



#### LIVING ROOM

This picture and opposite  
The off-centred Ronan  
Bouroullec artwork above  
the fireplace expresses  
homeowner Victoria  
Newall's love of unusual  
design, along with the  
wooden mannequin legs,  
rescued from a fashion  
photoshoot. Wall light,  
Mullan Lighting. Side  
table, H&M Home

# A



## HOUSE OF

From the outside, this 1930s terrace looks just like its neighbours. But inside, the home's vintage finds, striking art and unexpected details tell a totally original story

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## SURPRISES

## HOME PROFILE

### WHO LIVES HERE

Victoria Newall, an interior designer, her husband Jon, an engineer, and their daughter Nellie

### THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom 1930s terrace in Sydenham, south-east London

**W**hen it comes to her interiors, Victoria Newall likes to embrace the unconventional, so buying a stock 1930s terrace in suburban south-east London seemed like something of a compromise ten years ago – though this isn't how she feels now.

'My husband Jon and I were buying in a property boom, queuing up to view houses and having none of our offers accepted,' Victoria recalls. 'Climbing the property ladder from a flat to a house was already a struggle because of high London prices, so we widened our search and explored areas further out, near to where I had grown up. It seemed like a step backwards but now we absolutely love living here.'

When the couple came to look around the property, Victoria was instantly drawn to its proportions and the light. 'Although this terrace is about as ordinary as could be, it's up on a hill so we can see lots of sky, which is quite unusual in London,' she says. 'From the bedroom window, rather than looking directly onto neighbouring houses, you can see the horizon, which I still find lovely.'

Despite the property's unremarkable exterior and dated decor, the couple were excited to be living in a house for the first time, with no one above or below them. The interior hadn't been updated since the early 1990s, but the couple liked the knocked-through floorplan and added to the open-plan layout by removing the adjoining wall of the poky galley kitchen.

There were boring but essential repairs to do too, such as replacing the roof and windows, which put the new bathroom and kitchen projects on hold for a few years. A feature wall was one of the first



### LIVING AREA

Victoria created the artwork above the sofa, as she wanted something with a big pop of colour and a slightly 1980s feel.

'All kinds of art can be elevated with professional framing,' she says

**DINING AREA**

To soften the side of the peninsular unit facing the open-plan room, Victoria added vintage wooden cigar presses. The G Plan dining table and chairs were a lucky find from a local charity shop, while the sculptural wall art is by Willem Degroot

things to go. 'The box plastering was about a metre deep, so once we'd taken it down, the space felt much bigger,' says Victoria.

From the moment the couple moved in, Victoria began making plans for the interiors. A designer for 25 years, her roots are in high-end fashion, where she worked for brands such as Chanel and Hermès before setting up her interior design studio, Drawn London, when daughter Nellie was born.

'Rather than buying everything new, I was excited about being creative with my own interiors. I suppose it's in my blood,' she says. When Victoria was growing up, her mum took pride in making their home look good with thrifty vintage finds. 'I wanted our home to look undone – not formal in any way – and enjoyed the challenge of digging around flea markets and junk shops, and the buzz when the perfect piece of furniture found me.'

The showstopper stained-glass back door was one such find, as was the 1960s bedroom furniture, the 1980s sofa and the G Plan coffee table, dining table and chairs. 'I like old pieces, as they have soul and character and a unique patina,' says Victoria. 'I love the fact that Nellie can paint at the table without me having to fuss. That's important in a home with young children.'

Woven among the vintage pieces are Victoria's own creations, which include a headboard, wardrobe doors decorated with silk wallpaper, and a plain rug from Zara Home that she's customised with painted graphic shapes. In fact, a linear, graphic story threads through the house, and though sometimes things might look abstract, Victoria's creative decisions are all intentional. The painted black line across the living room wall is one such touch, creating a subconscious visual zoning to separate the space from the dining area.

'Anything quirky, fun or off-centre is very me, and I like that the careful curation of my things has brought design interest to ordinary spaces,' adds Victoria. 'I'm a real homebody, and proud that my patience and hard work have created a place where we love spending time. I hope we never have to move again.'

**Find out more about Victoria's work at [drawn-london.com](http://drawn-london.com)**

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**SIDEBOARD**

Opposite, above left A ‘hotch-potch’ of decorative items creates a striking display. Little Greene’s Portland Stone has been used on the lower part of the wall

**KITCHEN**

Opposite, below left and right Handmade zellige tiles in white and ochre are from Bert & May’s Bejmat collection. The sink is tucked away by the stained-glass door

**NELLIE’S BEDROOM**

Above Victoria designed the room to have as much play space as possible. The off-centre mirror draws the eye along the space. Walls in Oval Room Blue, Farrow & Ball



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**BATHROOM**

Above left Burnt orange Prismatic wall tiles from Johnson Tiles, a round oak wood mirror and bulb lights add texture and vintage character in the mostly white space

**MAIN BEDROOM**

Above and top left Laura made the headboard from Pollen Cloud fabric from Andrew Martin and painted the wood surround. The wardrobe doors are covered in silk wallpaper