

VICTORIAN TERRACE

Open minded

Ingenious design solutions have brought a bright, modern feel and a sense of flow to a converted worker's cottage in London

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PHOTOGRAPHS
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DINING AREA

Rosie's Irish Terrier, Coco, enjoys the benefits of the large double-glazed panels that flood this space with light and connect it to the garden. **OD 61 bar stools**, £580 each, Erik Buch at Deconet, deconet.com. **Balmoral Mist engineered oak flooring**, £80.42sq m, Generations, 01509 210321, generations.co.uk.



How do you turn a tiny two-up, two-down former railway worker's cottage into a bright, open-plan home relevant to modern living? Interior designer Rosie Winston has cracked the problem with this streamlined yet supremely inviting solution. The humble brick façade of her north London terraced cottage belies a home that is filled with a sense of light and space, offering views to the garden from the moment you walk through the front door.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

For Rosie, the dilapidated state of the Victorian cottage (it had not been touched since the late 1960s) was a boon as it enabled her to start from scratch. "This project gave me the chance to draw on the years of experience I had accumulated while working for various clients," she says, adding, "I'd brought up my children in my last home and so it had very different requirements. This time around it was exciting and quite indulgent to be able to do this just for myself."

Her design studio, Clifton Interiors, has collaborated with architect Mark Ruthven for years, and Rosie turned to him for his expertise in spatial planning. Together, they came up with a plan that involved remodelling the space, knocking down the internal walls and moving the staircase transversely to form a pivotal architectural feature.

The cottage was increased by nearly half its size at the rear with a glazed two-storey extension, while upstairs, the ceiling of Rosie's bedroom was stripped back to the roofline to improve its modest proportions. The second bedroom became a study that can be closed off with a sliding door to double as a guest room; it features French windows and a glass balustrade, helping open it up to the garden below.

MIX OF MATERIALS

To enhance the sense of flow through the house, Rosie has chosen a limited palette of materials: pale oak for the floors, white paint



GARDEN

When weather permits, Rosie uses the garden as an extra room. The patio area is furnished with a pair of lounge chairs and an outdoor cooker (above, far left). Beyond is a decked dining area (left). **Blue Lias stone flooring**, £78sq m, Ashen Cross Quarry, 01458 274587, ashencrossquarry.co.uk. **Elba dining chairs**, £169 each, BoConcept, 020 7388 2447, boconcept.co.uk.

KITCHEN

To make the kitchen feel like a continuation of the living space, wall cabinets were avoided and Carrara marble worksurfaces were chosen for a sense of understated luxury. Orange vases and the 1960s pendant lights bring a pop of colour to the all-white space. **R1 kitchen cabinets** in semi matt lacquered finish with Carrara marble worktops, Robert Timmons

Furniture, 020 8469 8081, rtimmons.co.uk. **Vintage Italian pendant lights**, Fiona McDonald, 020 7731 3234, fionamcdonald.com.

DINING AREA

When Rosie entertains, she pulls out the teal drop-leaf table by Finn Juhl, which comfortably seats eight. At other times it is used to display collected pieces. **Interior design**, Clifton Interiors, 020 7586 5533, cliftoninteriors.com.



SITTING ROOM

The contemporary sofa (above) is one of the few new pieces Rosie bought for the house, as is the rug, which adds a hint of blue to the palette of white, oatmeal and cream. At the opposite end of the room (right), low-level cupboards keep audiovisual equipment hidden, allowing a vintage Eames LCM chair and an abstract oil painting to take centre stage. **Feel Good sofa**, from £6,103.20, Flexform at Interdesign UK, 020 7376 5272, interdesignuk.biz. **Bespoke Roshven rug**, Elizabeth Ashard at Clifton Interiors, 020 7586 5533, cliftoninteriors.com. **Rattan armchair**, £173, Caravane, 020 7486 5233, caravane.fr. **G&T Carve occasional table**, £890.40, Bethan Gray, 020 3214

3150, bethangray.com. **For a reproduction Eames chair**, try the LCM chair in Black Ash, £1,064, Twentytwentyone, 020 7288 1996, twentytwentyone.com. **Oil painting** by Henrietta Dubrey, Edgar Modern Gallery, 01225 443746, edgarmodern.com.

STAIRCASE

The curved balustrade (left) makes a simple yet striking statement. For continuity, Rosie used wrought iron for the oversized handles on the doors to the laundry area and cloakroom. **Bespoke wrought-iron handrail and door handles**, Dragon Works, 01373 813561, dragonworksforge.co.uk. **Walls in Strong White**, Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com.



BEDROOM
Washed velvets and textured cottons in muted greys and pinks add softness to this space, where a cluster of contemporary pendant lights draws the eye to the vaulted ceiling. Washed velvet cushion covers in Blush, from £47 each; Alba dyed cotton bedcover in Blush, from £130; all Caravane, 020 7486 5233, caravane.fr. G&T Brogue occasional tables, £1,045.20 each, Bethan Gray, 020 3214 3150, bethangray.com.

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for the walls and ceilings, and Carrara marble for the island and worktops in the kitchen. The brickwork of the chimney breast in the sitting room has been left exposed and painted white, and Rosie has done the same in the bedroom above. “The unified finishes help to reinforce the idea that this is all one space,” she explains.

Bringing a sculptural element to the clean lines of the scheme is the statement staircase, which has a sinuous wrought-iron handrail secured by two blocks of raw timber. “Wrought iron is a relatively cost-effective material but the effect is very striking; it’s one of my favourite features,” she says.

USING EXISTING PIECES

Rosie’s possessions, many of which travelled from her previous home, include beautifully designed mid-20th-century classics such as a teak drop-leaf table by Finn Juhl and a rosewood rocking chair by Ole Wanscher. In the kitchen, 1960s pendant lights bring a splash of orange to the all-white space. Also key to adding colour and interest to the schemes is a considerable collection of art. “Some of the pieces are quite big, so it took some careful planning to work out where they could hang,” Rosie says. “We actually designed the staircase to accommodate the pair of charcoal drawings.”

CREATING EXTRA SPACE

Perhaps the greatest success of this project is the way in which the cottage now connects with the garden, thanks to ample glazing that allows easy sight of the planting. When the weather permits, the bifold doors are fully opened and the outdoor space becomes another room. “What is so wonderful about this house is that it’s very sociable; I’ve had a few gatherings where we’ve spilled out into the garden,” says Rosie. “This project was a real team effort, and I feel very privileged to live in such a lovely home”. □



BATHING AREA
“When I realised that I couldn’t fit a bath into the bathroom without compromising other aspects of the scheme, I decided to install one in my bedroom; it brings a degree of indulgence to the space,” says Rosie of this sculptural design, which offers a pleasing contrast to the rough brick wall (far left). Rosebud bath, £3,055, Castello, 0800 111 4891, castellobaths.co.uk.

Livingstones floor cushions, from €70, Smarin, smarin.net.

SHOWER ROOM
Pebble flooring brings a touch of the seaside to this scheme. Rosie designed the vanity unit, which was crafted with a high-grade teak that is commonly used for boats. Premium and Blend Pebble flooring in Poppy Seed, £137.11sq m, Island Stone, 0800 083 9351, islandstone.co.uk.

STUDY
For a clean look, Rosie has used shutters rather than curtains throughout her home, introducing textiles in the form of rugs and cushions. The vintage chair is by Danish furniture designer Arne Vodder. White shutters, from £290sq m, Shutterly Fabulous, 0800 012 6615, shutterlyfabulous.com. Feroe Motif 1 rug, from £111, Caravane, 020 7486 5233, caravane.fr.

