



Kelly turned Rhian Blanco tiles and Pixel white mosaics, from Walls and Floors, into a bold graphic statement by arranging them in a linear pattern using black grout. **Basin**, Lusso Stone; **mirror**, H&M; **tap**, for similar, try Drench.

Lights from SCP on either side of the bed emit a soft glow. The Anglepoise lamp is an original from an antiques market and sits on Ikea's Frosta plywood stool. The shelf is from String; framed print, King & McGaw; bed, Habitat.



### The FACTS

**Who?** Kelly and Taha Meziane with their son, Zaki, six  
**What?** A loft bedroom suite in a terraced house  
**Where?** Beckenham, south east London  
**Cost?** £55,000 including the building work  
**Time?** Two months

# Rest & relaxation

Kelly Meziane saved the best space until last in her renovation, turning a modest attic into a luxurious open-plan bedroom suite for herself and husband Taha >

Words: Jane Crittenden Photography: James French Styling: Marisha Taylor

# Kelly Meziane knows she's achieved the vision for her loft bedroom simply by the compliments she hears

from visiting friends. "They often ask where we've put all our stuff, and that's the point – we didn't want lots of furniture cluttering the room. We wanted the space to feel big and open, calm and serene," she explains. "So we've kept it simple, using natural materials for purity and warmth – and I like it so much that I'm not tempted to change a thing!"

Kelly, a styling manager for Anthropologie, readily admits she's constantly changing the look of her home – downstairs rooms have been through a cycle of white, dark green, and grey decorations in the five years she's been living here with her husband Taha and their son Zaki, six. It was no surprise that she began thinking about converting the loft soon after they'd finished their kitchen extension.

"I get bored very easily," she says. "I am forever moving furniture around or decorating. Though we had good reason to convert the loft because Taha's parents often stay and had to squeeze into the box bedroom." The couple bought their Victorian terrace in 2015, to be near a good school for Zaki. Soon after moving, Kelly began work on the kitchen extension design, while ripping out old carpets and decorating the hall, living room, and bedrooms. "I'm an impatient person. I had lots of ideas and knew I didn't want the kitchen to look too much like a kitchen," she says. "I bought a vintage dining table and chairs, plus an old school locker to give the room personality."

When the time came to plan the loft master suite a few years later, Kelly took a similar broad-thinking approach. "My aim was to get in lots of light, make the room feel really open and add character so it didn't look like a bland box stuck on the top of the house," she explains. "Inspiration for the exposed ceiling came while I was researching how loft rooms could be built. I loved the textured look of the wood joists and leaving the ceiling unplastered meant we could max out the head height."

Before Kelly got to this point with her construction company, Lukas Building Services, she thrashed out a design with an architectural consultant. She had plans for a big dormer with a large square window and black wood cladding outside. "Our designer didn't think we could go as big as I wanted within permitted development rights," says Kelly. "I did a bit of research to see the size of lofts on our street and I felt it was worth pushing for the plans." The designer revised the drawings and Kelly's research paid off. The couple were given a Lawful Development Certificate – this approves projects that might otherwise be questionable under permitted development – with the provision that they switch the black cladding to slate tiles.

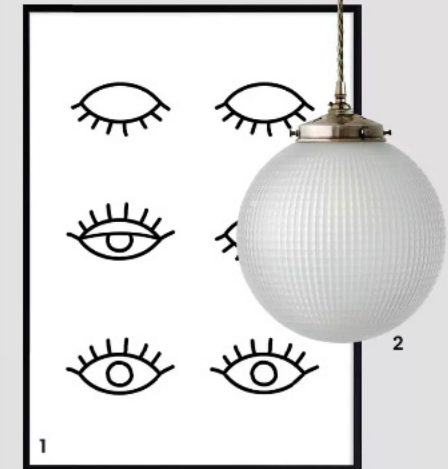
By now, Kelly had decided to keep the ensuite open to the bedroom and had an interiors scheme with natural materials in mind. "The suite was to be our sanctuary – very calm, clean, and simple with no tricks," she says. "After deciding on the exposed wood ceiling, I was drawn towards concrete in the ensuite and Venetian plastered walls." Quite quickly, Kelly came to realise such plastering techniques are expensive and told her builders she wanted to keep her walls undecorated instead. "They did a fantastic job with the plastering," she says. "They advised I use a wash of one-part PVA glue and water to seal the walls to stop the dust and protect the surface from marks." Kelly also decided against concrete surfaces as she thought they'd be too oppressive with the wood and plaster. Instead, she settled on a simple décor of white tiles paired with black grout. It's a style that follows her downstairs bathroom. "Monochrome is a safe option but I've created drama in the laying pattern," she says. "It's an easy transition to the bedroom where textures soften the look, creating a boutique feel."

