

CREATIVE process

When Lucy Wiltsher bought her first home, she rediscovered her artistic side as she set about updating each of the rooms

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DINING ROOM

Lucy and her husband built a wall of joinery using Ikea furniture. 'A break in the shelves softens the look and a tongue and groove panel adds depth and interest,' she says.

Malm chest of six drawers; Lack shelf, all Ikea. Try tongue-and-groove wood panel, The Panel Company. The Iris dining chair, The Cotswold Company, is similar



DINING ROOM

Redecorating this space which lacked light in a creamy tone with a yellow base infused the cool room with warmth.

Walls in White 03, Lick. Dining table, Ardingly Antiques Fair. Lars rug in Light Grey, Benuta, is a good alternative. Harmony Ribbon ceiling light, John Lewis

When Lucy Wiltsher, a content creator and her husband bought their first home together, Lucy revived a creative side she'd not tapped into since she was young. 'My mum had her own interiors business so I grew up surrounded by creativity but that fell away as I got older,' she explains. 'I worked in finance in the fashion industry and in many ways that kept my creative energy flowing. But it wasn't until we moved out of rented accommodation that I discovered how much I really love interiors.'

The couple's three-bedroom semi-detached house in Surrey had been well kept and had all the space they needed in the short term. It was also the first property they viewed. 'We fell in love with the

amazing views from the house and at the top of the steep garden,' says Lucy. 'It was exactly what we were after and perfectly fine to live in while we put our energy into improving the look and functionality.'

The kitchen and bathroom soon showed signs of wear and tear having been patched up before it went on the market. Lucy painted the kitchen cupboards and splashback to keep them going and prioritised the bathroom project first. A key change came when they knocked the wall down separating the toilet. 'A bathroom company helped with the layout and we're delighted with the results -- now I really enjoy my evening bath,' says Lucy. 'I chose olive green fittings inspired by local walks and the woodlands behind us.'

Lucy went on to paint the wall panelling green in the nursery and chose a sage-coloured kitchen. 'I



SITTING ROOM

'I was inspired by a friend's dark blue room to go for a dramatic colour here, but in the end I only painted one wall in case it looked too much,' says Lucy. Walls in Hague Blue, Farrow & Ball. Abigail Ahern Harkness Vapour curtains, Hillarys



GARDEN

As in the sitting room, Lucy has been bold with colour outside, choosing a dark tone for the fence.

The Camden garden bistro table and chairs set from John Lewis is a good alternative to this



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

1950s semi-detached property

ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom

LOCATION Surrey

KITCHEN

'I designed everything around the sage units,' says Lucy. 'The wood shelves and antique brass handles work beautifully.'

Vård cupboards in Eden; Hive handles in Antique Bronze; oak floating shelf, all Smile Kitchens

MAIN BEDROOM
 'There are no busy colours or patterns in our room – calm neutrals is how we like it,' says Lucy.
 Coco bed in natural cotton linen, Loaf. Ezra embroidered cushion, Furn. Find a botanical print at Desenio



'GREEN IS VERSATILE BECAUSE ITS YELLOW OR BLUE UNDERTONES MEAN THERE'S A SHADE THAT SUITS EVERY SETTING'

hadn't realised green had become my favourite colour until my husband pointed it out to me! I've come to think of green as a neutral colour as you can always find a shade to suit a space.'

With the new bathroom complete, relocating the boiler from the kitchen to the attic became a small change with a big impact. 'We no longer had an airing cupboard in the guest bedroom so we gained wardrobe space,' Lucy explains. 'We also improved space in the kitchen, which paved the way for a new layout when we gutted the room.'

Lucy found a kitchen company online and chose Shaker-style units. The finished project spurred her on to relocate at the adjoining dining room, which didn't seem to be working. They'd previously painted the walls pale grey to follow through from the

open-plan sitting room. 'The dining room felt cold and as I learnt more about paint colours, I picked a white with a warm yellow undertone instead,' she says. 'It's lovely as light bounces around the room.'

Elsewhere, although Lucy still liked the white-washed rustic dining table in here, she was unsure if she'd made a mistake buying neutral chairs. A shelf hack brought the tricky room together. 'We got rid of our freestanding shelves and my husband and I built a wall of joinery, which instantly streamlined the room,' she says. 'I finally fell in love with the space and the chairs all over again. Our whole project has been about making rooms beautiful and functional -- and I've loved rediscovering my creative side.'

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NURSERY

'I wanted to make a focal feature of the green wall panel so I bought the longest planks I could find to make it,' says Lucy. Try full-height V-groove panelling, Cut My; in Green oz, Lick. Westport cot bed and dresser, Silver Cross, is similar



BATHROOM

'A bathroom firm showed us a layout that fitted in a wider bath to make showering more comfortable,' says Lucy. Kent bath, Victorian Plumbing, is a similar design. Gloss white bevelled metro tiles, London Tile