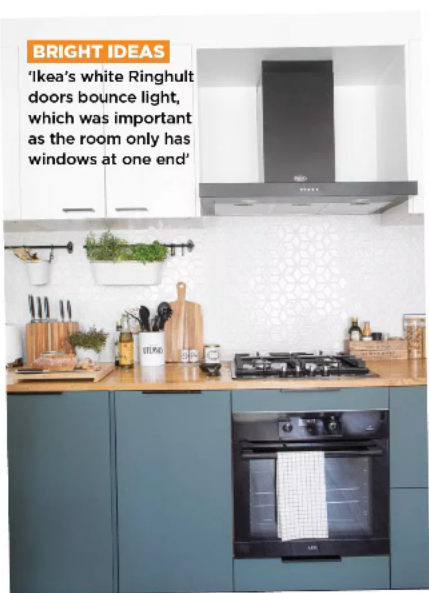


## BRIGHT IDEAS

'Ikea's white Ringhult doors bounce light, which was important as the room only has windows at one end'



## COME ON IN!



**ABOUT ME** I'm Pauline Gidoin, 39, and I own Millimetre Architecture (@millimetre\_architecture). I live here with my partner, Jose Arostegui, 42, a data analyst, and our daughter Charlie, one.

**MY HOME** A two-bedroom apartment on the third floor of a former 1940s shoe factory in east London, which I bought in August 2017.

**WHEN I MOVED IN** The bones of the flat were good but the decoration was basic and it lacked good storage.

**AND NOW** Original industrial architecture forms the backdrop to my interiors, where I've designed joinery and added designer furniture and high-street styles.

**STYLE TIP** Ignore trends and invest in furniture you love that will last.

# 'My home was a SHOE FACTORY'

## PERFECT FIT

'I measured up to make sure the chairs and dining table from Cosy Wood went comfortably into position next to the partition,' says Pauline

A converted east London industrial building inspired architect Pauline Gidoin to create a cool, loft-style apartment

I fell in love with this flat for its 2.7m high ceilings, exposed brick walls and original steel-framed windows,' says Pauline. 'The building had been a shoe factory before the conversion. I'm French and moved to London in 2016 after spending 10 years working in Hong Kong as an architect on hotel and residential projects, and the seven years before that in Paris studying architecture. I'd been saving for a while and wanted to get to know London before I bought. I rented flats in Brixton, Dalston and Shoreditch and remembered how much I missed the character and history of older properties.'

Natural light was important to me as the place I was renting had virtually no windows, which was affecting my wellbeing. I actually viewed this flat a few times to be sure the rooms had plenty of light – even on grey days! The vibrant location in east London with its creative scene and mix of cultures really appealed to me too, and until I left my job to set up Millimetre Architecture, I was close enough to central London to cycle to work. It's great to be within walking distance of bars and restaurants, yet be tucked away down a quiet street.

## An architect's eye

This two-bedroom flat had been rented out to four people previously, so it was scruffy and had too much bulky furniture in the rooms, which didn't do the layout justice. This was a real problem in the main living space as that's just one large room for relaxing, eating and cooking.

The kitchen hadn't been fitted properly and there was only a single run of worktop with shelves above. With space taken up for a separate washing machine and dryer, there was nowhere to store anything. I made this my mission to >>

## IDEA TO STEAL

'A steel-framed glass partition is a chic way to zone a large room'





**SPEND & SAVE**

'The quality of the Mobalpa cupboards is amazing and, combined with Ikea wall units, gave me a new kitchen for a good price'

## Do it! RE-PLAN A SMALL KITCHEN

Here are Pauline's top tips:

- ★ Measure up carefully to fully understand the space you have.
- ★ A kitchen island needs at least a one metre clearance on each side to avoid the room feeling cramped.
- ★ Keep the relationship between the oven, fridge and sink comfortable and not too distant.
- ★ Water and waste locations determine where to place the sink, washing machine and dishwasher.
- ★ Use a small dishwasher and a washer-dryer to save space.
- ★ Make use of the wall height with cupboards or shelves. Dishes on display help break up the space. A cupboard with a small plinth gives around 20% more storage.
- ★ Don't scrimp on work surfaces as they're key to functionality.
- ★ Combine task lighting (downlights), ambient light (pendants) and accent lighting (under cabinet) for best effect.

**COSY TEXTURES**

'The tan leather sofa from Made.com has a beautiful velvety feel and a vintage look that works well against the painted brick walls'

**IDEA TO STEAL**

'Pick out the black steel window frame in furniture, picture frames and fittings to tie rooms together'

» sort out first, as storage is so important for making a home functional.

Once I'd moved in and measured up, I drew plans for the kitchen and for the furniture layout to make sure all the space in the rooms worked really hard.

### Kitchen project

I like to cook, so a comfortable, usable kitchen was high on the list of things to do. I designed a more practical layout, including adding a broom cupboard and relocating the sink. I also worked out how much space I could have for a table.

My kitchen fitters were amazing as there's a two-centimetre difference in the walls from one side of the kitchen to the other! However, the key to making the kitchen work for me was the steel-framed glass partition - I hated the workspace clutter being on show to the living room. It's worked so well as the black steel frame is like the original windows and the glazing lets the light through.

