

'We blended old WITH NEW'

SUNNY CORNER

'I'm regularly asked about my kitchen shelves on Instagram - people are surprised to hear that our builder made them!'



COME ON IN!



ABOUT ME I'm Madelaine Maddock, 43, a freelance editor, and I live here with my husband, Andrew, 42, a software developer, and our children, Élodie, six, and Noah, four.

MY HOME A three-bed, semi-detached Edwardian house over three floors in Earlswood, Surrey, which we bought in September 2014.

WHEN WE MOVED IN It wasn't to our taste and we quickly found it inconvenient having the kitchen on a different floor to the living room and no access to the garden.

AND NOW Opening-up and extending downstairs means we have a family space and gained a guest bedroom/home office in the process.

STYLE TIP Buy furniture right first time. We invested in pieces to last and bought affordable accessories that we might update in the future.

IDEA TO STEAL

'We chose a practical white marble-effect quartz worktop to lift and lighten the kitchen space'



Madelaine and Andrew combined original period details with a modern extension for a co-ordinated look with plenty of light and space

Buying our Edwardian house was a big move as we were relocating from a London flat to Surrey for Andrew's job,' Madelaine recalls. 'I'd always wanted to live in a period property with a modern extension on the back and we loved that this house had potential for us to be able to do that.'

The two rooms on each of the three floors were all a good size and each had a fireplace - even the bathroom, which was unusual - and we loved the Edwardian character of the property. However, the lower-ground floor was damp and gloomy, with a staircase separating the kitchen and dining room. Plus, the only way out into the garden was through a side door and along a passageway, which was inconvenient.

Making plans

However, the house was liveable and with one eye on renovating downstairs we got on with decorating the bedrooms and getting Élodie's nursery ready for when she was born. However, during the following months, we found that we spent most of our relaxation time in the upper-ground floor living room as the downstairs area wasn't a particularly pleasant place to sit and unwind.

Identifying problems

The split-level living then became a practical issue when Élodie arrived the following year. We were reliant on using the side entrance for the buggy as it was at ground level, but we still had to carry her up and down the steep stairs between the downstairs kitchen and the living room on the upper-ground floor.

We began to think about how we >>>

INSPIRED DESIGN

'We interpreted the industrial look with Blok Design's units painted in Railings by Farrow & Ball, metro tiles and a stainless-steel sink. The ducting pipe for the extractor fan was a nice industrial touch, too'

Make it! SCAFFOLDING SHELVES

- 1 Buy new scaffolding boards from a DIY shop with metal end bands that are date-stamped.
- 2 Cut the boards to size but reattach the metal ends to add a more characterful look.
- 3 Sand the boards to remove any rough edges and rub the surface with transparent matt wax.
- 4 Choose chunky black metal wall brackets that are deep enough to rest the boards safely on.
- 5 Using a spirit level, mark the top of the brackets and mark the screw holes with a pencil, setting the height of the shelves according to the items you want to display. Drill the holes, push in wall plugs and screw the brackets to the wall.
- 6 Lay the scaffolding boards over the wall brackets and screw firmly down into place.

ON DISPLAY

'We love the rustic look of our open scaffold-board shelves; wall cupboards would have made the kitchen feel too enclosed'



BALANCING ACT

'Our builder made the chimney breast more symmetrical so we could fit in the cooker and have a cupboard on either side'



COLOUR POP

'I love art that's light and summery; it's the feeling we wanted in this room all year around and it adds fun, too'



OPEN HOUSE

'Extending the lower-ground floor has given us so much more space. The cream shade of Farrow & Ball's Wimborne White ties in with the warm blond-wood table'

'MID CENTURY IS A FLEXIBLE DESIGN CLASSIC THAT SITS COMFORTABLY IN OUR OLD HOUSE AND WORKS WELL WITH CONTEMPORARY SCANDI STYLES'

» could streamline the layout and make the garden more accessible so we could watch Élodie, and later Noah, play outside.

Finding solutions

I've been an avid reader of interiors magazines for years and I grew up in a creative household – my mum's an artist and I was surrounded by William Morris influences and antiques. In my mind, I visualised one through-room with bifolds onto the garden, so that's where we started with our brief to Reigate Architects. They had some ideas about

moving the staircase and building a larger extension, but we weren't sure if we'd see our money back and didn't want to lose any of the garden. Instead, we knocked through the kitchen and dining room leaving the staircase as it was and extended 2.5 metres over where the concrete patio had been. We love the long roof window in the extension that marks the change between the old and new as it brings in lots of ambient light. And, from the living room upstairs, we can see its green roof. We also liked the idea to take the extension as wide as »



CO-ORDINATED LOOK

'We went for mid century-style sofas from [Made.com](#) and French Connection at DFS, with Scandi touches like the H&M bamboo pot and Ikea mirror'

**DESIGNER TOUCH**

'Our electrician swapped a downlighter for this pale-green Muuto pendant, from Heal's'

**Do it! BESPOKE LIGHTING**

- * It's easy to customise pendant cable lighting when you buy the components separately. Choose from multiple flex colours and patterns, lamp holder profiles and finishes, and also a range of bulbs.
- * Filament bulbs work best for this look, with the filament coming in a variety of shapes as well as the bulb itself. They're available in clear glass,

- a golden tint and half-finishes in copper, silver and gold.
- * A galvanised steel tube (or key clamp) is usually used to make handrails but it is also a cheap, industrial-look solution for hanging the lights, at around £5m.
- * Wrap the flexes around the tube and position bulbs at the exact height and spacing you need in the room.

