



# A GEORGIAN HOME REFRESHED & REVIVED

Keen to make her period home more family friendly, an interior designer has given it a contemporary update, with stylish interiors that respect its historic atmosphere and beautiful architecture

WORDS NICKY RAMPLEY-CLARKE | PHOTOGRAPHY BRENT DARBY | PRODUCTION BEN KENDRICK



**LIVING ROOM**  
Original features include the cosy, inviting open fireplace – perfect in a space used for entertaining. **Walls** in Down Pipe (top) and Pointing (below), Farrow & Ball. **Mirror**, Arteriors. **Rug**, Dunelm. **Coffee table**, West Elm



HOME  
PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE

Josie Lywood, an interior designer and co-director of Q Design House (qdesignhouse.com), her husband Julian, a technology consultant, daughter Artemis and Boston terrier Winnie

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom early-Georgian house in Brentford, west London

LIVING ROOMS

This picture and opposite, top Double doors separate the snug, where the family watch TV, from the more formal living room with its heirloom grandfather clock. Walls in Breakfast Room Green, Farrow & Ball. Rug, Dunelm. Pouf, Wildash London. Ceiling and picture lights, Pooky



A

s with many of the best property finds dubbed by agents as having 'plenty of potential', this end-of-terrace, Grade II-listed Georgian house needed a complete overhaul from top to bottom. But owner Josie Lywood was undaunted and relished the chance to put her professional skills into practice with a doer-upper that needed plenty of love and attention. 'We were more than up for the challenge,' Josie recalls, 'even though we knew that the listing would make the renovations much more complicated.'

It all began when an estate agent approached Josie about the house. 'He knew I was looking for somewhere that required renovation,' she continues. 'My husband Julian and I hadn't considered Brentford – we were living in Richmond at the time – but as soon as we saw the house, we fell in love with it and the area.'

The couple made the move towards the end of 2020 and wasted no time in getting to work by tearing up the musty old carpets and redecorating a few of the key rooms. 'When we first moved in, we didn't have the budget to fully renovate,' Josie says. 'But after living in the house for a couple of years, we'd had time to think about how we wanted to upgrade it. So in 2022 we submitted a new listed-building consent application with plans to make the layout more family friendly. Luckily, it was approved and we started the main building works in 2023.'

Josie carefully planned the new layout to make the best use of space. She explains: 'We relocated the kitchen to the basement and, by removing a wall, made it a light and bright open-plan space. This



enabled us to relocate the two living rooms to the ground floor – they were previously on the first floor, with the bedrooms on the top floor and in the basement.' This major reorganisation was just the beginning. Next came an upgrade of all the plumbing and heating – there were very few radiators in the house – followed by a refurbishment of the family bathroom and then complete redecoration throughout.

'At my interior design business we don't have a set style, as I love creating individual schemes depending on the aesthetic of the property and requirements of the client,' says Josie. 'I like so many styles, in fact, that decorating my own home has been the most challenging for me by far! However, I felt that it was important to complement the beautiful Georgian features, so I chose a mix of old and new, with pops of bright colour and lots of natural materials and textures.'

Josie's vision is most apparent in the open-plan kitchen and dining area, where vibrant yellow wooden cabinetry has been paired with black-and-white marble chequerboard flooring, aged-brass accents and a natural oak dining table. It's well planned but looks relaxed and effortlessly put together – the hallmark of a good interior designer. 'It's where we spend most of our time,' says Josie, 'especially in the evenings when we eat dinner together and catch up about our day. I didn't want anything too formal, so I designed the large L-shaped bench seat to be really deep and comfy for lounging and relaxing.'

The basement is also home to the second bathroom. 'It's our guest loo as well as our main shower room, so I wanted it to look inviting,' Josie explains. 'The previous layout was really awkward →



HALLWAY

**Below** Dead space under the staircase is now a stylish spot thanks to a colourful armchair. Antique chair upholstered in fabric from Linwood



‘WE WERE MORE THAN UP FOR THE CHALLENGE OF RENOVATING A GRADE II-LISTED PROPERTY’

with a tiny shower right by the doorway, so I reconfigured the room to maximise the space. Some blue-patterned floor tiles were the starting point of the design and the rest of the scheme coordinates with them. I added coloured tiled beading to create a horizontal stripe for extra interest without incurring much cost, and finished off with a dark paint colour for the walls and ceiling to help make the whole space feel cosy.

On the ground floor, each of the two adjoining living rooms has a different feel. One is a formal space for entertaining and the other a more casual spot for watching TV. ‘In winter we spend a lot of time in the former, as it has a fireplace,’ notes Josie. ‘Double doors separate the rooms so we can open up the space when we have people over or close them to make things feel snug – and as Julian and I both work from home regularly, it means we can have some privacy and peace

and quiet if one of us needs it.’ Upstairs, there are two bedrooms on the first floor – one for Josie and Julian and the other for daughter Artemis – while on the second floor, there are two more bedrooms and a bathroom. These upper-floor rooms have been completely redecorated, with floors sanded back and new carpets and curtains fitted, while in the main bedroom an offcut of marble from the kitchen has been used for the fire surround.

Much of Josie’s inspiration for her interiors has come from family travels – particularly around the UK – which might explain her eclectic British aesthetic, which melds the classic and the contemporary. It’s a style that works beautifully within the walls of this Georgian home, which Josie has created with her family’s needs in mind. ‘This is our retreat,’ she says, ‘so the most important thing of all is that we feel comfortable and happy here.’

KITCHEN

This picture and opposite, near left Vibrant yellow wooden cabinetry has been paired with classic black-and-white chequerboard flooring. **Kitchen and bespoke joinery**, Fitzroy & Finch. **Handles**, unlaacquered antique brass, Corston. **Flooring**, Classic Calacatta Tumbled and Classic Bluestone Marble, Mandarin Stone →





JOSIE MELTS CLASSIC AND  
CONTEMPORARY STYLE, WHICH  
WORKS BEAUTIFULLY IN HER  
GEORGIAN HOME

DINING AREA

Josie designed the L-shaped bench seat around the oak dining table to be 'really deep and comfy for lounging and relaxing'. Dining table and chairs, Etsy. Pendant light, Original BTC. Wall prints, King & McGaw. Sketches, William McTaggart (Josie's great-great-grandfather) →





MAIN BEDROOM

This picture and opposite, top  
Red walls create a warm and  
inviting feel. The marble on the  
fire surround is an offcut from  
the kitchen flooring. Walls in  
Tuscan Red, Little Greene. Wall  
art, Bridget Davies. Ceiling light  
and table lamp, Pooky



BATHROOM

Left and above Blue patterned  
floor tiles were the starting  
point for the scheme. Josie  
added coloured horizontal  
beading along them.  
Walls in De Nimes, Farrow  
& Ball. Floor and wall tiles,  
Claybrook. Mirror, Daals.  
Sanitaryware, Crosswater →





'AS AN INTERIOR DESIGNER,  
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## NURSERY

A world map wallpaper mural in a cartoon style is a focal point in Artemis's fun and colourful room.

**Walls** in Babouche, Farrow & Ball. Explorer Green **wallpaper mural**, Hovia. **Rug**, Benuta.

**Cot**, Obaby. Giraffe **soft toy**, Beautiful Bambino