



SITTING ROOM
Limewashed walls provide a mellow foil for sleek yet bold shapes. Walls in Olive; ceiling in Amsterdam, Bauwerk Colour. Joinery by Heat Architecture and Suzy Hoodless Studio; made by Costa Interiors. Utrecht chair in Lincoln in Zafferano, Cassina. Anders pendant, Pinch. Art by Alvaro Barrington. Marenco sofa (left), Twentytwentyone. Ottoman, Dudgeon Sofas

RETURN
TO
form

Interior designer Suzy Hoodless honoured the artistic roots of this Victorian London home by focussing on craftsmanship, colour, lines and shapes – the resulting schemes are creative triumphs

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DINING AREA

The classic column base of the table contrasts with the modernist-style light.

Walls in White Fox; ceiling in Amsterdam, Bauwerk

Colour. Diabolo pendant

in Cherry Red, Achille

Castiglioni for Flos. Mews

Chevron floor tiles in DTME

02, Domus. 9464 wall

lights, Paavo Tynell for Gubi



KITCHEN

Confidence with colour and materials has paid dividends in this space, which includes an island wrapped in brass.

Units in Dyed Green Tulip 26 timber veneer, Capital Crispin Veneer; made by Costa Interiors. Dekton worktops in Nacre, Cosentino. Cirio Lineal pendant, Antoni Arola for Santa & Cole. Revolver stools, Leon Ransmeier for Hay



“The arts and crafts movement eschewed mass production in favour of simple, joyful artistry, which we fully embraced”

DINING ROOM

An unexpected inclusion of primary colours adds vibrancy to the soft-toned scheme. Flowerpot VP3 table lamp in Mustard, Verner Panton for &Tradition. Wrongwoods cabinet, Established & Sons. Painting by Roger Selden



DINING ROOM

In the alcoves, the owners' existing cabinets make a sleek, streamlined contrast to the Victorian fireplace, while textural, matt walls cement the dialogue between old and new. Walls in Rye; ceiling in Amsterdam, both Bauwerk Colour. Tobi-Ishi dining table spray lacquered in RAL3004 in a satin finish, Edward Barber & Jay Osgerby for B&B Italia.

Vol Au Vent dining chairs in Elmas 2444377, Mario Bellini for B&B Italia. Bespoke wool and silk rug by Suzy Hoodless Studio, The Rug Company. Bilia nickel table light on cabinet, Gio Ponti for FontanaArte. Artworks (above fireplace) by Valerio Adami; (above cabinet) by Aldo Rossi. Admont 6 pendant, Kalmar Lighting. Curtains in Andes, Holland & Sherry

5 rules for DECORATING WITH DESIGN CLASSICS

Interior designer Suzy Hoodless on using mid-century stalwarts in a scheme

1. Mix eras freely – pair classics with contemporary pieces to create a timeless look.
2. Play with colour; don't be afraid to reupholster or refinish to bring a modern edge to a classic piece.
3. Let pieces breathe. Give iconic furniture space to shine; don't overcrowd.
4. Add texture – try combining sleek lines with natural materials for balance.
5. Make it personal. Choose pieces not just for their pedigree but instead ones that resonate with you.

If the arts and crafts movement stood for ideals of individuality, artisan production and the beauty of everyday objects, then this renovated London home surely embodies them in abundance. Filled with graphic pattern, modernist shapes and contemporary artwork, it's a novel take on a 19th-century set of principles, from its gently reworked architecture to the handcrafted cement tiles in the entrance hall. 'It felt intuitive to channel that concept,' says interior designer Suzy Hoodless, who reimagined these schemes. 'The building had great bones and we wanted to honour its heritage, albeit in a fresh way. The aim was to create bold, unique spaces that were also deeply functional.'

Built in 1874 by architect J.M. Brydon, the house features several nods to the arts and crafts period, including stained-glass windows, a tall hipped roof and a terracotta plaque above the porch featuring sunflowers in a vase. For the couple who took on the listed building a few years ago, returning to that sense of homeliness was key. Though structurally sound, it needed a gentle reconfiguration to suit the needs of a family comprising two young boys, as well as a return to its original appreciation of the decorative arts.

