

Jules framed an Art Deco poster to remind them of holidays in France. 'Our art is all about memories and little nods to our life,' she says. The table is from John Lewis, the white Eiffel-style chairs are available at Cult Furniture while Garden Trading's Grand Paris is a similar glass pendant



I didn't want my home to look boring

Jules Davies took a relaxed approach to her project, instinctively layering colour and pattern for a vibrant finish against a backdrop of natural materials



Jules Davies was brought up by the sea in Kent, so when she and her husband Tim were looking for a change of pace to busy London life, coastal living was at the forefront of Jules' mind – and Brighton in particular.

'Coming here felt like a natural move – I have such happy memories of growing up by the sea and of holidays on the Sussex coast visiting my uncle,' she says. 'I used to visit my sister at university in Brighton too and I knew there was a buzz about the city and a great mix of people.'

Jules and Tim rented a flat on Hove's seafrost with their children, Florence and Betsy, then seven and four, for a couple of weeks so Tim could test out the

commute back to London. Quite quickly it became apparent his journey would be more bearable if they were living near a station and so this became the focus of their search.

'We were living in a Victorian terrace in London and wanted a bit of breathing space,' says Jules. 'When we came to see this house it was like walking into a bigger version of where we already lived with all the original period features – it was like coming home.'

Jules and Tim bought the house in August 2011 and focused first on settling the girls in school and re-establishing Jules' home hairdressing business. The top floor was decorated and kitted out for her



▲ The white kitchen makes a neutral backdrop for the earthy tones in the Dalian Rustic River Slate floor from Mandarin Stone. 'I love the natural organic look, plus it's practical for the kids and the dog,' says Jules. 'We've got under-floor heating which makes the room cosy all year around'

Good idea!
PVC sash windows are an affordable alternative to wood and look just as good.



▲ The white Shaker-style kitchen is topped with a wooden worktop from Howdens, providing plenty of storage and food prep areas. 'I remember seeing a kitchen like this in an American film years ago and the memory stuck with me,' says Jules. 'It's a style and colour that won't date and doesn't clash with the texture and tones in the floor tiles'

COME ON IN...



Feature Jane Crittenden Styling Marsha Taylor Photos James French

OUR HOME Is a five-bedroom Edwardian house in Hove, built in the early 1900s.

WE ARE Jules Davies, a hairdresser, and my husband, Tim, who works in 2D special-effects post production. We live here with our daughters, Florence, 14, and Betsy, 11, and Albert, our dog.

MY BEST IDEA Was choosing Little Greene's paint in Juniper Ash. It's a lovely warm blue-grey we used in the bathroom and hallway. Lots of my clients love it too and have it in their homes now!

OUR BIGGEST MISTAKE Was trying to keep costs down by buying cheap radiators online. They kept leaking and were cumbersome to manoeuvre downstairs to return them. If we'd bought local it would have been far easier to resolve the problems.

NEXT TO DO Is to make more reclaimed shelves for the brick wall in the stairwell so I can display some plants.

MY ADVICE Is to magpie an interiors idea but make it your own.



TOP FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR FIRST FLOOR

For stockists see page 120



The couple extended out into the side return and added bi-fold doors to improve the light and connection to the garden

salon, and the couple revamped the family bathroom. The years passed and the couple decided to sell their London house that they had been renting out to fund the renovations in the rest of their home.

'By now we'd discovered problems with the outside cladding and a leak in the roof that had been gradually letting in water over time,' Jules explains. 'The walls were wet and the window frames were rotten.'

A recommended builder, Adrian Howard, stepped in to fix the problems, which meant re-plastering all the rooms and fitting new windows. He worked from

Good idea!

Paint the ceiling a pale shade to add colour and height - Little Greene's French Stone is a soft gold and ideal for period properties.

'I wanted a natural finish for the floorboards with a hint of white and played around with lots of different sample pots until I found the exact shade.'



Turquoise cushions from F&P Interiors contrast with the purple velvet sofa and pop out against the pale grey walls. 'I love the explosion of colour you see in gardens in the summer and brought this idea inside,' says Jules. The Lego artwork is from Art Republic



Sliding-folding doors make the two downstairs living rooms a flexible space for privacy and entertaining.



