

# LATE BLOOMER

**SITTING ROOM/  
DINING AREA**

Wooden accents and a pale-green palette create a visual link to the garden and studio/guest house.

Walls painted in Marram matt emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5 litres, Fired Earth. Dining table and chairs, £1,000, Bristol Guild. Oil painting by Roger Dixon, £3,500



As Miranda and Anthony Story's family grew, so did their home...





Miranda and Anthony Story have lived happily in their Victorian terraced house in Bristol for many years – despite it being only 15 feet wide. ‘When we bought the place it was in very good condition and has always had a lovely atmosphere,’ says Miranda.

However after 10 years, and now with two children – Jessie, 13, and Freya, 10 – it was clear the couple needed more space. ‘There was a dated polycarbonate lean-to at the back of the house, which we demolished to make room for a three-storey extension,’ explains Miranda. ‘Now we have an open-plan sitting room and kitchen-diner, four bedrooms, a much larger family bathroom with underfloor heating and just lots of lovely space.’ Additional construction work included building a two-storey guest house with an art studio at the foot of the garden.

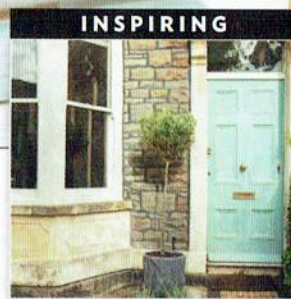
**MAXIMISING SPACE**

Thanks to Miranda’s meticulous project-managing, the renovation went without a hitch. ‘Mind you, we had to take our neighbours’ fences down to get the sliding doors in, which needed eight men to lift,’ she says. ‘We stayed here throughout, with just tarpaulin between us and the building site, but being here every day overseeing everything meant we were able to achieve a high-end finish with good attention to detail.’

All the construction work was finished just in time for Christmas 2012. ‘At that stage we hadn’t yet replaced the kitchen as it was still serviceable, but looking back, I can’t believe I managed to cook for so many people on such a small worktop,’ says Miranda. Today the kitchen boasts significantly more storage and work space, courtesy of new cabinetry sourced from a local showroom.

For the decor, soothing aquamarine shades feature on walls and accessories throughout the house. And Miranda, who enjoys upcycling furniture as it can take her a long time to find the ‘perfect’ piece, has painted items such as mirrors and headboards in complementing hues.

‘I wish we could have extended years ago,’ says Miranda. ‘Having all this extra space has transformed our lives.’



**HOME TRUTHS**

**THE PROPERTY**

A terraced house, built in 1875

**LOCATION** Bristol

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room/kitchen-diner, study, cloakroom, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom. Separate studio/guesthouse in the garden

**PURCHASED** 2003

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY** ‘We lived in a three-bedroom house in London, which we now rent out,’ says Miranda.

**INSPIRATION** ‘I’m drawn to colours and forms that refer to the natural world, and chose peaceful tones for the walls as they create a calm atmosphere and give the paintings space to breathe’

**KITCHEN**  
Miranda spotted the perfect pendant lights while on a trip to Venice. Handmade cabinetry with bespoke full-stave European oak worktop, £15,000, Morley Grove Kitchens. Try the CDA stone inset sink in Ebony Black, £165, Appliance Planet

**MASTER BEDROOM**  
Watery shades create a restful ambience. Aqua quilt, £149; cushions, £27.50 each, all Chandni Chowk. Green Blue estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, is a comparable paint shade to the headboard and bedside drawers. Sea Scope oil painting, £1,500, Huw Richards Evans

**JESSIE’S BEDROOM**  
The original loft was converted into this cosy teenager’s space. Chinoise Blue duvet cover and pillowcase, £70, PIP Studio

**BATHROOM**  
Floor-to-ceiling, large-format marble tiles lend an elegant air. Orla Kiely Abacus Flower towels in Duck Egg, from £3.50, John Lewis



**STUDIO**  
‘I enjoy painting and sculpture,’ says Miranda. Moroccan Bazaar sells colourful rugs, from £216

