

LIVING COLOURS

WITH A GROWING BROOD IN MIND, STEPHANIE AND BRIAN HALL FOUND THEIR PERFECT HOME IN THE FORM OF AN ELEGANT EDWARDIAN SEMI

FEATURE ROS CONELLY
PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON



SITTING ROOM

This room's elegant, muted scheme of soft greys is lifted by splashes of vibrant colour, with neon green items making the biggest impact. Christo chair in Utah Anthracite Yarwood leather, from £1,630; Sofa and Chair Company. Blenheim wall mirror, from £595, Thomas and Vines

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Edwardian end-of-terrace

LOCATION

Southwest London

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, family room, kitchen-diner, cloakroom, four bedrooms, two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2007

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a two-bedroom flat nearby,' says Stephanie.



DINING AREA
A blend of Impressionist artwork and modern homewares adds colour and character. Caligaris chairs, from £155, Heal's, are comparable. Polo medium 600mm, satin nickel finial lights in Dove Grey, £350, CTO Lighting

BEST BUY 'My favourite item has to be the Quooker tap in the kitchen for its ease and practicality'



KITCHEN
This room epitomises contemporary cool but is always warm and welcoming. Chromtech flooring in Warm 4.0, £66sq m, Surface Tiles. Try Wofi Modena pendant for similar lighting, £65.99, Castlegate Lights



DETAIL
This art installation from Battersea Arts Fair features vibrant handmade goblets covered in various chocolate wrappers.



READING AREA
Bright and snug, Ollie's favourite spot takes pride of place. Bespoke reading unit, Emma Green Design. Seating covered in Merati Lime fabric, £60 per metre, Designers Guild



When they started their family, Stephanie and Brian Hall knew it was only a matter of time before they would have to move out of their two-bedroom flat in south London. 'We already had Ollie,' says Stephanie, 'but we hoped to have more children, so we really wanted somewhere with more space and a garden.'

The house they chose was nearby and had a lot of potential. 'It was a three-bedroom semi with shoddy laminate flooring and 1980s

double glazing, so it definitely needed updating,' says Stephanie. 'However, we could see that with only a few alterations, it could be transformed into a fantastic family home.'

The couple tackled a loft conversion first, which proved to be far trickier than first anticipated. 'It was originally a hipped gable, but because we're at the end of a terrace, we needed planning permission,' recalls Stephanie. 'It was an incredibly lengthy process, but it went through eventually.' After that, the couple updated the garden and

replaced the windows and guttering, before focusing on the ground floor. 'The plan for this part of the house was to create an area that flowed seamlessly, and that could be used by the whole family,' explains Stephanie. This final stage of the renovation work needed specialist advice, so the couple enlisted the help of interior designer, Emma Green. 'Brian and I have very different styles when it comes to design and decorating,' admits Stephanie, 'so rather than risk making mistakes, we decided to ask Emma to come up with a

scheme. It was, without a doubt, one of our best decisions – and probably saved us from a few further headaches!'

Steadily, the house started to take shape, with a new kitchen-diner, as well as the desired open-plan, family-friendly living space replacing the old kitchen and drawing room. The new scheme also ensured plenty of wall space for Stephanie and Brian's collection of eclectic, colourful artwork. Even little Ollie had an input into the house. 'It was his idea to have somewhere we could curl up ►



GUEST BEDROOM
Stephanie's beautiful wedding bouquet is immortalised in print. For a similar bed, try the Grosvenor, £859, Barker & Stonehouse. Chella chandelier, £130, Laura Ashley



BATHROOM
Neutral tones and a smart dark wood console table give a refined feel. Walls painted in Pointing, £35 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



OLLIE'S BEDROOM
Ollie, 4, and Benjamin, nearly two, love hanging out in this colourful room. Archie Cabin Bed, £849; desk, £349; bookshelf, £275; all Feather & Black. Hay Pinocchi rug, £226, nest.co.uk



MASTER BEDROOM
A striking patterned feature wall adds impact and interest. To emulate this look, try Dusa wallpaper, £52 per roll, Osbourne & Little, and the Clarendon quilt, £300, The White Company

together with a book,' Stephanie explains. 'So Emma designed the centrepiece of the kitchen – a clever tucked-away seat, which has generous storage beneath, and cupboards on either side with bookcases facing each other. I've made it feel extra special by adding vibrant artwork and comfy cushions. The boys love it.'

Elsewhere in the kitchen-diner, the pair opted for dome-shaped pendants, modern moulded dining chairs and an island-cum-breakfast bar with curved edges. 'We went for a rounded theme

in this part of the house to help provide a sense of continuity, plus it really helps soften the overall look,' says Stephanie. Upstairs, the couple chose a simple, classic decor scheme. 'I'm naturally drawn towards muted and neutral tones,' she says. 'But I also like splashes of colour and a little bit of quirkiness. Personal touches such as the enlarged image of my lovely wedding bouquet add a unique feel.'

Now the work is complete, the couple are thrilled with the house. 'It really has become a perfect family home,' concludes Stephanie. 25