

# 'Bold wow walls' LIFT THE MOOD!



#### TIDY FIND

'The sideboard is from a charity shop and I made the macrame plant holder'

#### COME ON IN!



**ABOUT ME** I'm Angela Clarke (@the\_upside\_down\_house), 40, a claims assessor, and I live here with my husband, Stuart, 42, who works for a tech company, and our children, Olive, nine, and seven-year-old Iris.

**OUR HOME** A detached, four-bedroom property, built in the early 2000s, in Dunfermline. We moved here in 2016.

**WHEN WE MOVED IN** The rooms were painted magnolia and there was none of the character I like in older properties.

**AND NOW** It's a homely, comfortable sanctuary that really lifts our mood as we're surrounded by colours and patterns.

**STYLE TIP** Have a go at different craft projects. I've found it satisfying making cushions, learning macrame and stencilling furniture – there's always something in the house I can see that I've done myself.



#### IDEA TO STEAL

Bring character to blank walls with a patterned wallpaper and MDF panels painted in a matching shade

Vibrant wallpaper, texture and colour are at the heart of Angela and Stuart's reimagining of this property, creating a fun and joyful home for their family

**H**aving mostly expressed my creative side through fashion, I've always been a fan of colour and pattern,' says Angela. 'But it was while on honeymoon in Italy and Croatia that my eyes were opened to the uplifting effects of great interior design.'

The Airbnb we stayed in really showed me how interiors can have a positive influence on how you feel. Then when we moved here and we had the girls, I couldn't wait to create a vibrant home for them to enjoy and remember.

#### Upside-down layout

Stuart and I sold up to buy a bigger house for our young family, finding a reasonably new detached property in a semi-rural location, which had been built by the neighbours after they sold off part of their garden. The house was about 11 years old when we moved in and nothing structural needed doing to it. There was plenty of space and it felt like a proper family home – a blank canvas that I was excited to transform.

The house has an unusual upside-down layout, with the front door opening into a large hallway with bedrooms on both sides and a bathroom. Upstairs are the main living spaces, with an additional bedroom and another shower room, making the most of the light and views.

#### Choosing wall decor

I went into the project thinking about the character I could add to the bland rooms by playing with colour and pattern. Pink and green are my favourite colours and I always had my daughters in mind when I made choices. As the project went on I moved towards green-blue tones and pink became more of an accent because Stuart isn't a fan. Although there's colour everywhere, it's a tight palette, mostly in jewel tones, and the vintage wood furniture balances out the brightness. Eye-catching wallpaper was high on >>>

#### PERFECT PAIRING

'I painted the panelling in Farrow & Ball's Green Smoke. It's a really great match with Borastapeter's Nocturne wallpaper in Jade Green'



## DIY UPGRADE

'Panelling' makes the room feel grand without patterned wallpaper overwhelming the space'



## OPEN DISPLAY

'I found the honeycomb shelves on Amazon'

'THE UPSIDE DOWN LAYOUT MEANS WE HAVE MORE LIGHT IN THE LIVING SPACES AND IT MAKES THE MOST OF THE VIEWS'



## PATTERN PICK

'I'm drawn to fun animal prints and the children love the lively Savuti jungle wallpaper by Cole & Son at Wallpaperdirect'

## CHUNKY CHARM

'The sturdy dining table was made from railway sleepers'

» the wish list, with a jungle theme running through prints in the kitchen, dining room, playroom and main bedroom, which appeals to the girls. I found a pretty Swedish floral wallpaper for the living room and Stuart fitted wood panelling below so the space has a more grown-up feel for when we sit and relax here during the evenings.

## Kitchen updates

One of the biggest challenges was working around the existing glossy red kitchen and incorporating it into our interior style. We really didn't like the kitchen but it felt like such a waste to pull it out as the cupboards were in perfectly good condition and we had our budget to think about, too. However, we couldn't see ourselves sitting at the breakfast bar because it faced the wall so we decided to take it out and »

## IDEA TO STEAL

Create a unique look with a mix of unmatching pendant shapes but all in coloured glass



## Quick-fire confession

If I could have anyone do a makeover in my home it would be...

