

What Jo did

- Extended and added a conservatory across two storeys at the back.
- Laid a concrete floor and replaced the units in the kitchen.
- Knocked through the first floor to turn two bedrooms into one suite.
- Restored all corning and cleaned up the fireplaces.
- Put in Victorian stand-alone radiators.
- Installed shutters throughout.
- Painted over floorboards.
- Repainted the walls throughout.



The skull painting is by Damien Hirst. The diamanté-embellished antlers are from Tann-Rokka. Try thefireplacegallery.co.uk for a fire surround like this, and leorec.co.uk stocks traditional cast-iron radiators. Find china dogs at antiquepottery.co.uk. For details of how to create library-like shelving, see page 46.

House of the month
Lots of love

Edgy British design and feminine glamour may seem unlikely partners but, in Jo Berryman's lovingly styled home, they're perfectly matched

WORDS EMMA KILBEY | PHOTOGRAPHY PAUL MASSEY | STYLING MARY WEAVER



Jo's living room works because she's chosen gorgeous pieces, but given each one space to breathe. 'I feel your home is a museum of you,' she says. The Vivienne Westwood Union Jack wall-hung VW Flag rug is available from The Rug Company. The Seventies table and curved sofas were discovered at Alfies Antique Market. The mirrored dresser is from the Chinese department at Selfridges. The sculptural blue vase is from Magne F. Find similar tripod lamps at Andrew Martin.

'I love materials that change as they age – a home should be a breathable, organic space'

'I crave momentum,' says former fashion stylist Jo Berryman. 'I need to be changing, constantly moving things on, having something interesting to aim for.' Jo's gorgeous Hampstead home reflects her boundless curiosity – not to mention a well-honed magpie eye. There are plenty of lovingly selected pieces, each with a story to tell, contained and displayed in little pockets of beauty. What, on paper, sounds a bit *Old Curiosity Shop*, in reality hangs together with calmness, confidence and ease.

Jo, who runs an events styling consultancy (and is also a yoga teacher and single mum to daughter Nico, two), bought the four-floor property in 2007. 'I fell in love with its bare bones, as well as the location – it's handy for Hampstead Heath,' she says. 'I love that the doors are crooked and the floorboards creak – I think that sort of thing gives a home personality.'

But Jo wanted to stamp her own style on the house, too. So the first job of the year-long project was to sort out the house's structure. 'I decided to sacrifice a bedroom and knock through to monopolise the whole first floor for myself. Extremely indulgent, I know, but I love "luxe" living and wanted space for my clothes and things.' Indeed, Jo's huge bedroom – with its walk-through wardrobe, freestanding bathtub and bespoke display area dedicated to her shoe collection – is a grown-up girl's dream.

Decadent space achieved, Jo repainted throughout in various shades of white to keep the house fresh and modern. 'I wanted a clean backdrop so I could dot all my stuff around and show it at its best,' she says. 'My thinking all the time has been to create a sense of contemporary chic, but to marry it with my easy-going, relaxed lifestyle.'

The sitting room showcases some dramatic pieces, such as the huge Vivienne

'I like displaying things – putting new things under a bell jar,' says Jo. The Saarinen lamp came from Alfies Antique Market. The painting was picked up in New York. For similar decorative skulls try gothic-gifts.com.



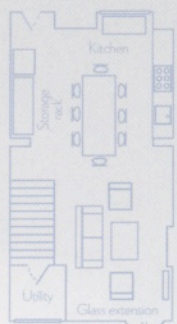
Westwood Union Jack rug hung as art, and a Damien Hirst skull painting – complete with glittering teeth. 'I really like to champion British design. I love mixing a refined and feminine sensibility with unexpected dashes of "hard-arsed" stuff. My current obsession is skulls. I think they're macabre but beautiful.' Especially when studded with Swarovski crystals...

The basement kitchen/snug (see front cover) is the heart of the home to where everyone gravitates. The simple, white and stainless-steel galley kitchen at one end gives way to a relaxed area with a chesterfield and comfy chairs. 'I wanted definite compartmentalisation,' says Jo, 'a family space to flop down in and have a cup of tea, so that the kitchen doesn't monopolise the room.' Bright-red, feathery pampas grass plumes sit alongside objets and votive candles on the mantelpiece, while oblique shelves display a treasure-trove of

books. 'It's important to have your books out – they're like jewels,' says Jo.

Hallway walls are festooned with an impressive collection of modern art and photographs. (Most of the pictures are by Nico's father, Coldplay bassist Guy Berryman, who's a keen photographer.) A tiny room off the ground-floor landing contains a mini library – painted in very bold Farrow & Ball Rectory Red. 'I think small spaces can take loud colours.'

