



Kitchen

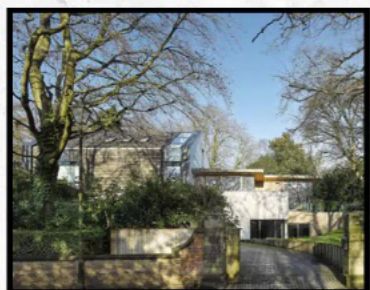
After finishing the house build, Jo and husband Stephen had to put the kitchen together on a budget, with drawers made from floorboards and stainless-steel frames. 'I like the industrial materials with a pop of colour in the tiles and the ceramics, which I've collected on my travels,' says Jo. Philippe Starck Masters bar stools by Kartell complete the look

'I'm inspired by an eclectic mix of styles'

Jo Sullivan's passion for colour and pattern has given her new-build home a heart that reflects both her creative career and family life

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Step inside...

Meet the owners

Jo Sullivan, an interior designer (josullivaninteriors.com), lives here with husband Stephen, who works in finance, and children Bella, 15 and Violet, 8

House details

A five-bedroom, four-storey self-build house near Ormskirk, Lancashire

When they bought it

2015



← **Living room** Jo uses timeless, classic designs like this grey linen seating as a neutral backdrop for her eye-catching textiles and art. 'I love my antique walnut cabinet with the colourful Jean-Michel Basquiat print from King & McGaw above,' she says

↓ **Design details** An Oka table lamp offers a retro vibe, the 'Kool Thing' panther cushion is from Andrew Martin, and the Chinese vase was a Clarks Antiques find



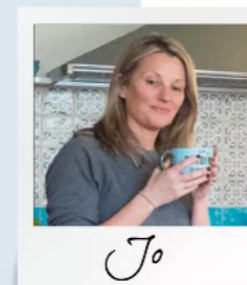
With a flair for the eclectic and a love of classic design, interior designer Jo Sullivan finds that her work and home life can often overlap. 'I might have a mirror in my own house that I know is perfect for a client's project, or come across a new lamp while out sourcing and decide it's actually ideal for me,' explains Jo. 'Textiles are my true passion though. My house is filled with colour and pattern – I have no rules and I'm not much of a planner, so my taste is always instinctive.'

Jo and husband Stephen fell in love with the original house that was to become the site of their new home for its large plot, location and established garden, rather than the actual property. Reaching out to Tom Kirby

from Drome Architects, it soon became clear that extending the house wasn't going to give the couple the home they really wanted. 'It's an awkward sloping site, and we wanted to make the most of the garden views as we have some beautiful trees and plants,' recalls Jo.

So Jo and Stephen found themselves embarking on a self-build project. 'We ended up digging down to make a basement and putting the main kitchen-living space on the first floor. I'm a real foodie, so a sociable, open-plan layout was important to me,' says Jo.

As a nod to the original 1960s property, the exterior of the new house was designed with a modern-retro look. 'I like a minimal palette with a blank-canvas backdrop, so the walls are mostly white, with wood flooring and →



Jo

“ I'm drawn to clashing patterns and bold ikat prints, infused with Eastern styles and delicate embroidery details ”

SUMMER HOMES



↑ **Landing** Jo wanted to introduce curves to the new build, and loves the sculptural shape of this console from a London design fair

↗ **Violet's bedroom** 'I didn't want this room to look overly girly, so loved Cole & Son's subtle Glastonbury Stripe wallpaper,' says Jo

→ **Design details** Delicate mother-of-pearl drawers contrast with the stripes, and Jo added a pom-pom trim to the floorlamp shade

neutral furniture,' explains Jo. 'I bring personality through with textiles, art and ceramics. I love clashing patterns and prints, but I'm also drawn to the calmness of blues and teals, with a shot of hot pink or orange.'

It was also important to Jo to have a home that wouldn't date, so over the years she's invested in classic pieces of furniture that can be passed on, which she advises her clients to do, too. 'My view is that if you're going to spend a lot of money on something, then you should avoid the trends and choose designs that will last,' she says.

One of Jo's first finds was an antique chair that she rescued from a skip over 20 years ago when she was a fashion and textiles student. 'My home has always meant a lot to me – even as a student I cared about living in a nice place,' she explains. 'I've reupholstered this chair a few times over the years, and it's currently in my living room.' And in a similar vein, an early wage packet from Jo's first job went on an original Kartell Louis Ghost chair, which is now in daughter Bella's bedroom.

It was while working as an embroiderer for a New York studio that Jo's appreciation of delicate fabrics began, while her travels across the world working as a fashion and homewares buyer sparked a love of Eastern styles. 'My eye is still drawn this way,' she says. 'I'd often pack ceramics or art into my suitcase and bring them back, and it's the →



Bella's bedroom

'Both girls love print and colour like me,' says Jo, who's contrasted Clarke & Clarke's Pemba fabric in Fuchsia on the headboard against the blue paisley curves in Cole & Son's Malabar wallpaper. The cushions are made with Manuel Canovas' Castellane fabric and the staggered glass chandelier is by West Elm





Main bedroom
 'For such a big wall, I needed a statement headboard, which my studio made for me,' says Jo. 'I created impact by upholstering it in Zinc Textiles' neutral Macramé Linen fabric rather than my usual bold choices, which would have looked too dominant. Instead, cushions from Etsy bring in the pattern and colour'

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Jo

“ I love the contrast of lines and curves, calmness of blues and teals, with shots of hot pink or orange ”

same when we're on holiday. I'll go for an early morning run to do a recce for an interesting homeware shop or hidden furniture store that I can visit later. All our treasured pieces have moved with us over the years.'

Although Jo now lives in a modern house, she loves period properties too, so it's no surprise to see a mix of old and new in her home. 'Teaming antiques with new pieces breathes life into a room and adds warmth and individuality,' she says. 'For example, in our en suite, I've used antique mirrors against walls of tiles from Topps Tiles. While in the living room, a Victorian display cabinet houses new ceramics I got in Sri Lanka and India.'

Jo rebuffs interior 'themes', instead choosing to layer thematic ideas in one space. Daughter Bella's bedroom hints towards a traditional feminine scheme, but a bold pink geometric fabric headboard against a blue paisley wallpaper is both modern and Eastern-inspired. Above, a statement chandelier strikes a contemporary note.

'I see an idea in my head and it just clicks,' says Jo. 'I suppose I have an eclectic confidence in colour choices and prints, and particularly love the contrast of lines and curves. For example, I already had the pink curl print cushions now in our bedroom, and thought they worked well with the ikat cushions I had made for the bed.'

With an unrelenting eye for detail, Jo is always picking up new pieces for her home and switching out others – but will never part ways with her most treasured possessions, which now make up the family's history.

'I just love rearranging and reorganising our things, as I find it really therapeutic and relaxing – even as a child I'd change my bedroom around!' she says. 'My interiors have organically evolved, and are still evolving – because that reflects who we are, how we live and the journey we've been on. I'm a firm believer that a successful project is when you walk into a home and understand who lives here – I never take our home for granted.' ©

↑ En suite
 'I love a calm, classic bathroom with a roll-top bath and monochrome tiles,' says Jo. 'I had to make this work on a budget, so found both tiles at Topps Tiles, and I absolutely love the blue ones, which really make the room'