

NEW ERA

A run-down Victorian semi has been given a fresh start thanks to the expertise skills of designer Thea Ingram

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HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Semi-detached Victorian house

ROOMS Sitting room, cloakroom, snug, kitchen-diner, five bedrooms, two bathrooms, home gym, office, utility

LOCATION Southwest London

DINING AREA

A generously sized dining table was a priority. The bespoke cupboard (opposite) was colour-matched to the kitchen.

Matis dining table; Kea table lamp, both Soho Home. Bjorn dining chairs, Cult Furniture. Bespoke cupboard painted in Bianco Perla, Antares. Holm chair in Moss Green, House of Isabella

HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK ON THIS PROJECT?

My clients had bought a an impressive Victorian house with high ceilings and generous proportions, and hired architect James Millar to design the rear extension and loft conversion. I'd worked with James on projects before and he recommended we handle the interior design. I met Jo, my client, and we instantly hit it off – she was like a child in a sweet shop showing me around.

DO YOU HAVE A SIGNATURE LOOK THAT

DRAWS CLIENTS TO YOU? Our studio's USP is attention to detail. We're interior architects as well as designers and like to make sure a house functions for owners

first and foremost. Often clients know what they like, but don't know how to achieve it – and that's where we come in.

WHAT WAS THE CLIENT'S BRIEF? Jo wanted us to reinstate missing period details but for rooms to feel modern with colour. She talked about a luxurious adult front sitting room and pendant lights she'd seen in a restaurant for the kitchen. During the design phase, I showed her trays of fabric swatches. We identified that she liked greens, geometrics, shades of rusty reds and deep pinks, and agreed on a modern-traditional style.

DID ONE IDEA SPARK THE INTERIOR SCHEME? The Gucci Heron wallpaper in the cloakroom



HALL

'The front door echoes the green cloakroom wallpaper – a hue also picked out in the mosaic floor tiles,' says Thea. Door painted in Breakfast Room Green, Farrow & Ball. Cornwall LM-424 tiles, London Mosaic. Console, Danetti



KITCHEN

Marble porcelain and chevron flooring bring texture. 'We often recommend neutral cupboards in a space with so much life and colour,' says Thea. Cupboards in Bianco Perla, Antares. Porcelain surfaces in Marazzi Bianco Arni, Marazzi Surfaces. Espere lighting in waffle glass, Pooky



SNUG

The thread of green that flows through the whole house is gently weaved into this room via the rug. Matilda Goad & Co Tufted Plaid rug, Anthropologie. Medium Frosted Bubble chandelier, Dowsing & Reynolds. Bespoke sofa, Bespoke Upholstery London

was hands down the starting point; we were all excited when Jo showed us what she'd found. The green wallpaper then became the colour thread that ran throughout the house – in mosaic floor tiles, a scalloped rug, bathroom tiles, bed linen.

WHAT WERE YOUR PRIORITIES? I'm really keen on good storage. I lived in Italy for a while and have been working with Antares for 15 years, importing their kitchens and furniture. Everything they make is bespoke and the quality of their work is amazing. They do high-spec wardrobes with lacquered doors, all the lighting and inlay details, as well as children's melamine cupboards.

DID ANYTHING CHANGE ALONG THE

WAY? After the loft shell had been built, Jo and I realised the layout wasn't working and I redesigned the whole floor. We turned the son's bedroom with low eaves into the laundry, while an overly large bathroom became his bedroom – we also created a small home office.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT? We're pleased with the whole house, but I would say the fluted bath in the bay window in the main en suite sums up the modern-traditional style Jo wanted. The family were so excited to move in – seeing the children's reactions was brilliant, they were blown away. 🏡

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EN SUITE

'We used the same porcelain as the kitchen but in a polished finish,' says Thea.

Porcelain floor in Marazzi Bianco Arni, Marazzi Surfaces. Vanity, Harvey George. Melange wall lights, Andrew Martin

GUEST BEDROOM

'This is a whimsical room with pink walls and a velvet aubergine headboard,' says Thea.

Headboard upholstered in Mark Alexander's Empire II fabric in Russet, London Bespoke Upholstery. Walls painted in Blush, Little Greene. Cushions in Nobilis's Chroma Ravenne 10967.48, Stanza Interior Design



MAIN BEDROOM

The green headboard is complemented by white walls with a warm and calming undertone.

Bespoke headboard in Zinc's Bude velvet in Olive, Bespoke Upholstery London. Walls painted in Wevet, Farrow & Ball. Charis cushion and throw, Soho Home

GUEST BATHROOM

The look of terrazzo creates an elegant backdrop, while metro tiles continue the green theme.

Retro Metro Gloucester Road tiles, Fired Earth. Terrazzo Nouveau Mono Matt porcelain tiles, Mandarin Stone