

I'm addicted to PICTURES'

Victoria's artwork-filled 1960s London flat is brimming with personality



BRIGHT BOOKS

'Arranging my cookbooks in a rainbow makes a feature of them'



SLIM FIT

'This narrow artwork fits perfectly here'

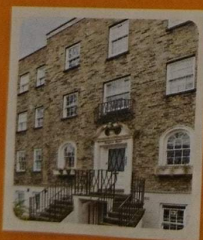
COME ON IN!

ABOUT ME I'm Victoria Eggs-Caley, 34, and I'm a homeware designer. I live here with my husband, Dan Caley, 32.

MY HOME A two-bedroom 1960s flat in north London that I bought in 2011.

WHEN I BOUGHT IT The flat had been painted white and I liked being able to put my own stamp on the rooms. The kitchen was cramped and falling apart though, so I needed to renovate it.

AND NOW Taking out the larger, fitting smaller worktops and new cupboards have made a huge change to the space.



IDEA TO STEAL

'If you have a standout feature like my window, hang a glass light shade to keep the view clear'



WALL OF WORDS

'I turned my Victoria Eggs English Dinner print into a wallpaper'

I was living and working in Australia and moved back to the UK in 2010,' says Victoria. 'I wanted to buy a flat in north London because I grew up not far away in Hertfordshire so I know the area quite well. All this happened before I met my husband, Dan, and when I was a first-time buyer.

The range of flats was so varied and actually quite depressing within the postcode areas I liked. I viewed 14 properties in two days but as soon as I walked through the front door of this 1960s flat, I could see myself living here. I was drawn to the light, the high ceilings and the two big bedrooms.

The previous owners had recently decorated with white everywhere so I could really see how I might put my stamp on the rooms. The windows were new, except the kitchen window, which was a lovely arched design but it was single-pane and made the room freezing.

In fact, the whole kitchen needed replacing. The cupboards were old, there was a big larder and the worktops were wider than usual, so the space felt really cramped. I knew the kitchen would be my biggest and most expensive project so I had to save up to do it properly.

Quick refresh

I moved in around the same time I set up my homeware and gift business, Victoria Eggs, and at first, I rented out »

OPENING UP
'The white hi-gloss Ikea cupboards and standard-sized worktops have led friends to comment on how big the space feels'

Make it! HAIRPIN LEG COFFEE TABLE

1 Cut a piece of wood or MDF to your chosen size. Sand the edges thoroughly until they are completely smooth, and lightly sand the table top. Wipe clean with a lint-free cloth.
2 With a brush, apply a coat of varnish to the tabletop – try Ronseal's interior varnish, £8.40 for 250ml, B&Q. Leave to dry

according to the instructions on the tin, on a flat, stable surface.
3 Place tabletop face down, mark the position of the hairpin legs with a pencil through the screw holes.
4 Attach the hairpin legs by lining them up with the marks you made in step three, and then screwing in place using a drill or screwdriver.

BOLD STATEMENT
'The fireplace isn't real but makes the perfect focal point to show off my London skyline print by Lucy Bainbridge'

WARM HUES

'The mellow tones of the original parquet flooring work well with the copper Cape pendant from Made and the grey Ikea rug'



Buy it
Find quirky accessories like these on **PAGE 88**

Style Maker GRACE SAYS



'Using a sofa and rug to create different zones in the living room is a clever trick and makes the dining area feel like a separate cosy space.'

IDEA TO STEAL

'Hang artwork in budget frames or use with a mount if the picture isn't a standard size'



'CHOOSE UNITS AND TABLES WITH THIN OR HAIRPIN LEGS THAT ELEVATE THEM ABOVE THE FLOOR TO MAKE YOUR ROOM FEEL SPACIOUS'

» the spare room. I was excited about the prospect of creating my own first real home and wanted the flat to feel comfortable and welcoming but I didn't have a lot of furniture, just hand-me-down pieces and things I'd bought second-hand. What I did have, though, was my beloved collection of screen prints and artwork that have come with me wherever I've lived.

I have a real addiction to artwork, and I'm always adding to my collection! One of the first things I did after moving into the flat was lean my prints against walls and prop them up on furniture until I decided what would go where. Two of my favourites are my sister-in-law, Helen Bridges' block canvas in the living room, and the London skyline by Lucy Bainbridge above the fireplace. They're

both completely different but the muted tones tie them both together.

Finding my style

I wanted to gradually replace the old furniture I had with pieces that were more my style but I knew this would take time. I love the designs at Made and went a bit mad buying lots of pieces for the living room! My brother found me a vintage sideboard on Ebay and I had a chest of drawers that I'd rescued from a skip in Birmingham during my university days, which I sanded and varnished.

