

LOCAL LIFE

There's an artist studio look to this Victorian workers' house and that's because it's in a neighbourhood full of creativity – designer Olivia Outred tells us more

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SITTING ROOM

'To create that eclectic artist feel we didn't want matching furniture,' says Olivia. 'The rustic console is a good contrast with the smart velvet armchair.'
Rustic console table, Decorative Collective. Velvet blue chair, Pure White Lines. Artwork, Retro Pattern



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
A Victorian workers' terrace

ROOMS Kitchen-diner, sitting room, two bedrooms, two bathrooms

LOCATION East London

HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK ON THIS PROJECT?

I'd worked with my client before and she expressed an interest in finding a property in this part of east London. We often source projects for clients and she loved this Victorian workers' house in a conservation area.

WHY DID THE CLIENT FALL IN LOVE WITH THIS PROPERTY?

It's a vibrant area of London inhabited by makers, creators and craftspeople. A jeweller lived here. The small property accommodated his workshop and living space behind, plus a tiny one-bedroom flat above was rented to an artist. The place was run-down and my client felt passionate

about reinstating the original layout and renting the shop to a local business.

WHAT STRUCTURAL CHANGES DID YOU MAKE?

It was obvious to open up the small, dark rooms to flood the property with light and space. We reduced the size of the shop to give more room to the kitchen-diner behind and turned the upstairs into two bedrooms and a sitting room. There was also just enough space for a tiny wet room in the loft. The best and biggest change was demolishing the windowless room over the courtyard to bring back outdoor living.

WHAT IDEAS DID YOU AND THE CLIENT HAVE ABOUT THE INTERIOR SCHEME?

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DINING AREA

'The house feels like a convivial space,' says Olivia. 'A round table is sociable and the reclaimed top and metal chairs are hard-wearing – nothing is precious.' Roxby is a similar table, Cult Furniture. Similar vintage Tolix chairs, eBay. Floorboards in Slaked Lime, Little Greene



KITCHEN

'Vibrant handmade Mexican tiles give the plain white kitchen a joyous sunrise effect,' says Olivia. 'They also brighten a space that's a little lacking in light.' Marbled mugs, Nom Living. Sun tiles, Milagros. Bulkhead light is similar, Industville



COURTYARD

'We made this area look bigger by hanging old sash windows with mirrors to increase light and space,' says Olivia. Outdoor antiqued window mirror is similar, Cox & Cox. Vintage table, Mason & Painter. French vintage bistro chairs are similar, Mayfly Vintage

It's a modest house and my client didn't want anything too ostentatious – the reclaimed table and painted floorboards are easy to live with. My passion is to create interiors that look like they've developed over the years so nothing is too new, too designed or too precious.

WAS THERE A SINGLE IDEA THAT GOT YOU STARTED?

We thought about the artisan feel of the location and this inspired us to paint the whole house in Little Greene's Slaked Lime, including the floorboards, to give it an artist studio feel that bounces and reflects light. The door opens onto a long corridor so we made a feature of the staircase by painting it a fabulous welcoming green that pops

against the white. We then used strong colours here and there, like the bright sunrise tiles in the kitchen.

WHAT'S BEEN THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF THE PROJECT? My client was keen to support local independents so the interiors have a local feel and identity. Most of the tiles came from Milagros, a lovely Mexican shop; a blue velvet armchair from Pure White Lines; and we bought lamps from Atomic Antiques. The little house is wonderful, fun and uplifting and just perfect for the busy, lively area. We were both delighted to take on the renovation and really enjoyed the process. 25

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SITTING ROOM

'The house is a relatively modest size but we managed to find a sun-filled space between the two windows for a home office desk,' says Olivia.

Heerenhuis Hide desk, Enter the Loft. Berber rug, Kate Guinness Design. Similar French bamboo chair, 1stDibs



MAIN BATHROOM

'Duck egg blue is a restful tone,' says Olivia. 'Floor-to-ceiling tiles make the space feel bigger.'

Duck Egg Blue metro tiles, Milagros. Hythe clear glass wall light is similar, The Wall Light Company



MAIN BEDROOM

'The iron bedstead is in keeping with the Victorian building,' says Olivia. 'The vintage red lamps are the only big pop of colour.'

Bedside table lamps, Atomic Antiques. Aso Oke cloth is a similar throw, Botanical Boys



BEDROOM

'It's a simple space with high-end white bed linen and vintage furniture,' says Olivia. 'Art is made from pieces of iconic vintage fabric that have been framed.'

Similar oak 1950s G-plan bedside table, Retrospective Interiors. Artwork, Retro Pattern