So, given her penchant for variety, does Jo have plans for more changes? 'I'm going to extend into the attic space at some point, and perhaps create a sun roof. Right now, though, the priority is getting a runner on the stairs. I like the distressed look, but it's so noisy without one. I'm thinking of a real departure and going for pillar-box red...' For more information about Jo Berryman's events styling consultancy, check out matrushka.co.uk. >



LOWER-GROUND FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

Jo didn't want a state-of-the-art modular kitchen. 'I fancied a simple, stainless-steel galley – sort of French with a practical feel,' she says. The kitchen units were custom made by RP Adams Interiors, but Wentworth Kitchens can create this look. Find a Belfast sink at Armitage Shanks. The 'Boucherie' sign came from Puces de Vanves market in Paris. Red chairs from The Conran Shop sit alongside a Verner Panton classic and salvaged cinema seats from Elemental. Find a similar table at lassco.co.uk and a butcher's block unit at frenchfinds.co.uk





‘Yesteryear inspires me – anything that’s beautifully designed’

Jo’s bedroom has a feminine, vintage feel. ‘I’m not a marabou and cut-glass crystal type, but I’m girlie in other ways,’ she says. The bed and upholstered headboard are from Savoir Beds, and the quilt is from Erica Tanov. The side tables are from Century. The lamps are from Cristobal. Try ebay.com for this John Lennon poster, or find similar typographic prints at allposters.co.uk.

'My aim has been
to create a sense of
contemporary chic,
but marry it with my
relaxed lifestyle'

The bold-red fridge is by Smeg; buy online at smeguk.com. For a similar concrete floor, contact White & Reid. Buy blackboard paint from Craig & Rose. >

*** Home truths**

Your favourite retail therapy haunts are... Waterstone's for children's books, Gail's Bakery in Hampstead for delicious English muffins, and gorgeous local clothing boutique Cochinechine.

Do you have a signature dish? Chicken roasted in a garlic, prosciutto, lemon-and-thyme butter – thanks Jamie!

Tell us a secret... I have a burning desire to join the circus; I'm currently trying to master the flying trapeze.

What's your top credit-crunch design tip? Scour junk shops for old teapots – they're perfect for displaying floral bouquets.

What music makes you hit the dance floor? Anything produced by Phil Spector.

Do you have a favourite word? Quixotic. We all need a bit of unfeasible romance in our lives.



The photograph of the nudes, which sits on top of the mantelpiece, is by Helmut Newton. Jo customised a vintage cabinet with blackboard paint; Fabulous & French sells pieces like this. The walls are painted in Card Room Green by Farrow & Ball. For stockist details, see page 159

ONLINE EXTRA

Share your shopping knowledge and pick the brains of fellow Livingetc readers in the Where Can I Find? section at livingetc.com/forums.

A dressing room with a freestanding bath extends out from the bedroom. The shelves showcasing Jo's shoes are custom-made; contact myhammer.co.uk to find a carpenter who can build similar. The bath is by The Albion Bath Co. Find a painted screen at Sweetpea and Willow. The chairs are from George Smith. For a similar antique coffee table, try soane.co.uk. Find Marni's Elementi rug at The Rug Company. >



*** The property**

TYPE Late-Victorian four-storey house.
SPACE Basement with kitchen and snug area, ground floor with open-plan living room/office space, loo and small library room, a bed/bath/dressing room suite on the first floor, and two bedrooms and a bathroom on the top floor.
Small courtyard garden.
LOCATION North London.





BOOK CLUB

Jo has made an interesting feature out of her book cabinet. Instead of just showing the spines of books, she had bespoke shelving made so she can put the covers on display. This clever storage solution doubles up as a piece of wall art. Try bookcaseshelves.co.uk for a range of different display shelving options.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
Kartell Lizz chair, £131, nest.co.uk.
Kulla table lamp, £39.05, Ikea.
Batik rug, £88, WoyenGround.

IDEAS TO STEAL
from Jo's house



OVER THE TOP

Displaying trinkets and ornaments in a glass cloche creates a personal, eye-catching statement. It's also a dust-free way to show off your treasures. To create this look in your home, try grouping together similar-shaped objects. Head to Hen & Hammock for a bell-shaped glass cloche.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE
Rose Blue eiderdown, £110, Cath Kidston.
Sunburst mirror, £220.21, Graham & Green.
Como sofa, £2,914, BoConcept.