She and Taha continued the luxury hotel vibe with low-level lighting and minimal furniture choices as their clothes remain in wardrobes in the guest bedroom. "We've splashed out and bought investment pieces to make our room feel special," Kelly says about her furniture picks. "The pendant lights are from SCP – I didn't want harsh spotlights spoiling the serene mood – and we chose a statement designer basin because this is the main feature of the ensuite."

Now finished, Kelly is so pleased with the outcome that she says there's nothing she'd change. "I'm proud that I've managed to make a small loft in a terraced house feel big and open. It's lovely knowing that when we come upstairs each night, we'll always walk into a calm, unfussy room, ready to relax." >



The most important decision in the ensuite was making sure the WC was hidden from the bed. A dividing wall does the trick with an obscured shower screen separating the spaces. **Showerhead and panel**, Drench.



## design edit

1 Eyes on You poster, £23.95 for a 50cm x 70cm design, Desenio. [desenio.co.uk](https://www.desenio.co.uk) 2 Larger Espere pendant in frosted waffle glass, £53, Pooky. [pooky.com](https://www.pooky.com) 3 Drops white ceramic tiles, £89.10 per sq m, Porcelain Superstore. [porcelainsuperstore.co.uk](https://www.porcelainsuperstore.co.uk) 4 Ferm Living Kelim cushion with black triangles, £59, Nordic Nest. [nordicnest.com](https://www.nordicnest.com) 5 Milano Nero mono basin mixer tap, £99.99, Big Bathroom Shop. [bigbathroomshop.co.uk](https://www.bigbathroomshop.co.uk) >

## The PLANS

Kelly maximised space in the loft by converting it with the biggest dormer allowed. She removed a wall in the downstairs box room to open up the landing for the new staircase. There are no walls in the loft – instead a shower screen shields the ensuite.

- 1 Ensuite** Kelly toyed with placing it beneath the sloping roof, but there wasn't enough head height. The shower and WC are separated by a wall and hidden behind the shower screen.
- 2 Bed** The bed is in the centre of the room and faces the basin in the ensuite.
- 3 Seating area** A laidback lounge chair and footstool slot neatly beneath the sloping ceiling for an additional comfortable seating spot.



A touch of monochrome is the thread that runs through Kelly and Taha's house. Here, wood and plaster add warmth to the scheme. The vintage dentist trolley, from a flea market, offers useful storage and makes a pleasing contrast. Radiator. Cast Iron Radiators.

## SOURCEBOOK

- Construction** Lukas Building Services, 07778 093884 [lkservices.uk](http://lkservices.uk)
  - Wall and floor tiles** Walls and Floors 01536 31473, [wallsandfloors.co.uk](http://wallsandfloors.co.uk)
  - Basin** Lusso Stone 0203 370 4057 [lussostone.com](http://lussostone.com)
  - Tap** Crosswater (0345 873 8840 [crosswater.co.uk](http://crosswater.co.uk)), via Drench 01202 612800 [drench.co.uk](http://drench.co.uk)
  - Shower panel** Drench, as before
  - Radiators** Cast Iron Radiators 01723 321000 [castronradiators.ltd.uk](http://castronradiators.ltd.uk)
  - Lighting** SCP 020 7739 1869 [scp.co.uk](http://scp.co.uk)
- For full stockist information, see page 142

**right** A wall separates the shower and the WC for privacy. **WC**, for a similar, try Grohe

**far right** Kelly's made use of every corner, fitting a row of hooks for dressing gowns and towels.



## Kelly's WORDS OF WISDOM

- Do your homework. I proved to our architectural consultant that it was possible to go bigger with our loft by looking online at recent plans that had been agreed for neighbouring homes. We were allowed to build the dormer an extra half a metre bigger, which made a real difference.
- Natural materials and a neutral colour scheme mean it's easy to do a seasonal change-over in bedding, throws and cushions.
- Design the loft for yourself. I love big landings and hallways, so we sacrificed the box bedroom because it was too small for a double bed. Although we haven't added any more bedrooms in this project, we have designed a house that works for us.
- Don't be afraid to tell your builder what you want. Ours were behind us all the way, fitting the supporting steels to create as much height as possible and using black tile trim without me even asking.

KBB

The Eames lounge chair and ottoman, from SCP, tuck neatly beneath the sloping roof line.

