

GEORGIAN PROPERTY

PLAYING *the blues*

The owner of this London property has combined her love of Scandinavian and vintage pieces with shades of blue to create a tranquil, happy home

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SITTING ROOM

A vintage trunk that Julie's mother gave her doubles as a characterful coffee table, picking up the black and gold tones in the artworks. PH 5 pendant lamp, from £475, Louis Poulsen at Skandium, skandium.com. Thala sofa, from €2,680 plus 14m of fabric, Caravane, caravane.fr.

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STUDY
The paint colour here was inspired by the Gustavian bureau, which Julie already owned. "Blue makes everything look fresher," she says. Walls in Skylight, Estate Emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.



KITCHEN
Julie resourcefully turned a spare floorboard into a shelf between the wall cupboards. Vintage wall lights, No.1 Lewes, theshoplewes.com. Douglas fir flooring, from £100sq m, Dinesen, dinesen.com.



ENTRANCE HALL

Polished plaster walls give a subtly reflective sheen (above), helping to bounce light around and create the illusion of more width in this narrow space. Polished plaster, Sexi Walls Design, 07704 667345.

TELEVISION ROOM

The basement (right) is set up as a self-contained flat with its own bedroom, kitchen and entrance, for Julie's son during university holidays and family and friends who come to visit. Interior design, Julie Simonsen, juliesimonsen.com, and Studio Indigo, studioindigo.co.uk.



Serendipity played a part in the current incarnation of this Georgian house in west London, for had Copenhagen-born Julie Simonsen not asked after properties for sale in the area during a visit to one of her favourite antiques shops, she would never have had the chance to own it. As luck would have it, the antiques dealer knew that the house was available and, not long after, Julie bought it and set about its refurbishment.

As an interior designer, Julie knew how she wanted the house to look, but the building is Grade II-listed and in a conservation area, so she decided to bring in help from west London-based multi-disciplinary practice, Studio Indigo. We talked to Julie, and to Studio Indigo's Gemma McCloskey, to find out more.

What did you do to maximise space?

JS We weren't allowed to change the exterior style of the house, but we did have permission to open up and extend a hallway at the back, creating a kitchen with a glazed wall and roof attached to the back of the house. The room is lovely now; you can sit at the dining table and feel as if you are really in part of the garden.

GM The challenge for our architect, Andrew Richards, was to make sure you could still see the original architecture of the house, so the glass works very well.

How did you link the extension with the house?

JS Instead of putting in a door, we left an opening between the new kitchen and my study, and then created an opening between that and the sitting room at the front of the house. I wanted it to be beautiful but comfortable, with a blue colour scheme throughout. I left the original exterior



TELEVISION ROOM

A trio of vintage mirrors (left) makes a decorative display above the sofa and enhances the light that floods through the glass doors that open on to a terrace. One-arm Hamilton sofa, around £6,000. Minotti, minottilondon.com.

KITCHEN

A distressed wall shelf in the dining area (below) offsets the modern style of the rest of the room. Chair 9 chairs, £222 each, Gubi at Nunido, nunido.co.uk.





wall unplastered, to add an edge to the scheme.
GM The look is a combination of Scandinavian and industrial styles, but without appearing too cold or shabby chic.

Did you incorporate existing furniture?

JS I was moving back to London from a chalet in Gstaad, which had a completely different look, but I brought over some pieces. I love trying to make the best of what I have. Mixing and matching is more challenging and exciting than just buying new stuff.

GM To create a cohesive effect, we brought the colours of the furniture into the decoration.

Blue is a unifying theme...

JS It's my favourite colour: it brings me happiness and peace. I always fall for it; I just can't help it. There are so many different shades of blue in my home, but they all work together.

What inspired the look for the bedrooms?

JS I fell in love with the picture of a girl that hangs in the guest room, and decided that room should be decorated with soft pinks because of her dress. Then I saw the wallpaper, and it inspired me.

GM Julie came to me with the wallpaper, and we chose the paint on the woodwork from that. We used the same wallpaper in the main bedroom, but in a blue colourway.

What was it like, working together?

JS Gemma and I made a great team because we like the same style. I wanted to achieve a structured but fluid look, with a touch of quirkiness.

GM I was slightly worried when Julie chose the blue of the kitchen cabinets as I thought they might clash with the stove, but I loved it when I saw it in situ. I've learned it's good to take a risk.

GUEST BATHROOM

Gemma McCloskey of Studio Indigo had a piece of antiqued mirror glass cut to fit the entire wall above the vanity unit (above) for a touch of vintage charm.

Classic three-hole basin mixer taps, from £379.20, Lefroy Brooks at Original Bathroom Company, originalbathroomcompany.co.uk.

GUEST BEDROOM

Julie took inspiration for the colour scheme in here (right) from the painting of a girl, which she found in an antiques shop. The wallpaper was a later discovery and matched the colour of the girl's dress perfectly. Poppy & Butterfly wallpaper, £76 a roll, Colefax and Fowler, colefax.com.



MAIN BATHROOM

The plaster of the hall is repeated here in a slightly different shade. "I wanted to make sure the colours were different, even though they are from the same family," says Gemma. The Arndale bath, £2,445, Country Cast Baths, countrycastbaths.co.uk.

STAIRWELL

Pieces of coloured glass arranged on clear shelves attached to the window frame (right) add interest without obstructing the view. Antique chandelier, No. 1 Lewes, theshoplewes.com.

MAIN BEDROOM

Carefully colour-matched blue (below) brings a sense of cohesion and is warmed up by a sandy hue. Woodwork in SC264, matt emulsion, £38.40 for 2.5 litres, Papers and Paints, papersandpaints.co.uk.

