

**HOME PROFILE****WHO LIVES HERE**

Alissa Glyn, a learning support assistant, her husband Craig, who runs a recruitment company, and their daughters, Gracie, nine and Myla, six

**THE PROPERTY**

A 1970s four-bedroom detached house in Hertfordshire

**PRICE** £635,000

**MONEY SPENT** £200,000

**WHAT IT'S WORTH**

**NOW** £1,250,000

# NATURAL APPROACH

Wood and metal blend beautifully to create a simple layered look in keeping with the architecture of this 1970s home

**WORDS AND STYLING** JANE CRITTENDEN  
**PHOTOGRAPHY** JAMES FRENCH

**SEATING AREA**

A velvet sofa from Habitat adds colour and a soft texture that contrasts with the industrial materials used throughout the space. The Anthropologie pouffe makes a bold statement, while aluminium doors, from Marlin Windows, allow natural light to flood in ▶







Unable to agree on the location of their next move, Alissa and Craig Glyn finally decided to stay in their Hertfordshire home and transform the ground floor into a chic and industrial-style family space. 'Craig wanted to relocate and take on a bigger project, whereas I preferred to stay put – and I won him over,' Alissa smiles. 'There were no arguments, though, about what we were going to do with the space, as we were both keen to create a fresh new look using wood, concrete and metal, emphasising textures rather than colour.'

Alissa and Craig have lived in their 1970s house since 2009, having been drawn to the character of the barn-style architecture. For many years they concentrated on bringing up their two daughters, but a few years ago Craig got the itch for change. 'We weren't using the house to its full potential,' he explains. 'We'd all gather in the kitchen, the smallest room in the house, while our dining room collected dust – it was such a waste.'

To make the most of the space, the couple decided to remodel the ground floor by extending the back wall by three metres and moving the kitchen into the old breakfast room. One of the main challenges was getting enough light into the kitchen and forging a connection with the garden. They also wanted to make sure each of the rooms was as communal as possible.

'We built the extension so it wraps around the kitchen and links with the garden, with an opening onto the snug area,' Craig explains. 'Later, we manipulated the spaces in order to move us into other rooms – for example, we only have three bar stools in the kitchen, so we now eat at the table in the new dining area.'

With a particular design in mind, the couple found architect Nick Berzins from Andris Berzins & Associates. The firm has a good track record with contemporary London projects, which dove-tailed nicely with the building contractor, Richard Green from Lecale Homes. 'Nick's drawings were extremely detailed and Richard's fixed price was spot on,' says Craig. 'We were organised and bought everything in advance so that once we were on site we didn't change anything, which helped the build run smoothly.'

The idea for the industrial look was inspired by the set of three black metal-framed doors they installed at the back of the house. 'We built our whole design concept around them,' says Craig. 'The look has real character and is much more in keeping with our barn-style home than modern sliding doors would have been.' Craig had gone on a hunt to find doors to fit their budget after the first quote came in at over £25,000. After speaking to 18 companies, he found Marlin Windows, which charged a third of the price. 'Alissa and I got on a train to Leeds to see the doors in person – it was the best thing we did,' he adds. 'They look fantastic.'

The living room already featured exposed wood, and to create a harmonious look, big oak beams were used to form the structure of the extension. At Nick's suggestion, these continue outside to form eaves above the doors. 'We both love wood and felt visible steel supports would look too cold with the metal doors,' says ▶

#### LIVING ROOM

Alissa and Craig's vision for a communal downstairs area was brought to life thanks to sliding wooden doors that not only save space but also open up the living room to the rest of the ground floor – a particularly suitable design in this barn-style house. The Olivia sofa in Isla Kingfisher velvet from Neptune is comfortable

and classic in style, while the textured ottoman from Anthropologie is a focal point and works as both a coffee table and footstool. COSY CORNER The Calvin armchair in green velvet is from Atkin & Thyme. A brass shelving unit from Swoon, which holds family pictures and mementoes, has a slim frame that adds a sophisticated element







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#### KITCHEN

The room benefits from lots of natural light, which flows through the snug area and provides a connection to the garden. The reclaimed wood kitchen was from Barget Kitchen Design and the concrete worktop was made by Lecale Homes. The Rattan bar stools are

from Rockett St George and the Lantern Marble pendants are from Heal's. Tiles from Porcelain Superstore have been used as a splashback and have a lovely worn finish.

#### DINING AREA

Wood panelling lines the walls and exposed oak beams frame the room, while concrete-effect

Cloud Brown porcelain tiles from ESB Flooring are practical and have the industrial look the couple were after. Seating has been kept simple with John Vogel chairs from West Elm and Swoon's Corella chairs. The reclaimed wood table is an online find and nature prints are from Society 6 ▶





Alissa. 'I have a bit of an obsession with rooms feeling cosy and interesting, so we played with different surfaces and cladding when decorating each of the areas.'

In the snug, wooden planks make a feature of the walls, while the dining area has white-painted panelling, and tongue-and-groove lines the walls in the kitchen. Reclaimed wood cupboards, chosen from just a picture and a sample the size of a coaster, offer a contrast in both colour and texture. 'Looking back, it's ridiculous to think we ordered our kitchen on the back of such a small sample, as there were no guarantees it would look the same as in the picture,' says Alissa. 'But it was worth the risk. Our kitchen looks amazing and Barget Kitchen Designs even have one in their showroom now!'

The couple's remodelling project was completed in five months, with new furniture and artwork adding a touch of colour here and there. Upstairs remains the same – for now. 'Craig says we're back to square one, but we're not moving anytime soon!' says Alissa. 'I absolutely love our house, we both do, and now's the time to sit back and enjoy living here.'

**BEDROOM**

Horizontal wood cladding has been given a white distressed finish for a relaxed informal look. The bed and side tables are from Sweetpea & Willow, and a pair of pink E-Wall Kartell wall lights are from Made in Design. In the ensuite, pale grey painted tongue-and-groove wood panelling sits well with the traditional-style suite

**LANDING**

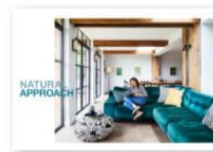
The couple have turned this space into a reading area and made a wall mural with paper from Graham & Green, which they've framed with black strips of wood. The sofa is from Liberty London FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY PAGE**

# Get the Look

Sumptuous furniture and tactile fabrics soften Alissa and Craig's industrial-style renovation



COMPILED BY ALICIA FORD



1 Pelham wall-mounted light in Carbon, £65, Garden Trading 2 Cole & Son Library Panel wallpaper £90/roll, Wallpaperdirect 3 Cody Loop floor lamp, £110, Next 4 Paper Collective Paper Cuts 01 print, £44, Nest 5 Rhonda Antique Gold mirrored five-tier shelf unit, £250, Artisanti 6 Circles sculpture by House Doctor, £115, Amara 7 Distressed Glaze footed plant pot, £15.50, The Farthing 8 Slowcoach corner sofa in Pacific clever velvet, £3,445, Loaf 9 Retro Scandi Norsjo print cushion, £20, Debenhams 10 Nora multi-coloured tufted cushion, £75, Habitat 11 Global monochrome pouffe, £35, Sainsbury's Home FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY PAGE**