The couple put the wall back between the two reception rooms. 'There was a lot of wasted space as one big room,' says Jules. 'The velvet green sofa bed we bought from Sofa.com is great here as the girls can have sleepovers without bothering us!'

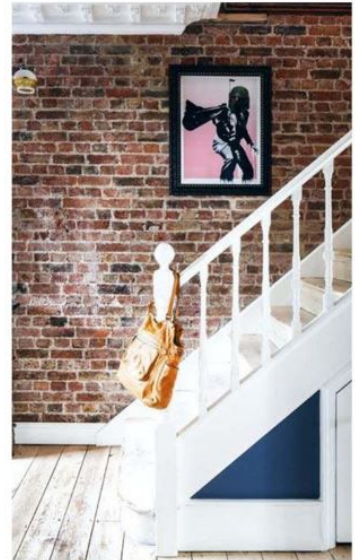
The builders underpinned the period cornice to make sure it stayed in place when the brick was exposed. The sunburst clock - from The Old Cinema - is a 1970s throwback. The purple sofa is from Sofa.com and the Persian rug is from eBay

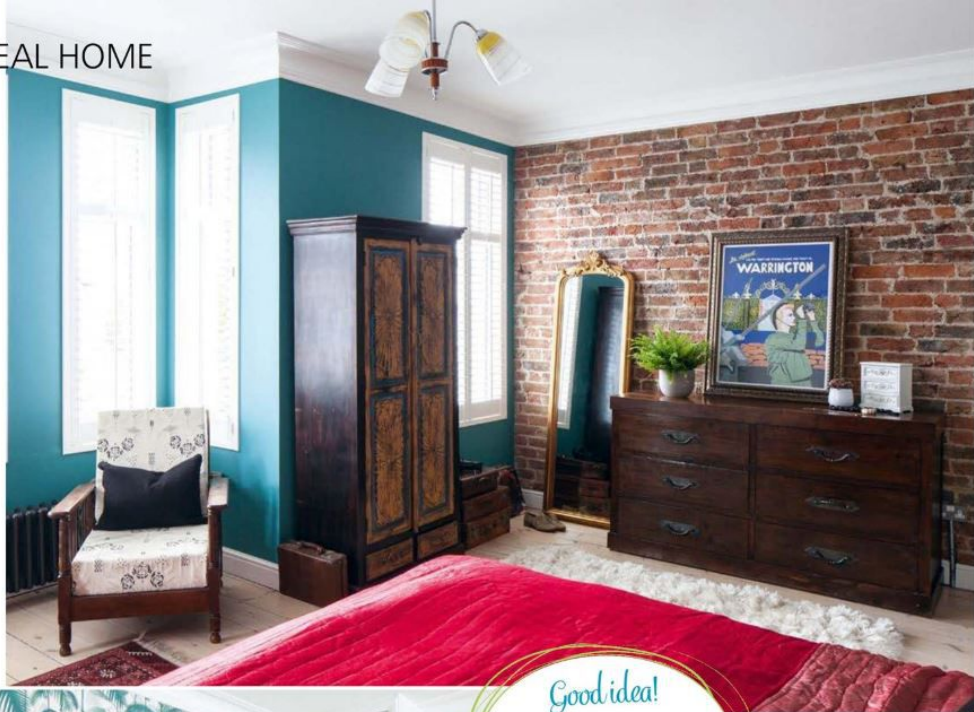
the top down while Jules and Tim thought about how to tackle the interiors. The couple had already sanded and varnished the downstairs floors, and ripped out the upstairs carpets. Sadly, the floorboards here were in a poor condition.

'I love wood and our carpenter went to a local salvage yard to find reclaimed boards,' says Jules. 'I wanted a natural finish with a hint of white and played around with lots of different sample pots until I found the exact shade.'

