

STYLISHLY SIMPLE

A tonal palette in shades of grey gives this home a layered monochrome feel, softened with a wealth of textiles and personal touches

WORDS JANE CRITTENDEN PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRENCH STYLING MARISHA TAYLOR



Kelly Schofield is forever changing the look of her home – downstairs rooms have been decorated white, light grey, dark green and dark grey in the four years she's been living here with her husband Taha Meziane and their son Zaki.

'I get bored very easily,' says Kelly with a smile. 'At the moment, I like putty shades with darker tones. If I get the urge to redecorate a room, I'll get it finished in a day – Taha is very patient with me!'

The constant in Kelly's home is her love of monochrome, which right now has been dialled down to flip between contrasting shades of grey to create shadow and light.

'I love the graphic look of black and white – I'm not a big fan of colour – but too much black can look dense and flat,' she explains.

'Instead, I've played with grey tones throughout as the rooms needed to flow. It's great because it's easy to change things up as our furniture works in every room.'

Kelly and Taha moved from a Victorian flat to this house to be nearer a good school for Zaki, and hadn't tackled such a big renovation project before. 'To be honest, it was a bit of an anti-climax when we moved in as the house was quite small and in such a state,' admits Kelly. 'The pretty period features gave us hope though, and we knew we would eventually make it feel like our home – I just had to be patient.'

Kelly didn't waste time, ripping up the old carpets and getting on with decorating the hall, living room and bedrooms. She was soon working out a design for a rear extension to create a kitchen-dining area that would open onto the family snug.

'The old dining room had a beautiful fireplace and I wanted this at the heart of the space,' Kelly explains. 'The small wall separating the kitchen makes it feel more like a room, and is a handy place to put a radiator.'

Lukas Building Services was recommended by a neighbour and, in April 2016, they spent three months building the extension. Kelly envisaged a white kitchen with no wall units so as to blend in with the open-plan units.

'I didn't want the space to feel too much



LIVING ROOM
Homeowner Kelly (opposite) reupholstered the sofa from Dad. Design in green velvet to create a smart monochrome finish, she painted the surround black and replaced the inset tiles with simple white ones. A stool from Shepton of Sweden is paired with Design House Stockholm's tray table and lamp, and the whole scheme is grounded with Ikea's Lohels rug

HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE

Kelly Schofield, a styling manager for Anthropologie, her husband Tana Mazarin, a sales director for a design show, and their five-year-old son Zaki

THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom Edwardian terraced house in Beckenham, south London
PRICE £538,000 in Oct 2015
MONEY SPENT £100,000
WHAT IT'S WORTH NOW £750,000

KITCHEN

Rather than opting for wall units, Kelly (pictured left) with husband Tana) chose open shelves and painted the wall in grey and white. The marble-effect worktop from Homebase is an affordable alternative to the real thing, while vintage bar stools (seen below left) came from an antiques market

SNUG

Framed pictures of film icons are grouped together

on the wall behind the French Connection sofa, while the cushions are from Ikea, H&M Home and Anthropologie. Kelly's grandad made the chest used as a coffee table.
DINING AREA
 Kelly bought the 1960s table and chairs for a bargain £15 at Kempton Antiques Market. The rug is from Anthropologie and the artwork is from Skandvís. The vintage locker is from Ardingly Antiques Fair

'I didn't want the space to feel too much like a kitchen. I like rooms to look interesting and have personality'



'I sealed the walls with diluted PVA glue, which gives an effect a bit like Venetian plaster'



like a kitchen,' she says. 'I like rooms to look interesting and have a bit of personality, which is why I furnished it with the vintage dining table and chairs, the old school locker and all the artwork.'

Kelly and Taha had thought about the possibility of converting the loft as well but, as the extension came to a close, they put the idea on hold. 'The project cost more than we expected as the builders re-fitted our bathroom too,' Kelly says. 'They took out a

chimney so we could have a bath and shower.'

Instead, Kelly turned her attention to decorating and styling the existing rooms. Unsurprisingly, plans evolved along the way – at one point, the snugg was painted a different colour from the kitchen, but Kelly began to see it made the room seem smaller and disjointed. 'Now it's the same shade, it all feels like one cohesive space,' she adds.

The couple love a flea market and antiques fair, and bought their vintage furniture with

them from the flat. They gradually added framed black and white prints, pot plants, and textured cushions and throws.

'Before we invest in big pieces, such as our mid-century sofas, we have to be absolutely sure we love them, as we want to keep them for years,' says Kelly. 'It's different with styling though. Sometimes I find something that prompts me to change the scheme, such as a picture of the solar system in navy and green I recently bought for Zaki's ▶

MAIN BEDROOM

Bare plastered walls and an exposed plywood ceiling give this space an unfussy pared-back look, warmed up with throws and cushions from Jo's House and Anthropologie. The Ogori Cacao 1956 One Eye print by Ole Eksell is from King & McGaw, while the pendant's hanging either side of the bed are from SCP

BATHROOM

The ensuite echoes the family bathroom, with dark grout lines making a feature of the brick-shaped matt tiles from Walls and Floors. The basin is from Luxso Stone
STAIRCASE
Bare plastered walls continue down from the bedroom and contrast with the stairway in Farrow & Ball's Rollings





GUEST ROOM

The couple now have a spare bedroom for Taha's visiting family. For a similar geometric duvet cover, try Made's Miko. Brand Alay sells a similar black triangles cushion. The desk lamp is from Anglepoise.

ZAKI'S BEDROOM

A monochrome colour scheme fits Zaki's room in with the rest of the house. An old metal

cabinet, which Kelly found in a skip, works well as a bedside table. The Zebra head is from Anthropologie and the cushions H&M Home. On the bed is a Pia Walkin cross throw that was once Zaki's baby blanket.

BATHROOM

The builders improved the layout by removing an old chimney breast to create space for a bath and shower

room. My next project is to repaint his walls in a lovely sage green.'

When, in the summer of 2018, it came to designing the loft conversion that was to accommodate the main bedroom, Kelly was absolutely clear about her vision. She pictured an open space with a high ceiling and big square window. 'It was really important that it didn't feel closed in. I also wanted an open bathroom layout,' she says. 'The neighbours have a plywood-clad loft and

that got me thinking about using wood on the interior and having an exposed ceiling.'

The couple used Lukas Building Services again as they'd been pleased with their hard work and commitment to the kitchen-dining extension project. One of Kelly's stipulations was that she wanted to have a plain plastered finish on the walls. 'They were a little surprised, but did a beautiful, smooth finish for me,' she says. 'I then sealed it with diluted PVA glue. The overall effect is a little bit like

Venetian plaster, but a whole lot cheaper.'

The loft addition was completed in spring 2019, and Kelly says it has transformed their whole home. 'It's been the icing on the cake. Now we have a wonderful sanctuary for ourselves and a proper guest bedroom on the first floor. Though nothing stays the same for long - I've already decorated the living room again, and tomorrow I might just wake up, grab the drill and take a picture out of one room and hang it in another!' ■