The idea is definitely a Parisian influence! You often see them in French apartments. I'd done something similar over there and found it was cheaper to go back to the same company to have my partition made and shipped over, then I had the glass installed here.

### Designing storage

I love designing joinery to make a room more useful and dynamic. I've worked »

**COLOUR MATCH**

'A bank of ceiling-high cupboards and shelves fill the wall, so painting them in Farrow & Ball's Purbeck gives them a light, elegant finish'





**SOFTER TOUCH**

'Light green walls temper the industrial desk and Tolix chair'



'I SOURCED A GENUINE BERBER RUG FROM IBABA IN MOROCCO THAT'S HANDMADE IN THICK WOOL'

**IDEA TO STEAL**

'Painting the brick wall white gives the industrial look a lighter feel'

**INDUSTRIAL CHIC**

'Linen and cotton soften the painted brick while the Eero Saarinen Tulip marble coffee table adds a touch of sophistication,' says Pauline

**Do it! BATH PANEL**

- 1 Choose a finish that contrasts with the rest of the room, like this wood-effect with white metro tiles and a geometric floor.
- 2 Genuine wood can absorb moisture and warp in damp environments. Pauline's textured ceramic tiles replicate the look and feel of the real thing.
- 3 Remove the plastic bath panel and build a supporting stud frame for the new MDF panel. Measure and cut to size.
- 4 Mock up the tile layout on the board by starting in the top left corner. Cut any overhangs to size.
- 5 Glue down tiles using tile adhesive, then screw the MDF panel to the stud frame.

**WOOD WORKS**

'I used a bold geometric floor from Terrazzo Tiles and clad the bath with a wood-effect tile from Walls and Floors'

» on design layouts for many years, where sometimes it was necessary to go back and forth with a tricky space, so I've learnt to be inventive and problem-solve quickly. I like clean and uncluttered rooms, so I built a storage wall for the living room. This is where I hide my computer and work samples, with shelves to display books and accessories.

**Bedroom inspiration**

The bedroom was my most exciting project, though. It's 20 square metres, but long and narrow and it had no built-in furniture. My concept was to create a luxurious walk-in wardrobe with a low ceiling and loft space above, painted in a moody dark blue. It acts as a transition space before you come »

**3 of the best NEUTRAL RUGS**

Choose a soft rug to add warmth and character



**FABULOUS FRINGE**  
Bhodi rug, £30,  
Walton & Co



**BERBER STYLE**  
Wood Nando rug, from  
£249, [Cuckooland.com](http://Cuckooland.com)



**WHAT A DIAMOND**  
Safi Ethnic Diamond rug,  
from £59.99, [Carpetright](http://Carpetright)



**PAINTED STORAGE**

'Farrow & Ball's Stiffkey Blue is a calm tone and contrasts with the red brick and worn wood floor, which I stained in Ronseal Rosewood satin'

**IDEA TO STEAL**

'Pauline's storage design in the long, narrow room makes the bedroom shape a more intimate space'

**BESPOKE STORAGE**

'I'm a shoe addict, so having cupboards built to my design 'is such a treat'

**MEMORABLE ART**

'Photo Circle's "Far East Taxi" framed photo of Hong Kong reminds me of my time living there'

» into the peaceful bedroom. When you walk through, the tranquillity and brightness makes a lovely contrast.

**Interiors approach**

I wanted my apartment to feel cosy, timeless and calm – a reaction to living in fast-paced Hong Kong with its neon lights and aggressive colours. Working with the industrial aesthetics of the property was vital, but also making sure there was warmth and softness mixed in with the rough materials and cold metals. This is why I chose the vintage leather sofa, cowskin chair and real Berber wool rug.

I like the simplicity of lines and modern architecture. Over the years, I've invested in iconic mid-century furniture because I'll never grow bored with it. I've also mixed

in modern high-street styles for balance. Walls are neutral to help the light, with a pinch of colour here and there in chairs, art and the green pendants.

**Style harmony**

I like details to repeat in rooms so there's a connection between spaces. Brass accents in lights, handles and accessories are soft and feminine to break-up the hard industrial edges. A wooden kitchen worktop adds warmth and ties in with the living room storage, furniture and flooring.

I love the worn, cracked surface of the planks that remind me of Paris apartments – and the texture of the raw brick walls. The architecture of my flat brings history and life into my home – and I like to think I've added to its story with my designs.'

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN STYLING MARISHA TAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHS JAMES FRENCH

**Where to buy Pauline's style**

\* **MAISONS DU MONDE** fulfils Pauline's love of French, vintage and mid-century furniture. Her Portobello bedside tables are from here.  
\* **LA REDOUTE** sells affordable homewares in a variety of styles without compromising on quality. This is where Pauline found the Botello adjustable living room floor lamp, which has a vintage feel to it.

\* **ZARA HOME** is Pauline's go-to for cushion covers and bed linen.  
\* **DESENIO** is great for sourcing good quality prints in large sizes that have an expensive look for a low price.  
\* **VINTERIOR** brings together suppliers selling vintage pieces from all over the world. A great source of furniture you wouldn't see elsewhere.

**'MIXING ICONIC PIECES WITH VINTAGE AND HIGH STREET MEANS MY FLAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A MUSEUM OR A SHOW HOME'**

**STYLE CONTRAST**

'I loved the raw brick wall here so made this room my bedroom – I like the contrast with elegant mid-century furniture'

