

A HERITAGE HOME DESIGNED WITH A LIGHT TOUCH

This Georgian gem was re-energised with a fresh palette and a sympathetic makeover that make the most of its elegant proportions and vintage character

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LIVING ROOM

The clean, crisp scheme helps to bring out the ornate period details. Jonathan Adler rug, Ruggable. Madrid coffee table, BoConcept. Sugar Bum sofa, Loaf. Bay Lighting Tosca ceiling light, John Lewis & Partners





BOOT ROOM

Left Dark green woodwork was colour-matched to Mind the Gap's Enchanted Woodland wallpaper, with contrasting vibrant orange shelves in Little Greene's Marigold. Yerevan ceiling light, Mullan Lighting

DETAIL

Below The colour-drenched sugary pink living room is grounded by stronger, earthier colours such as an olive floor lamp. Pleat floor lamp, H&M Home. **Artwork** by Angel Hernández, PSTR Studio



W

e wanted to preserve the character of our Georgian house – high ceilings, big windows, all the period details – but I also love bright colour,' Sarah Bradford begins. 'The challenge was finding a cohesive interiors scheme that would enhance but not dominate our home.'

Having renovated their house in Suffolk, Sarah and her husband David decided to move to Canterbury, drawn by its vibrant atmosphere and good schools. They wanted another project and this property – filled with beautiful features but untouched since the 1980s – had plenty of potential. It was also a good size, with a reception room on the ground floor alongside a small kitchen and dining room. The first floor held a striking living room, with an original panellled ceiling and French doors opening onto a balcony, plus a bedroom and bathroom, while on the top floor there were three further bedrooms and a large bathroom.

'There was space – but not the right space,' Sarah explains. 'After turning one of the bathrooms into our son's bedroom, we didn't know what to do next. We wanted a bigger kitchen and main bedroom but, with busy jobs and family life, we didn't have time to plan it ourselves. Deciding to call in the experts, Sarah found local interior designer Michelle Shakallis: 'I liked the way she used colour in period properties and also how she delicately retained their character.' As the house had



HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE

Sarah and David Bradford, both lawyers, and their children, Archie and Ethan

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom Grade II-listed terraced townhouse in Canterbury, Kent, which they bought in December 2022

HALLWAY

This page and opposite, below Walls are painted in Farrow & Ball's Dead Salmon with an eggshell finish for durability. Berber Tetuan Mini Moroccan floor tiles, Your Tiles. The Dean pendant light, The Soho Lighting Company



KITCHEN

This page and opposite, below Relocating this room to the front of the house created space for a range oven in the chimney breast. Zellige pearl tiles run full-height to emphasise the high ceiling while the cupboards painted in Farrow & Ball's Terre D'Egypte add warmth. Parquet Pie **dining table**, Loaf, Mini Creamware **wall lights**, Devol



UTILITY ROOM

Below Tongue-and-groove cupboards echo the original panelled ceiling. The room is colour-drenched in Marble V by Paint & Paper Library



STORAGE

Floor-to-ceiling cupboards are made with Ikea carcasses and bespoke doors. Painted in Farrow & Ball's Shaded White, they don't crowd the room



'WE WANTED TO PRESERVE ALL THE PERIOD DETAIL AND CHARACTER OF OUR GEORGIAN HOUSE'

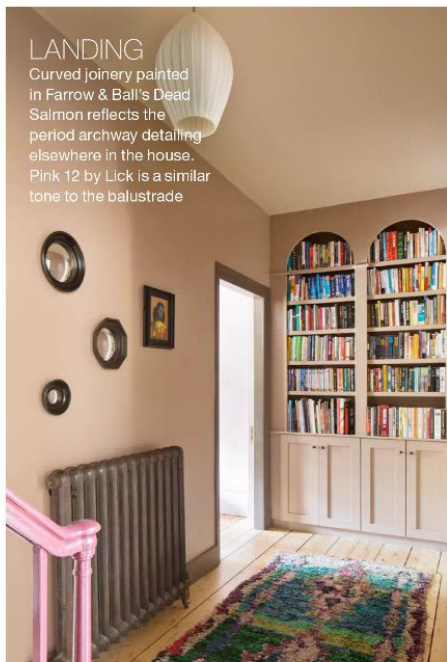
two living rooms, Michelle suggested relocating the kitchen to the ground floor reception room. 'We have a wall of storage and a place for the new boiler in what was the dining room,' Sarah explains. 'The adjoining utility acts as an extension to our kitchen with a big freezer and a place to store the things we don't use every day.'

