'**



Caitlin Chan set out with a goal to turn her flat into a modern classic home but with a full-time job working as a solicitor she sought the help of an interior designer. 'As we worked through the process, I realised the colours I like were the colours I wore,' says Caitlin. 'I'm a neutral dresser and lean towards warm creams, beige and shades of brown and that's the palette I wanted for my home.'

Caitlin bought her three-bedroom flat rather unexpectedly. Her landlord couldn't renew the contract on her rental property and with rocketing rental costs in the area it made more sense to buy. 'I've always lived north of the river but used to visit my friends' place in southwest London and I liked the area,' she

says. 'I couldn't believe it when a flat came on the market right opposite them.' The property needed work, which wasn't Caitlin's plan, but the opportunity was too good to miss – three bedrooms meant she could have a home office and a guest bedroom for her parents visiting from Malaysia.

'I wouldn't have taken on the project if I hadn't seen my friends' finished house,' she adds. 'I was familiar with how they used the space and how it could work for me. I really liked their kitchen renovation where opening up the ceiling to the pitched roof with a skylight flooded the small space with light.'

Caitlin has always had an interest in art, fashion and interiors and went looking for an interior designer who could facilitate her



**DINING ROOM**  
The bespoke dresser acts as a bar area. Dresser, Topology, Renato chandelier, Soho Home. Palma acacia and marble dining table, Perch & Parrow. Sculpted print, The Poster Club

**KITCHEN**  
A pitched ceiling with a roof light gives the illusion of space. 'The black and white tiles laid diagonally add life to the neutral scheme,' says Caitlin. Clerkenwell Super Matt kitchen in Sandstone, Howdens. Parisian Chequer marble floor tiles are similar, Floors of Stone. Walls in Portland Stone Pale, Little Greene



**'THE BESPOKE BEDROOM WARDROBES WORK HARD AS THEY HAVE A SEPARATE TOP STORAGE AREA'**

**BEDROOM**

Storage was a high priority for Caitlin. 'The gap between the wardrobes and the window is perfect for a full-length mirror.' Bespoke wardrobes in Beige o6, Lick

**BATHROOM**

'I'm such a neutrals person so I hesitated over a blue bathroom at first but now I love the colour with the beige walls and dark wood vanity,' says Caitlin. Equipe Coco Blue Night tiles, Tiles Direct



ideas for a new kitchen and bathroom and manage the project. 'One company were interested but went cold when I mentioned the budget so I really liked the pricing transparency on Topology's website,' she says. 'They were happy to take on individual rooms and were similar in age to me so we had a good rapport.'

Soon, Caitlin began to see the benefit of making the property the best it could be. She expanded her brief to include decorating and furnishing all the rooms. 'I love modern classic looks with vintage elements and Topology overlaid a warm, inviting feel to the scheme that isn't too formal, which I love,' says Caitlin. 'They totally understood my style as there were times when they'd suggest something I'd already admired, like the marble dining table.'

The beige colour scheme is a family of darks and lights so that circulation through the flat is a comfortable experience. Furniture has a classic vintage feel with Six The Residence, Soho Home and Heal's being shops Caitlin likes to browse. 'I didn't want the flat to look like a contrived showroom,' she says.

As well as the high design finish, sockets and lighting are in the right places and there's plenty of storage – including the dining room fireplace, which is now a crockery cupboard.

'I wake up and it's like being in a hotel bedroom that's been designed just for me,' Caitlin says. 'In fact, this whole house is totally me, something my friends have all pointed out, which is a measure of the project's success.' [topologyinteriors.com](https://www.topologyinteriors.com)