*Alice Grace Interiors ([alicegrace.co.uk](http://alicegrace.co.uk))*

*Her style is different to mine but I love the character and charm of her designs, and how she combines lots of pattern and texture with muted colour palettes.'*

## 3 of the best JUNGLE WALLPAPERS

Choose a lush, leafy pattern that will appeal to your wild side!



**ANIMAL MAGIC**  
Envy Cheetin Night,  
£45 a roll, B&Q



**PARADISE PALMS**  
Tropica in Turquoise,  
£47 a roll, Ohpopsi



**ROAR-SOME PRINT**  
Jungle Is Massive in Sweet  
Pink, £50 a roll, Lust Home



## Do it! UPDATE YOUR KITCHEN

Work around an existing kitchen with these clever hacks to make the room feel like new.

★ Give a blank wall a fresh look with reclaimed brick slip cladding to contrast with gloss units. In Angela's kitchen their colour complements the bright red cabinetry finish.

★ A patterned wallpaper is an effective way to introduce vibrancy and colour to tie the rustic and modern together. Go for a durable paper, if possible.

★ Swapping grey laminate worktops for scaffold boards (made into worktops) adds plenty of character.

★ Engineered wood planks in a golden antique tone introduce warmth as well as providing a practical solution for spills.

★ Switch up your light fittings – black metal pendant lights bring a nod to the industrial but curves add softness.

★ Complete the look with trailing plants from hanging baskets and pots.



### TREASURED PIECE

'I just love my Facebook Marketplace drawers, which the owner had painstakingly upcycled using clay moulds and then painted to look like something from Anthropologie'



### COLOUR INSPO

'The red kitchen that was already here inspired the jewel palette that we used elsewhere'



### IDEA TO STEAL

A black sink and exposed brick gives gloss red units an industrial vibe

### WOOD APPEAL

'The vintage cupboard and reclaimed worktop ties in with the dining table made from railway sleepers'

**'I LIKE BUYING SECOND-HAND FURNITURE AS OLDER PIECES HAVE MORE CHARACTER, ARE STURDIER AND OFTEN BETTER PRICED'**

» put a lovely oak pantry cupboard from eBay in its place.

We gave the room more character by using reclaimed brick on the walls and replacing the worktops with reclaimed wood. I also sourced second-hand furniture to fill the space. Older pieces have more appeal to me as they're often sturdier and better-priced than new. Plus a house that's filled with new things doesn't have the same character and charm in my opinion. I prefer to

source furniture that has a story behind it and can be reimagined.

### Bespoke on a budget

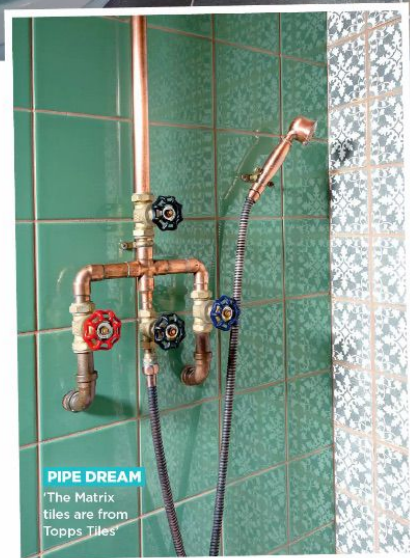
I also customised furniture where I could, too. The en-suite basin mounted on a shelf is an idea I saw in a shop. We chose a slab of wood with a rustic finish

from a local wood merchant and we then got our plumber to fit a basin to it. The dining table was made with railway sleepers and steel legs, which we were able to have powder-coated in any colour we wanted – we chose a shade of green that's in the wallpaper. Perhaps my interiors are a little bit »



