

## DINING AREA

**Rich yellow seating enlivens this otherwise neutral scheme.**

Moose dining table, Julien Chichester, is similar. Dining chairs in Reef Platinum fabric, Chase Erwin. Dawbarn chandelier (above table), Soho Home. Bar stools in Dijon rich velvet, Love Your Home. Hudson Valley pendant lights (above island), Olivia's





# *Style & sensitivity*

Annie and Tom Robertson called on designer Caz Myers to gracefully bring their Edwardian semi into the 21st century

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## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Edwardian semi

**ROOMS** Sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, utility room, gym, cloakroom, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, dressing room

### LOCATION

North London

### LIVING AREA

The new layout, devised by Caz to maximise the views, focused on the snug area looking out onto the garden with a practical and generous sized L-shaped sofa.

Mustard bespoke Hector corner sofa, Love Your Home. Mater Bowl table, Heal's. Enigma rug by Asiatic, Jane Clayton. Artwork by Jonas Peterson, Jonas Peterson Print Shop





*a* shared love of period architecture encouraged Tom and Annie Robertson to transform a tired Edwardian house into an elegant and practical home for contemporary living.

‘Our sons, Jake and Milo, are in their late teens and we’d been discussing upgrading their bedrooms as well as the kitchen and bathrooms,’ says Annie. ‘I then spotted this house in our local estate agent’s window and I said to my husband Tom, ‘how do you feel about moving?’

An enthusiastic yes from Tom and their sons resulted in a year-long renovation under the guidance of interior designer Caz Myers of Caz Myers Design. ‘Caz came highly recommended and her expertise in design has been instrumental in making our project so successful,’ says Annie. ‘The challenge was creating an open-plan living area downstairs, while retaining the character and period features. We both love details such as the high ceilings and fireplaces, but we wanted a practical home for family life.’

Structural changes included removing walls, replacing the floors and stairs and adding a striking new balustrade and banister, with a showstopping recycled plastic pendant light. ‘We love opening the front door and being able to see straight through the house into the living area,’ says Annie. ‘Your eye is immediately drawn to the arc pendant which is such a special piece because it’s unique and personal to us as well as sustainable and practical.’

With sustainability a key consideration for the couple, the existing kitchen was retained rather than renewed. Worktops were updated and the oak cabinetry was upgraded, proving that a thoughtful refresh can work just as well as a new refit. ‘Caz advised us on how to elevate what was already here and I’m delighted with the finish,’ says Annie, ‘but what’s brought the ground floor to life is the pendant and wall lighting, artwork and the layered and subtle use of colour and fabric through soft furnishings.’

Upstairs, the floors have been rearranged to provide a generous main bedroom with a luxurious en suite on the first floor, alongside updated bedrooms and en suites for the boys’, a family bathroom, a stylish guest bedroom and a study. ‘The whole move stemmed from wanting to update our outdated living arrangements and Caz took on board the whole family’s ideas to great effect,’ recalls Annie.

Bespoke joinery throughout the house is very effective, particularly in Jake’s bedroom, from storage for guitars and amplifiers to laundry baskets within the wardrobes. The rich palette, complemented by patterned cushions, is practical, warm and considered. ‘Our bedroom evolved from my choice of wallpaper which has a tranquil quality which I love,’ says Annie. ‘The billowing clouds are such a captivating backdrop and complement both the modern ceiling light and original fireplace. By rethinking the layout, we now have a dressing area and an enormous en suite.’

This thoughtful and cohesive renovation, where period features sit comfortably alongside contemporary ideas and bespoke pieces, is a fine example of blending old and new with sensitivity and style. 25

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‘After many years of being cautious, it feels liberating to be bold with colour as it can be truly transformative’

#### CLOAKROOM

Despite its limited size, this room’s smart floor tiles, bold wallpaper and a bespoke sink unit give the space gravitas.

Fern wallpaper by Cole & Son, Jane Clayton. Betty Mirror, Soho Home. Bespoke sink unit, Caz Myers Design. Bluestone and Aegean White marble floor tiles, Starel Stones

#### STUDY

Annie’s brief for this room was to create a comfortable, grown-up space with plenty of storage and shelving.

Armchair in Truffle in Sap Green, Sanderson. Aubrey wallpaper in Wild Honey, Sanderson. Allis chandelier, Soho Home. Cabinetry in Calke Green, Farrow & Ball





‘It’s amazing what character adding panelling to a room can bring with relatively little effort’



#### BATHROOM

**Bespoke panelling echoes the home’s period character, while a free-standing roll-top bath and unusual pendant light create a polished look in the family bathroom.**

Roll-top bath, BC Designs. Hinkley Carson pendant light, Outdoor & Garden Lighting Centre

#### MAIN BEDROOM

**Wallpaper featuring clouds creates a soothing backdrop.**

Nuvole al Tramonto wallcovering by Cole & Son, Jane Clayton. Roza Petal Pink bedspread, French Bedroom. Bed, Love Your Home. Folia scalloped Natural Linen pendant, lights&lamps



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