

NEW DIRECTIONS

At a time when many people decide to downsize, Adrienne and David Newland chose to modernise their family home

FEATURE JENNIFER GOULDING | PHOTOGRAPHY DAVIDE LOVATTI



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Victorian townhouse with recent additions
LOCATION West London
ROOMS Hallway, sitting room with dining area, kitchen, dining room, library, study, six bedrooms (five en suite), dressing room, bathroom
PURCHASED 1975
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We travelled extensively before buying this house,' says Adrienne.

SITTING ROOM
Glazed cupolas light each end of the new sitting room. 'I love this bespoke console table, a metal tree filled with creatures,' says Adrienne. The seascape on the facing wall is by Kurt Jackson. Console table, price on request, The Crucible Foundry



DINING ROOM
Inherited antique furniture and art sits well in this elegant space. Find vintage candlesticks on eBay





Many homeowners think of downsizing when their children grow up and leave home, but this was not the case for Adrienne and David Newland. 'The house was really too big for us and I was willing to downsize, but David likes it so much he just refused,' says Adrienne. As a compromise, however, the couple both agreed that the house could benefit from being renovated.

The Newlands bought this West London home back in the 1970s. 'It was originally five flats,' says Adrienne. 'I was very excited when I first looked around because it was so big I got lost. I knew it would be perfect for the large family we were planning and all four of our children grew up here.'

When the couple began to envisage the kind of remodelled space that would work for this new chapter of their lives, they quickly decided that professional help would be required. 'We extended the house about 20 years ago but the integration between old and new felt a bit compromised,' says Adrienne. 'The house was already quite light, but I wanted it to be even lighter and brighter.' Adrienne and David decided to commission the London-based architects and interior designers, Studio Indigo, to carry out the renovation. 'Mike Fisher showed us his houses in London and Cape Town, and we liked his style,' says Adrienne.

Mike suggested some major structural changes, which Adrienne and David happily agreed to. 'We got rid of the new staircase which was a recent addition,' says Adrienne. 'This enabled us to reconfigure the layout and create a sense of continuity between the old and new areas of the house.' The original staircase was then restored. 'It

DESIGN TIP *'In order to successfully link old and new sections of a property, keep the architectural detailing between the two areas the same if possible'*



1 KITCHEN
This new scheme combines modern and traditional styles and is enhanced by the abundant natural light Adrienne wanted. Bespoke kitchen by Artichoke. Bontempi Net bar stools, from £260, Go Modern. Try Square XL Lanterns by Original BTC, £1,039, Made In Design

2 HALLWAY/STAIRCASE
The grand main staircase has now been fully restored and light-reflecting Venetian plaster

applied to the walls. Oak leaf wall light, price on request, Charles Saunders. Joa's White estate emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball, is a similar wall colour

3 VIEW INTO KITCHEN
Adrienne was keen to integrate antique furniture into the decor. The carved walnut wooden doors, which came from her grandmother's house in Zurich, create dramatic visual impact. For similar antique carved double wooden doors, try Pamono, from £2,900



DINING AREA
'We use this new space in the sitting room all the time as it gets so much natural light,' says Adrienne. Oak Leaf chandelier, price on request, Charles Saunders. Castelle patterned oak flooring, from £23sq m, Naturally Wood Floors



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was rather battered but once we cleaned off the accumulated staining it was glorious,' says Mike.

Creating new spaces overlooking the garden was also a major feature of the rebuild. 'The garden is a decent size for London and shielded by trees,' says Adrienne. 'Mike suggested putting the sitting room at the back of the house, an idea we loved.'

With the structural works complete, Adrienne and David worked closely with Mike to revise the interior decor. The couple were keen to commission hand-crafted items for their home. 'We have several bespoke items, including the headboard in the main bedroom and the console table in the sitting room. 'I love handmade things and it's wonderful to be able to support such talented craftspeople.'

Several statement pieces of furniture were also restored and updated, such as an antique dark wood armoire in the main bedroom which was painted and gilded, and the original glass fronts replaced with mirror panels.

Adrienne also owns various pieces of furniture and artworks inherited from her mother and grandmother, and was keen to integrate these into the decor where possible. 'Our aim was to incorporate Adrienne's and David's fantastically diverse collection of art and antiques into a design that was full of character,' says Mike. 'In that way we hoped not just to preserve the history and memories with which they are associated, but also to bring them back to life and make them relevant once again.' Now that the work is complete, the modernised house has more than fulfilled Adrienne and David's hopes. 'We love living in our new light space,' says Adrienne. 'The whole house now feels much more liveable.' 5

DECORATING TIP *'Create your own style, just as you would with your clothes. Mix and match vintage or inherited furniture with new items to reflect your taste'*



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1 EN SUITE

A shapely freestanding bath makes a bold design statement.

Cabrits freestanding bath, £3,750, Victoria & Albert

Art deco-style bathroom wall lights, £119, Lighting Styles, have this look

2 BEDROOM

The bespoke headboard design was inspired by antique Chinese screens.

Headboard, price on request, Studio Indigo. Walls in Ammonite estate emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. 1stDibs sells similar antique bamboo side tables

4 MAIN BATHROOM
A luxurious double shower enclosure brings the wow factor.

Shower enclosure by Studio Indigo, price on request. Calacatta Honed marble wall tiles, £48sq m, Mandarin Stone, are similar

3 EN SUITE

The couple chose a subtle Chinese theme for this elegant space.

5 MASTER BEDROOM

All the different patterns make for a vibrant look. Raindrop chandelier, from £2,900, Valerie Wade.