**METALLIC MAGIC**

'Craig & Rose's Artisan aged copper-effect paint from B&Q has patinated to a green tone and works well with the copper shower fittings'

**PIPE DREAM**

'The Matrix tiles are from Topps Tiles'

**'IT'S IMPORTANT TO CHOOSE A STYLE THAT YOU LOVE RATHER THAN WORRY WHETHER OTHER PEOPLE LIKE IT OR NOT'**

» more out there than most people as I like unique and quirky designs. For a treat, I like to shop at Anthropologie in Edinburgh. I love their eclectic homeware, particularly the artist collaborations. I also like Urban Outfitters so I was really pleased when I found a dressing table stool in the sale.

**Finishing touches**

I always like to support local makers whenever I can. I go to my friend Clarabella Christie's sewing classes and buy her clothes, lampshades and »

**ONE OF A KIND**

'The vintage cushions were made by Clarabella Christie. I love the pattern, frills and shapes'

**NEW LOOK**

'The stencilled design gives life to a secondhand dressing table'

**IDEA TO STEAL**

Make a feature of a reclaimed radiator with a bold hue like this one painted in green glitter

**WARM TEXTURE**

'We sourced the old school gym floor from Hargreaves reclamation yard, and Stuart fitted it on the wall to give our room a cosy cabin feel'

**Do it! HOW TO HANG PATTERNED WALLPAPER**

- 1 Buy rolls with the same batch number to guarantee that you get exactly the same shade and ensure that walls are clean, dry and flat before you start.
- 2 Make sure the complete pattern is visible at the top of each wallpaper piece before cutting, including a few extra centimetres that will be trimmed off. Use the last sheet to match up the pattern for the next.
- 3 Prepare to hang the first piece of wallpaper in the most prominent part of the room and work outwards.
- 4 Using a spirit level, draw a vertical pencil line down the wall. Number the reverse of each sheet and mark with a T for top, then apply the paste.
- 5 Hang parallel to the line with a slight overhang at the top and bottom. Brush out air bubbles and trim off excess. Let a damp sponge absorb excess paste.
- 6 Make sure the pattern in the next piece lines up and repeat.



**IDEA TO STEAL**

Make a bold look work by using opposites on the colour wheel, like orange and blue

**LOOKING FOXY**

'Scion's Mr Fox wallpaper adds a fun touch with the mint green paintwork as a punchy contrast'

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN STYLING ALISON GIBB  
PHOTOGRAPHS DOUGLAS GIBB

**COLOUR COMBO**

'Bold circus stripes make an eye-catching backdrop for furniture and prints'

**'I ENJOY PLAYING WITH COLOUR AND PATTERN - DECORATING IN THIS BOLD STYLE IS A WAY OF EXPRESSING MY CREATIVE SIDE'**

» cushions as I love the bold colours and geometric prints.

More recently, I've been doing Molly Mahon's online block printing course. I've made cushions and I want to produce block-printed fabrics of my own. I also do macrame and sell my work - including bespoke orders - through Instagram and at craft fairs.

Now our home is mostly complete and, although there's a sense of satisfaction in what we've achieved, this won't be the end and I know it will evolve. I love the creative process and I enjoy decorating - I'm always painting or upcycling something! - but with young kids in the house walls get scuffed, so that will be a good excuse to try something different.

We've created a home the way we like it, it's like a pick-me-up. It's important to go for what you love rather than worry whether people will like it or not. We have a sense of contentment living here and I hope the girls look back and remember our house as a fun place to grow up.'

**PATTERN PLAY**

'Lick's Monkey 01 wallpaper is fun for now but not overly childlike, so it will still work when the girls are older. The joinery is painted in Lick's Green 05'

**WALLPAPER HACK**

'I'd seen a wallpaper I liked but it was out of budget so I copied the pattern using a stencil'

**UPCYCLED UNIT**

'The vanity is a second-hand chest and Arezzo's green basin is from Victorian Plumbing'