



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Grade II*
Georgian four-storey townhouse

ROOMS Front sitting room and rear sitting room, cloakroom, kitchen, dining room, three bedrooms, two bathrooms

LOCATION Southwest London



BALANCING ACT

Successfully preserving a Grade II-listed townhouse and adding a contemporary aesthetic took the skill and experience of interior designer Gail Race*

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HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED WITH THIS PROJECT?

I met the clients about 10 years ago and worked with them on a period property in West Sussex. When they retired and decided to spend time between their native New Zealand and London, they were charmed by a listed 18th-century townhouse in south-west London and asked me to work with them on it. They had liked my approach to making a property true to its age and

location previously, while also being exactly right for themselves and their lifestyle.

WHAT WAS YOUR ROLE?

The property didn't require structural changes. The project needed creative direction to bring the period features back to life, designed to reflect my clients' lifestyle and personalities. I knew from working with them previously they would be bold with their choices. We started with the floor plan, working out how they'd use the rooms, down to small details like where they'd sit and read,

FRONT SITTING ROOM

'The aubergine velvet makes a lovely punch of colour and also grounds the room,' says Gail. Amor sofa in Linwood's Omega Velvet in Pitaya, Camerich. Yanni rectangular coffee table in Rosso Levanto is similar, Olivia's

REAR SITTING ROOM

The new surround is from English Fireplaces.

Seymour chairs and stools in onyx and leather, King Living. Floor lamp, Visual Comfort



‘The antique gold glass splashback bounces light around and makes the room appear larger’

KITCHEN

The antique gold glass splashback unites the space with the dining room.

Splashback, Rough Old Glass. Cassia counter stool, King Living. Fusion Square tap in patinated brass, Quooker

DINING AREA

A wall of antiqued mirror glass reflects light.

Foxed mirror, Rough Old Glass. Cushion, Designers Guild. Dining chairs, King Living

answer their emails, enjoy their morning coffee, and so on.

TELL US ABOUT RESTORING THE PERIOD FEATURES.

As the property is listed, internal changes needed listed building consent. The wall panelling was sensitively restored so that it looked cared for but not perfect and pristine. Damaged cornices were repaired with new moulding made to match. Preserving the period features drove window treatment decisions.

In the bedroom, there are Roman blinds because a curtain rail would have been invasive and damage the original joinery. We also changed the out-of-keeping fire surrounds to a simple limestone design reflective of the Georgian era.

HOW DID YOU RESPOND TO THE CLIENTS' BRIEF?

It's important to me that my projects bring joy to clients. This Georgian townhouse had strong bones and my clients have colourful personalities so I wanted to balance the two.



I decorated the whole property the same colour, Mylands' Whitehall, which is white with gentle ochre undertones that provided a lovely warm backdrop. It has this fantastic way of making spaces feel bigger, calmer, more flowing, while also highlighting the period details. Adding detailed embroidered fabrics and blocks of colour – the purple sofa, ochre armchair and lime-green cushions – gave rooms presence and meaning.

IS THE FURNITURE NEW?

Yes, my clients liked designs I proposed

from RH and Camerich. The Australian brand, King Living, became a particular favourite – the contemporary style appealed to their Antipodean roots.

We chose furniture proportional to the large rooms and I guided them with pairing bold showstopping pieces with neutral furniture. The balance has been a success. My clients cherish their period home and have been hugely complimentary about my work – we all enjoyed the process. gailrace.com

MAIN BEDROOM

‘My client fell in love with this blind fabric,’ says Gail.

Blinds in Paradiso Honey velvet, Warner House. Aura Swivel lounge chair, King Living. Alison Plus bench in Granite, Camerich. Gaia wall lights, Ochre

BATHROOM

A copper bath forms a stunning centrepiece.

Greenwich Boat freestanding bath is similar, CP Hart. Faversham towels, Margo Selby