Dan, who's a painter and decorator, moved in three years ago, and freshened up all the rooms. We chose muted tones of greys and yellows, and then we added brighter colours with the yellow sofa, cushions and prints. I love Fiona »

TWO BED FLAT

Love it



MY DETAILS

'Removing the door makes the living room feel open-plan'



Love it TWO BED FLAT



IDEA TO STEAL

'Organise books by colour so they don't look messy'

'LAY OUT PRINTS ON THE FLOOR FIRST TO DECIDE WHICH WORK BEST NEXT TO EACH OTHER TO CREATE AN ARRANGEMENT TO SUIT YOUR WALLS'



ON THE SLATE

'The dark grey sofa anchors this space'



» Howard's Dandelion Clock fabric and had blinds made for the living room and the bathroom using different colourways.

Refining the space

As my business grew and I needed a proper space to work, I turned the spare room into an office. I've changed the layout five times, as I was trying to fit too much in. Now I have my work desk, plus a smaller one for freelance workers or friends to use. The most recent addition to my work space is the grey sofa bed. It's really nice to sit here when I'm taking phonecalls or doing paperwork. I've also hung lots of prints on the walls and that's helped make my little home office feel like a really creative, inspiring space.

Our bedroom layout was tricky, too – we've had the bed positioned against every wall! We won't be changing the

room around any more, though, because Dan's installed built-in wardrobes from Ikea, and we like that our bed overlooks the garden. I would like to update the bedroom furniture one day, and go for some Scandi-style pieces in slimmer, paler wood tones.

Kitchen project

In 2015, we finally got around to tackling the cramped kitchen. We demolished the old larder and ripped out the kitchen units and worktops. We weren't worried about losing storage because the new configuration of cupboards has given us more space than we had before.

We chose white gloss Ikea units and gloss Metro tiles to lighten the room. I really wanted to hang a statement wallpaper in the kitchen, but I couldn't find anything I liked. Then I came up »

MIXING IT UP

'We saved by choosing a John Lewis table and pairing it with chairs from Tesco Direct'



Do it! DISPLAY BOOKS WITH STYLE

1 Group your books by spine colour. Stack them next to each other for a striped effect, or use groups of one hue together for a colour-block look.

2 Turn book covers into art by displaying your favourites on picture ledges. Ikea's Mosslanda ledges start at £4.50 and are an ideal spot to show off your chosen tomes.

3 If your style favours a more neutral look, switch books around to display them fore edge out (that's the opposite of the spine) to add texture and interest without busy colour.

4 Stack books in smaller, vertical piles to create points of interest on shelves or side tables. You can use these as pedestals for small objects.

Style Maker

ANNERIEKE SAYS



'Covering a wall with prints in different frames adds instant interest and character, plus it's easy to swap them around for a fresh look.'



BRITISH THINKING

'Living in Australia encouraged me to begin my British-inspired design collection, like my Let's Eat and English Dinner prints.'

3 of the best LETTERED CUSHIONS

Get personal and say something with your chosen cushion



Colours printed cushion, £9, B&Q



Hello cushion, £14, Next



You Are My Sunshine cushion, £15, Burble Baby

EASY UPDATES
"We improved the bathroom by bringing in pattern and colour with accessories"



IDEA TO STEAL

"Mix up prints in similar palettes for a varied but harmonious look"



Style Maker

ALIX SAYS



"Artificial plants are great for softening the look of hard bathroom surfaces and the bonus is there's no care needed, except dusting them!"

WORDS JANE GOTTENBYN PHOTOS JAMES FRENCH



Have you tried a gallery wall? Show us your styling at [instagram.com/ideathomeuk/](https://www.instagram.com/ideathomeuk/)

TWO BED FLAT

Love it

PALE PALETTE

"Our Habitat duvet cover prompted the colour scheme in here and Dan painted the walls in a muted yellow-green to introduce light"



"KEEP WALLS AND FLOORING NEUTRAL AND BUILD COLOUR WITH PRINTS AND ACCESSORIES, FOR A SCHEME THAT CHANGES EASILY ALL YEAR ROUND"

Where to buy her style

★ **POSTERHASTE.COM** When it comes to the perfect piece of wall art, Posterhaste.com has a fantastic range of prints.

★ **H&M** is a great go-to for cushion covers that'll give your room an instant room update – go for rich fabrics and bold colours to jazz up a neutral sofa.

★ **B&Q** For lighting designs that are a bit different, check out B&Q's lighting department where you'll find shades and lamps in a variety of shapes and textures.



SCANDI SLEEK
"I like the simplicity of the Stockholm mirror from Ikea"

Buy Victoria's style... MODERN BRIGHTS

Inject character by mixing high-street buys with upcycled vintage pieces



Give your home a contemporary facelift by incorporating bright colours and modern prints among classic vintage finds. Use a bright statement piece of furniture such as a sofa to set the tone, and build around this with soft furnishings in clashing prints and colours to add contrast. Dark, rustic wooden pieces mixed with metallics and monochrome ensure your home ticks all the eclectic boxes while working in sync to provide a warm, welcoming space.



£375 for 2
Draw up some mid-century cool to your dining table with this Ercol Chesham chair, NEXT