

COME ON IN...



THE HOME

A three-bedroom extended Victorian end-of-terrace in Bristol, bought in November 2012.

WHO LIVES HERE?

Elke Dittrich and Izaak Hudson, husband and wife architects, partners in DHVA of Bristol, and their son, Jakob, aged 11.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT LIVING HERE?

'It's just steps away from the Gloucester Road, one of the best independent high streets in Britain. It is also within walking distance of the city and located within a lovely neighbourhood.'

ANY BARGAIN FINDS?

'Our bargain finds include our Victorian mirror from a junk shop, buying our door knocker from eBay and upgrading our antique German drawers in the bedroom using Edwardian handles, also from eBay.'

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP TIPS?

'Use expensive paints such as Farrow & Ball for key statement walls and use more affordable brands for the other walls.'

WHERE DO YOU SHOP?

'John Lewis, Habitat and Ikea for furniture, Clarissa Hulse and Oria Kieley for decorative items, Mandarin Stone for floor tiles and Farrow & Ball and Dulux for paint.'



GROUND FLOOR

For stockists see page 120



Elke stripped the painted banisters to match the stripped Victorian pine doors then laid a striped runner on the stairs

The couple think the fireplace, which now houses a Morso stove, is Victorian. The old pine floorboards were lifted and then re-used upstairs, then the couple laid engineered oak flooring throughout the ground floor. The wallpaper is the Cow Parsley design from Sanderson

She restored an interior wall, which the previous owners had removed, to separate the living room at the front from this new kitchen area and created a shower room and small utility area under the stairs. By reconfiguring the rooms upstairs she has made a third bedroom and bathroom out of a former large front bedroom. 'Every room has been changed,' says Elke, who came to the UK from Thuringia 18 years ago after studying architecture at Bauhaus University, Weimar.

They bought the house in November 2012 and when the builders moved in to partly gut it and re-wire, re-plaster and re-plumb, the family stayed with friends. They moved into it in January 2013 while the builders were still there – and who remained working there for another four months. The couple then did the remaining work themselves.

'When we moved in it still looked like a building site and everything was rather basic,' says Elke. 'We had a boiler and the bathroom just about functioned. We had to cook in the living room at the front, as the back of the house was open to the elements. That was where the sink was so when Izaak washed the dishes he had to wear a heavy jacket to keep off the

Good idea!

The couple are keen on recycling so they kept the best of the old Victorian pine floorboards from downstairs, then re-laid them in the bedrooms.



The white leather sofa is from Ikea and the tall German timber cabinet is a family piece dating back to 1850. The glass table was bought at Cargo and the bespoke white linen curtains are from Tuiss



We used our skills to turn around a neglected property

Elke and Izaak turned a small run-down terraced house into a fresh and bright new home



When Elke and her husband Izaak bought a two-bedroom Victorian end-of-terrace house in central Bristol it was, she says, 'somewhat tired and neglected'. They chose it for its west-facing garden, the period features and because it was in the best catchment area for secondary schools. They also knew, as architects, how it could be remodelled and extended to make it into a more spacious and airy three-bedroom house.

Now the original occupants would barely recognise it. Originally the small kitchen had extended into the back garden. Now Elke has designed and had built a single-storey infill extension so the large open-plan kitchen with dining and living areas takes up all the rear of the house.



Good idea!

In a simply decorated room, bed linen with a subtle pattern will lift the space. Elke has added a set of three prints for extra interest.



◆ The cast-iron fireplace is Victorian and the focal point of the room. Izaak built the cupboard next to it out of the old unwanted doors. The bed is from Ikea and the bedspread is Snowdrops by Scion. The walls above the bed and the fireplace are painted in Farrow & Ball's Cornforth White

'I love my house now. When we bought it, it didn't look too appealing but now it's bright, welcoming and comfortable.'

entrance, staircase, landing and downstairs shower room in monochrome colours so there are white walls, black and white pictures and a grey, black and beige striped carpet runner. For an extra stylish touch Elke painted the original Victorian wallpaper below the dado rail in Farrow & Ball's Lamp Room Grey and stripped the stair balusters to match the stripped Victorian doors downstairs.

As for their bedroom and the guest bedroom/office, Elke chose a neutral colour scheme. 'We fitted a new double-glazed sash window in our bedroom too,' she adds. 'And the black Victorian fireplace creates a focal point.'

Jakob's bedroom has a bright and



cheerful wallpaper – St Ives by Sanderson, as the family are all fond of Cornwall, and Izaak made his bunk bed and shelving out of natural timber.

Elke wanted her bathroom to look zingy and fresh so chose lime green Marmoleum flooring which contrasts with the white fittings and tiles. The basin is Vero from Duravit, the WC is Concept by Ideal Standard, the bath tub is by Kaldewei and the shower tray by Duravit. All the taps are by Grohe.