The natural look continued when the couple explored the idea of exposing the brickwork in some of the rooms. 'Tim and I like organic materials and hints of industrial,' says Jules. 'But as the walls had been so wet, we weren't sure if the condition of the bricks would be good enough under the plaster. We did a test patch in the stairwell and were really

'We've always loved exposed brickwork, perhaps influenced by warehouse designs in Hackney, East London, where my sister lives, and a trip to New York,' says Jules. The artwork is from Art Republic





Good idea!

Love a designer wallpaper? Keep costs to a minimum and buy just enough to make one stand-out feature wall.

▲ The dark tones of the reclaimed teak wardrobe and drawers are emphasised against Little Greene's Canton walls, while stripped floorboards are warmed with a textured rug from B&Q. 'Jugs Furniture in Hove sources all its salvaged furniture from India and that appealed to me as it reminds me of my travels around the country when I was young,' says Jules

◀ The entire bedroom ceiling had to be replaced because of a roof leak and a carpenter made the alcove wardrobe storage. Jules added Cole & Son's Palm Jungle Emerald print wallpaper behind the bed to introduce colour and pattern, along with a quilted red bedspread from Dunelm



◀ pleased to see the texture and colour tones still looked beautiful.'

Not one for moodboards or planning, Jules worked instinctively, decorating rooms to emphasise the brick, flipping between a pale grey in the living room to a richer blue-grey in the hallway and bathroom – and a simple white Shaker kitchen. She added punches of colour with purple and green velvet sofas, vibrant cushions, colourful artwork and patterned wallpaper.

'I don't like everything matching in my clothes or my home; I love colour and

prints,' says Jules. 'I put anything together because I hate to be boring!'

Jules' way of thinking has made her a creative shopper with a tendency to buy second-hand or online rather than on the high street. 'I don't really have a style and I think subconsciously I don't want to have a house like anyone else,' says Jules. 'You don't need to spend a lot of money to have nice things – or even go shopping. If I like something and it's the right price, I buy it. It's much more fun to go online and type in the description of my inspiration and see what comes up. I bought nearly all of our

second-hand lights and lampshades like this on eBay.'

While the repairs and decorating were underway at the top of the house, the couple began to consider how they were using their downstairs living space. This prompted the recent kitchen extension. 'It was our last project but it was the best decision we made,' says Jules. 'The whole house works for all of us whether we want to be all together in our own space or entertaining. It's both a relaxing home and a party house and now it's time to sit back and enjoy it!' [View](#)



▲ Little Greene's Atomic Red makes a striking feature wall in Betsy's bedroom, complemented by the pale blue-green Brighton chart. 'Betsy saw the colours in the colour chart and loved them together,' says Jules. The Bluezoo Gadget duvet cover is from Debenhams



◀ A feature wall in Cole & Son's Hummingbirds wallpaper adds a pretty touch to Jules' top-floor hairdressing salon. 'I love all of the brand's wallpapers and I find it hard to choose between them!' says Jules. 'I stick samples on the wall to help me decide'

► Opening-up the ceiling and shower stall modernises the bathroom. 'We updated our previous bathroom with Metro tiles and dark-grey grout and liked it so much we decided to do it again here,' says Jules. The tiles are from Topps Tiles and a similar basin can be bought at Simply Burlington Bathrooms. Jules found the vintage mirror in a charity shop



6 IDEAS TO STEAL



Arthouse Rustic Brick wallpaper, £9 per roll, Homebase

Copy the industrial look without the hassle with a brick print wallpaper.

Plump for a striking purple sofa, like Jules did, to inject instant colour into a room.



London three-seater sofa, £649.99, Wayfair



Wood-effect porcelain plank tiles have a textured finish like Jules' rustic kitchen floor.

Reclaimed wood-effect floor tiles, £19.95 per sq m, Walls & Floors

Vintage style is easy to achieve with this iconic clock design.



Starburst clock, £39.95, Scotts of Stow



Jazz up a bedroom wall with a bold patterned green wallpaper like this one with a retro twist.

Retro Tree Green wallpaper, £8.99 per roll, Arthouse

Follow Jules' lead and dress up your sofa with this sumptuous teal velvet cushion.



Large teal velvet cushion, £12.99, Matalan