

BLUE NOTES

Coupling her love of colour with a flair for displaying treasured items, Katie Sellers has created a relaxed family home that is bursting with personality

FEATURE JILL MACNAIR | PHOTOGRAPHY BEN ANDERS



SITTING ROOM
Katie gave an old armchair a new lease of life by having it reupholstered in a soft blue fabric. Ikea's Karlstad armchair, from £130, is a similar shape. Lamp, £225, Soda



SITTING ROOM
The small chairs from an antiques market. Hayes, from £455, Laura Ashley, is a similar large wing chair

When Katie Sellers and her husband Paulo first spotted a period house in a leafy London suburb, they knew that with a little work it would make an ideal family home. The property would also provide a perfect canvas for the couple's favoured palette of greys and blues. As a stylist, Katie has been a fan of these colours since she first turned her hand to decorating. 'I love these tones because they're soft, but there's a grittiness to them, so they're not too feminine,' she says. 'I also love teals and turquoise.'

However, before Katie could get to work on the decor, the house had to be reconfigured. 'I wanted to open up the three rooms that formed an L-shape on the ground floor,' she explains. 'This would create one large



DINING AREA
Katie used a broad mix of styles to decorate throughout. Here, 1930s dining chairs are paired with classic Eames designs. Eiffel side chairs, £270 each, SCP



INSPIRING

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Victorian semi
LOCATION South London
ROOMS Hall, sitting room/kitchen-diner, study, cloakroom, four bedrooms (one en suite), dressing room, bathroom
PURCHASED 2009
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We moved here from a two-bedroom flat, which was also in London,' says Katie.

DECORATING ADVICE

'Having a good relationship with your architect and builders means you can thrash out ideas with them. It also helps to have a clear vision of what you want'





KITCHEN
The couple opted for polished concrete flooring and a striking granite-topped island. Linear kitchen, from £17,000, Harvey Jones. The Original BTC Stanley Hammered Copper pendant light is priced from £259, Heal's

free-flowing space, ideal for when we entertain friends and also for family life, which was particularly important since I was expecting our daughter Viviana at the time.'

With a straightforward renovation on their hands, the couple recruited an architect to realise their plans. 'It was suggested that we move the kitchen, which was in the middle of the ground floor, into what was the dining room,' explains Katie. 'That meant relocating the dining area into the old kitchen.'

Although the ground floor is now completely open-plan, the various zones are clearly delineated. 'A concrete floor helps mark out the kitchen space, while original stained-oak floorboards feature in the dining and living areas,' says Katie. 'It creates a natural flow.' But at the same time as producing a cohesive feel throughout, she has designed an interior that is family friendly and relaxed, and which has lots of her treasured items on display.

Upstairs, relaxed feel of unity continues with yellow and turquoise tones in the guest bedroom, while Katie's favourite palette of blues is given full rein in the master bedroom. Meanwhile, an adjoining box room has been transformed into a dressing area.

With the renovations complete, the family now have a home that makes the most of its assets. 'The only problem with knocking through is that you have fewer walls to place furniture against,' says Katie. 'But if you're prepared to be creative, it can be a great way to achieve a sense of light and space.' And, of course, Katie's signature style is reflected in a new palette of soothing blues, bright teals and moody greys, which lifts this traditional Victorian home far out of the ordinary. ☺



MASTER BEDROOM
Varying shades of blue create a restful and calming scheme. For a pale blue throw, try Vermont, £80, Feather & Black



GUEST BEDROOM
'I saw this wallpaper and fell in love with its colour,' says Katie. Whitby wallpaper in Lido, £45 per roll, Mini Moderns. Mega Dot blanket in Hay, £129, Made In Design



VIVIANA'S BEDROOM
Katie has balanced pink with punchy design-led details. Big Star Wool Kids rug, £334, Punkin Patch Interiors



GARDEN
Sliding doors allow the couple to keep an eye on Viviana from the kitchen. Bi-fold doors, price on application, Kingseal Windows



PLAY AREA
In between the kitchen and dining spaces, Katie has created a place especially for Viviana. The cabinet was bought at an antiques fair. Vemb rug, £275, Ikea



HALL
Katie found the storage rack at a local pop-up vintage shop. Rockett St George sells a similar version, £28



CLOAKROOM
Katie wanted to do something fun with this small space - hence the bold wallpaper. Lizzie Allen Red Buses & Black Cabs wallpaper, £189 for a 3m panel, TFL



LANDING
This cupboard came from Ardingly Antiques Fair. The next dates for this collector's fair are 8-9 January 2013



EN SUITE
Katie has personalised this room with an original Art Deco mirror. John Lewis's Deco Overmantel mirror, £220, is comparable