Passionate about contemporary design, the owners – one of whom is Italian – were keen to introduce a European sensibility, too, expressed through art and mid-century shapes. Happily, their architect, Giancarlo Alhadeff, also has Italian roots and together with Suzy, known for her devotion to textiles, modernist furniture and confident colour, he reworked the layout to allow the original free-spiritedness of this home to emerge. The basement was rationalised to create a kitchen and dining room (plus a bedroom and a laundry), allowing for a relaxed family room and a more formal living room on the ground floor. Upstairs, a guest room was sacrificed to create a dressing room with bath, leading to an en-suite bedroom, plus a study, so that the parents could have a self-contained floor, while the eaves space was reworked for the boys. 'Listed properties always require some imaginative thinking,' says Giancarlo, 'but in this case, small yet meaningful

tweaks, such as turning a spare bedroom into a multi-purpose space, unlocked the layout for us.'

Key to the impact of these schemes is colour. 'We chose an unusual palette that I hadn't majored in before,' says Suzy, of these 'unique and atypical schemes', which feature various combinations, from vivid blue and soft green to terracotta and knocked-back reds. Much of that vivacity is tempered by limewashed walls. 'They introduce softness and elegance,' says Suzy. 'The house has amazing light and I felt it would be nice to suggest movement through those painterly brushstrokes.'

Clever touches include the contemporary tiles in the entrance hall, which both riff on traditional encaustic shapes and nod to a modern Italian sensibility. The kitchen units were painted tulip green and the island wrapped in brass 'because the owners wanted to avoid a huge lump of stone' and, summoning mid-century retro cool, the dressing room joinery features a multicoloured abstract whose tones are picked up in a banquette. 'It feels contemporary, yet it honours those arts and crafts roots,' says Suzy. 'After all, the movement was about eschewing mass production in favour of simple, joyful artistry – principles we fully embraced.'

For a home with an artistic history, given that former inhabitants include a 1920s-heyday jazz musician and latterly a beloved British actor, it feels fitting that these schemes give off a quietly rebellious energy. Alongside the owners' existing pieces, Suzy mixed designs by B&B Italia and Gio Ponti with modern classics by Pinch and Hay. 'It's the juxtaposition that feels thrilling,' says Suzy. 'It results in a kind of third dimension which really shows off the personalities of the owners.'

Two years after the project began, this home is in full swing. 'You know you've done a good job when you are invited back for dinner,' smiles Giancarlo, recalling the evening when everybody gathered to celebrate the building's new era. 'The owners didn't want a showcase, but something that felt both vivacious and practical. Hopefully, that's just what we've achieved.'

■ heat.design; suzyhoodless.com

ENTRANCE HALL
Cement hexagonal floor tiles are a contemporary take on traditional encaustic tiling. **Floor tiles**, Bisazza. **Andes stair runner** in Maple, Sinclair Till. **Sideboard** by Suzy Hoodless Studio; made by Knuckey Furniture. **Artwork** by Antonio Tarsis. **Architectural design**, Heat Architecture



DRESSING ROOM

Built-in window seating and handle-less joinery in a bold abstract design meld form and function.

Cupboards by Suzy Hoodless Studio; made by Costa Interiors. Long board **flooring** in Linen, Schotten & Hansen. **Rug** by Suzy Hoodless Studio, The Rug Company. **Banquette** by Heat Architecture; upholstered in Zag in Céladon, Pierre Frey; made by Costa Interiors. **Curtains** in Aplomb, Dedar





MAIN BEDROOM
Suzy made the most of the layout by adding built-in storage that blends in with the walls.
Storage in Seed, Bauwerk Colour. **Carpet,** Wool Classics London. **304 wall lights** in Red, Bernard-Albin Gras for DCWéditions. **Arbaz throw,** Lrnce. **Artwork** by Trevor Price

CHILD'S BEDROOM
The egg chair delivers a playful element.
Suspension Ele chair, MyFakory. **Window seat in** Linara in Thyme, Romo. **Flowerpot VP3 lamp** in Vermilion Red, Verner Panton for &Tradition. **Roman blind in** Forest 03, Helene Blanche Fabrics & Wallpapers. **Carpet,** Wool Classics London

MAIN EN SUITE
A seamless granite vanity is offset by tiles in restful blues and greens.
Dual wall lights in Brushed Nickel, Suzy Hoodless for Drummonds. **Zellige tiles,** Mosaic Factory. **Tara basin mixer taps** in Platinum Matt, Dornbracht. **Mirrors and vanity in** Beola Verde granite by Heat Architecture; made by Costa Interiors

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