For the main bedroom, Sarah's wishlist included keeping their super-king bed and incorporating plenty of clothes storage, a dressing table, an armchair and, if possible, a fireplace. Michelle drew up a design that knocked through two bedrooms on the top floor - with a new stud wall sectioning off one third of the space. 'I left an opening at one end to access a bank of hidden wardrobes behind,' she says. 'The stud wall gave us a place to anchor the bedside tables and the bed.'

The property is Grade II listed, so Sarah and David brought in a heritage consultant to manage the Listed Building Consent for their internal changes. Once approval was granted and a builder appointed, the family moved out for eight months. During that time, Sarah and

LANDING

Curved joinery painted in Farrow & Ball's Dead Salmon reflects the period archway detailing elsewhere in the house. Pink 12 by Lick is a similar tone to the balustrade

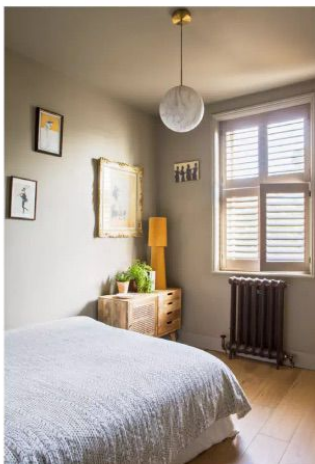


Michelle continued developing the interiors, with Sarah taking particular inspiration from the Amsterdam home of actor Carice van Houten, designed with Nicole Dohmen of Atelier ND Interior.

'I was drawn to their joyful mix of pattern, cool furniture design and colour-blocking,' Sarah says. 'I love colour – I wear lots of it – and all my Pinterest photos feature bright pops, wallpaper prints and vivid art. However, David and I also needed interiors we could comfortably live with that wouldn't compete with the heritage details.'

Michelle responded with moodboards envisaging a vibrant living room of soft sugary shades and a kitchen with red cabinetry. Against the mostly pastel palette, she added playful touches of zingy brights, such as a chartreuse bathroom radiator and mustard yellow shelves in the green boot room. The latter was a departure from the taupe Sarah originally wanted. 'Michelle showed me two moodboards and one had a green wallpaper I'd saved on Pinterest,' says Sarah. 'I loved that she knew I'd prefer the colourful one and that gave me the confidence to go

'SOFT PINKS AND BEIGES CREATE A CALMNESS THAT'S ESPECIALLY NICE IN BEDROOMS'



GUEST BEDROOM

Above Cocooning neutrals make for a relaxing retreat. Walls are painted in a similar colour to Mouse's Back by Farrow & Ball

FIREPLACE

Right In the main bedroom, marble-effect tiles and touches of ochre contrast with the walls in Tea Rose by Atelier Ellis. Marmi Calacatta Viola tiles, Emporium Surfaces



MAIN BEDROOM

A new wall conceals the wardrobes and anchors the side tables and bed. 'Colour inspiration came from a rust-orange sofa against a pink-toned wall in The Falstaff hotel in Canterbury,' says Sarah. Lois opal glass **pendant**, Spark & Bell. Egon Schiele **print**, Posterlounge. Paoletti velvet **cushion**, La Redoute

BATHROOM

This picture and below right
Soft pink walls contrast with the yellow alcove and chartreuse radiator. Eugenie floor tiles, Bert & May. Bath, Crosswater



SHOWER ROOM

Below Linear glossy green tiles add drama and cosiness. Dwell Emerald tiles, Porcelain Superstore. Picasso countertop stone basin, Lusso Stone



'I LOVE THAT OUR HOME NOW FEELS FUN, INVITING AND EXACTLY OUR STYLE'

for it.' These bright colours have been balanced with grounding neutrals, using warm tones to highlight period details. Matt walls and eggshell woodwork help to bring out the character of the panelling and architraves. 'Colours reflect how you feel, and soft pinks and beiges create a calmness that's especially nice in bedrooms,' Michelle explains. 'To make sure we'd struck the right balance of earthy and bold, Sarah and I looked at moodboards for all the rooms together.'

Elsewhere, the original Georgian floorboards were sanded and stained, while Michelle layered in rugs, heritage lighting and textured velvets as a subtle nod to the past. The furniture is an eclectic mix of mid-century, rustic and contemporary pieces, alongside bespoke joinery designed by Michelle and built by her team.

'I love that our home is fun, inviting and exactly our style,' says Sarah. 'But at the same time it still has the character of the lovely period details. Michelle encouraged us to be braver than we've ever been with our interiors and the risk has absolutely paid off.'

Find more about Michelle's work at michelleshakallis.com

