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25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

APRIL 2023

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137 dream schemes

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OUR SHOWSTOPPING HOUSES

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and luxurious

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THAT WORK FOR YOU
- LAID-BACK LIVING ROOMS
- BRIGHTER BATHROOMS

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style
refresh

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INSPIRE YOUR NEW-SEASON MAKEOVER

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FUTURE

1930s
revamp

Open-plan
cottage

Remodelled
townhouse

Character
new build

Seafront
retreat

no. I9

Timeless APPEAL



DINING AND SEATING AREA
The symmetry of the furniture placement is perfect and helps bring cosy nooks to the open-plan space.
Flooring, Chaunceys. Eichholtz Kinley dining chairs, £595 each, Sweetpea & Willow. Bespoke armchairs in Pierre Frey fabric. Slingshot coffee table, £695, Loaf, would work here

Designer Naomi Astley Clarke is known for classic yet exciting schemes and she's worked her magic in this townhouse which was shouting out for a lift

FEATURE JULIET BENNING | PHOTOGRAPHY PAUL MASSEY



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A townhouse

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, snug, playroom-gym, utility, study, six bedrooms, five bathrooms (three en suite)

LOCATION West London

‘My backdrops are timeless so layers of something more current can be added later if needed’





KITCHEN

The veining in the marble worktops adds dynamism.

Joinery design by Naomi Astley Clarke; made by Profile Interiors; painted in Pitch Black, £74 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Marble, Glass &

Fusion. Try Sutton bar stools, £349 for two, CoverAll Home. Aston lantern, £1,250, Holloways of Ludlow

SNUG

Striking lattice plasterwork and wall panelling give this

room a strong period identity. Curtains by KLS Interiors. Walls in Inferior Grey, £85 for 2.5ltr, Edward Bulmer. Viscontea pendant, £1,207, Flos at Glassdomain, would work here. Sofa designed by Naomi Astley Clarke covered in Designers Guild

fabric. Source a similar coffee table at Sweetpea & Willow

STAIRCASE

The stair return is an excellent location for keeping wine. Wine storage, Wine Walls

HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT? The clients had visited a previous project of mine and were eager to work with me. They already had Simon Smith & Michael Brooke Architects involved and planning permission for the work had been granted.

WHAT WERE THE BIGGEST PRIORITIES FOR THE HOMEOWNERS? The house was in a reasonable condition, but it wasn't to their taste. They wanted to dig a basement and extend on both the ground and top floors. They wanted interiors that were exciting, interesting and bright. It needed to be a cheerful and convivial home. With a dog, a toddler and teenage daughters, every stage of life is represented, so the house had to be practical. All the floorplans throughout were reconfigured and the new basement has a laundry room, shower room and playroom-gym.

HOW INVOLVED WERE THE HOMEOWNERS? The husband and wife both came to me with plenty of ideas and things they liked. They loved interesting finishes and tiles and they also brought the mural artist Nancy Daniell to the table. They were up for pushing the boundaries and I didn't have to nudge them out of their comfort zones. It was their idea, along with the architect, to create a Narnia-style secret door in each of the older girls' bedrooms, which connects them via a secret landing.

HOW DID YOU FUTURE-PROOF YOUR DESIGNS? In most of my work I try to make the backdrop timeless and elegant so if you want to inject layers of something more current you can add them on top. In the bathrooms, we were working with Drummonds pieces, which are enduring and beautifully made so they stand the test of time. Plenty of panelling is another classic and time-resistant detail we included.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE COLOUR PALETTE? It's actually quite a neutral base of muted greys, blacks and whites with lots of sparks of tonality. I think every colour in the rainbow is represented, from the pinks of the children's bathroom to the blue main bedroom and also lots of green, which I see as a neutral.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME? For non-professionals, the most important thing is to trust your instincts. People question and doubt themselves, but they are often right first time. I've never had a client regret doing something on the edge of their comfort zones, but I have had clients regret not being bolder in their choices.

WHAT WAS MOST SATISFYING ABOUT THE PROJECT? I fell in love with the entire family as they are such wonderful people! The collaboration between me, the client and architects was a tremendous success. 25

naomiastleyclarke.com, smithbrooke.co.uk



HALLWAY
Each family member has their own personal locker here. Joinery design by Naomi Astley Clarke; made by Profile Interiors; painted in China Clay Dark, £35 for 1ltr, Little Greene. Ceiling by Nancy

Daniell. Flooring in Grigio Carnico marble, from £350sq m; border in Nero Marquina marble, from £295sq m, Lapidica

MAIN BEDROOM
Naomi designed this blue scheme

to allow for flexible pops of colour in the bedding and lamp. Walls in French Grey Mid, £54.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Hugger bed, from £1,195, Loaf, would work here. Bedside table, similar from Chelsea Textiles. Ellie lamp base, £84, Pooky

MAIN BATHROOM
Fish-scale tiles add texture to the shower space and chime with the greys in the bathing area. Leawood shower plate thermostats on/off, from £1,740; The Meon bath, from £4,470, Drummonds





GUEST BEDROOM

A beautiful trimmed leading edge provides interest to these neatly stacked curtains. Curtains made by KLS Interiors. Button & Sprung has a similar bed. Try Graham and Green for a similar bedside table