'I love my house now. When we first bought it, it didn't look too appealing but now it's bright, welcoming and comfortable,' says Elke.

◆ The upstairs bathroom was made by splitting the big front bedroom in half. A long run of mirrored cabinets from Ikea make the room look much bigger. The bath is by Kaldewei, the basin a Duravit Vero, the shower door April and the tray Duravit, while the WC is from Ideal Standard. The fittings are by Grohe. Elke laid chartreuse Marmoleum flooring and the wall tiles are from Topps Tiles

◆ Jakob's bedroom was created from the other half of the divided front bedroom. The wallpaper is Sanderson's St Ives and Izaak made the bunk bed, while Samuel Construction made the shelving. Old Victorian floorboards from downstairs have been laid here then sanded and oiled



5 IDEAS TO STEAL



SHINE A LIGHT

Go for combination lighting solution with floor lamps and ceiling lights with a retro-style to illuminate your meals.

Lamp, £99, Made



HOUSE TO HOME

Choose a quirky print to highlight a small section of wall which will add character to an otherwise plain fireplace.

Mini Moderns wallpaper, £45 per roll, WallpaperDirect



CLEAR AS DAY

Opt for a glass coffee table which keeps the room open and is also handy for surface space.

Glass table, £195, Habitat

GREEN WITH ENVY

To spice up a plain bathroom, try something different. Inject colour into the flooring and keep tiles and accessories minimal.

Vinyl, £22.99 per m², Carpetright

HIDDEN SECRET

Floating shelves are a great way to create storage space without making the room seem any smaller.

Floating shelf, from £8, Ikea

◀ glazing in the open-plan kitchen plus Velux roof lights above the dining table, the staircase and in the upstairs bathroom.

Elke designed the spacious kitchen and then she and Izaak fitted the Ikea Abstract cabinetry and granite worktops themselves. All the kitchen appliances are by Bosch. Now the family can dine while looking out over the contemporary garden, again all designed and planted by themselves.

'We kept the style traditional in the living room, although we did upgrade the original windows with timber secondary glazing,' says Elke. 'But the kitchen-diner feels very

different as it is bright, airy and modern. The colour scheme throughout the house is neutral with seaside tints here and there. For instance, I chose an aqua-coloured Cow Parsley wallpaper from Sanderson for the living room to complement the aqua tiles of the fireplace surround. Then we realised we had to remove the tiles to make room for the Morso wood-burner. But we continued the aqua theme with Clarissa Hulse cushions, the blue woollen blanket by the Danish company Klippan and the pictures on the wall.'

By contrast Elke decorated the hallway,



The dining area was built on the former courtyard by Samuel Construction of Bristol who also fitted the huge Velfac glazing. The snug is where the old kitchen once stood. Having built on an extension the couple wanted to pull the rooms of the ground floor together so had them all laid with new engineered oak

'We had to cook in the living room at the front, as the back of the house was open to the elements. From time to time foxes would come to peep in at us.'

Good idea!

To make the large shelf in the kitchen the couple cut a piece of oak worktop in half and fixed it with resin anchors onto the wall.

★ The white high-gloss Abstrakt units from Ikea were fitted by Elke and Izaak along with the Kashmir White granite worktops from Avon Marble. The wooden bar stools are from John Lewis and the fire-resistant glass splashback has been spray-painted in Farrow & Ball's Green Ground



The sofa is from Ikea and the cushions from Clarissa Hulse and Orla Kiely. A picture of Truro Cathedral hangs above as Izaak, a conservation architect, has worked on Truro, Salisbury and Cardiff Cathedrals. Samuel Construction made the book shelves



Good idea!

Elke chose a stylish glass-topped table to enhance the airy feeling of this already light, bright space.



The dining table is from Habitat and the couple bought light green Umbra dining chairs second-hand from a Notting Hill antique shop. The metal lamp was found at Made while the sofa is from Ikea

◁ snow. And from time to time foxes would come to peep in at us.'

The tricky part was sorting out the drainage when they moved the bathroom from the back of the house to the front as the pipes had to be re-routed through the floor. Perhaps the worst moment was when a huge hole suddenly appeared in the back garden as the builders were digging the foundations. 'It was filled with sludge caused by the November storms,' says Elke. 'Two of the builder's nephews who are in the Royal Marines came to investigate and they kept digging away until they could find solid earth. Then the engineers had to deal with it in three stages, starting by filling it with hardcore.' Luckily the family did not need planning permission as the extension – some three metres by two – fell within permitted development.

'We kept what original features there were,' says Elke. 'We still have the corning, ceiling roses, fireplaces and staircase. However we have laid new engineered oak flooring throughout the ground floor and moved the best of the old floorboards upstairs, then sanded and oiled them. Izaak also made our bedroom cupboard out of some unwanted doors.'

The house is also much lighter than it used to be as there is full-height Velfac ▷