» we could to the boundary. It's made a big difference to the dining area because we can fit in a table that seats six. Although this meant the passageway was blocked off from the garden, we don't mind as we don't need the access anymore. We have a storage shed out there now, useful for the bins and bikes.

Tackling the work

Our building contractor Jake Moss from Campbell Keats was as enthusiastic about our project and as keen on the interior finishes as we were. The biggest part of

the process was having the lower-ground floor tanked and waterproofed because we're below the road at the front of the house and vulnerable to water ingress. We weren't planning to move out, but Jake found a leak in the kitchen ceiling from the bathroom so everything had to be stripped out and fixed straightaway. As I was pregnant and Élodie was a toddler at the time, we stayed with my mum and then my sister for a month, while Andrew just about managed to stay living here to keep an eye on progress! After we moved back in, the team »

'I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO LIVE IN A PERIOD PROPERTY WITH A MODERN EXTENSION AT THE BACK'

**AFFORDABLE ART**

'My brother made the spots artwork in a homage to Damien Hirst's *Cineole*. It didn't cost much more than £50'

HOME OFFICE

'The Tikamoon desk echoes the mid-century style downstairs and I like how displaying plants brings the space to life'

**PRETTY & PRACTICAL**

'Niches break up the expanse of wall, while the small hexagon mosaics inside add interest'

'WE CHOSE CORK FLOORING FOR THE REVAMPED BATHROOM; IT'S WATERPROOF AND WARM, AND COMPATIBLE WITH UNDERFLOOR HEATING'

» worked around us, rigging up a temporary kitchen in the old dining room while they got on with fitting the new one. During the bathroom project, Jake suggested we remove the chimney breast so we could have a separate shower and bath, but we decided that the old fireplace was an important feature for us, as bath time is a treasured routine.

Interior finishes

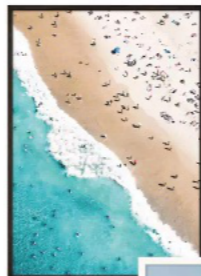
While the upper floors had lovely period details, downstairs had none and I needed something to focus my design

ideas on. One of our favourite pieces of furniture is the bespoke mid-century sideboard that Andrew won from a furniture designer in a raffle. We both love the clean lines of this era; it's a flexible design classic that sits comfortably in our older house and works well with the contemporary Scandi styles we like, such as the blond-wood flooring, rattan accessories and furniture.

We kept the walls white to ensure the space is as light as possible and I brought in interest and colour with art and greenery. I've taken a similar approach »

3 of the best PHOTO ART

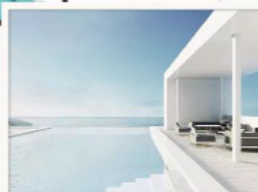
Let these prints pop against a white backdrop

**COAST LINES**

Beach Mood 2 photography print, £25, Athena Art

BLUE HORIZON

Still Infinity Pool art print, £25, Abstract House

**LA LA LAND**

Street of Los Angeles poster, £14.95, Desenio

**TILE TIE-IN**

'Flooring from Siesta Cork Tiles was a safer option than slippery porcelain and looks like the real thing'

**IDEA TO STEAL**

'A Roman blind in a shade to match the wallpaper softens the overall look'

NOSTALGIC CHOICE

'I grew up with William Morris wallpaper and thought the Brer Rabbit print in Slate had a calming tone that looked lovely with Farrow & Ball's Tallow walls'

KIDS' SPACE

'The children's room is fun and colourful, with wall stickers from Decowall on the bunk bed, and duvet covers from H&M Home'



» in the industrial-style kitchen with cupboards in a dark moody shade to ground the room and lighter walls to give the illusion of height and space.

The biggest challenge was making the spare room work. It started life as our living room, became a guest bedroom, and was then turned into a home office during lockdown - now it's a room that achieves both! We toyed with having a sofa bed in here but as both sets of grandparents visit for longer stays we wanted them to feel comfortable.

Perfect results

The whole transformation of our home was so rewarding and is a constant surprise to friends and family. When they came into our new spacious downstairs room it wasn't what they were expecting at all from the outside. I love the contrast between the old period features and the new family space that we've created, especially when the sun is shining, the doors are open to the garden, and the kids are running in and out.'



Find more clever ideas to style up your home by going to pinterest.com/styleathomemag

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN PHOTOGRAPHS JAMES FRENCH STYLING MARISHA TAYLOR

EASY ART

'I spotted this poster by Loma Freytag on Instagram and fitted it into Ikea's simple Ribba frame'



Where to buy Madelaine's style

- * **IKEA** Scandi-style accessories for a steal, with Ribba picture frames being one of Madelaine's bargain buys.
- * **KING & MCGAW** An inspiring range of poster prints, including gorgeous photographic art available in large sizes that, when they're framed, look like original art.
- * **H&M HOME** Head here for affordable homewares, with cushion

- covers and plant pots top of Madelaine's shopping list.
- * **THE STONE TILE EMPORIUM** A local independent where Madelaine was delighted to find the hexagonal bathroom mosaics and tiles.
- * **COX & COX** Stylish furniture and homewares, and a favourite for splash-out investment purchases, such as Madelaine's table and bench.