

Inspired by Georgian style, Patricia and Simon Gorrington painstakingly restored their townhouse

Capital gain

Patricia and Simon Gorrington spent two years hunting for the perfect house. 'We wanted a period property with at least three bedrooms that we could add to,' says Patricia. 'And we had to be able to live in it straight away because of our busy jobs in banking.' The Georgian house they found was ideal, although the decor was not to their taste. 'But we loved the high ceilings and sash windows,' says Patricia. 'It had so much potential.'

Starting on the lower-ground floor, the couple set about lightening and opening up the gloomy kitchen and dining room by widening the doorway through to the kitchen and using glass within the framework. Patricia then found a cabinetmaker to reproduce ▶



PARTICULARS

Location

North London

Age

1829

Building

Georgian townhouse

Rooms

Double drawing room, dining room, kitchen, TV room, garden room, study, 5 bedrooms (2 en suite), 3 bathrooms

Moved in

1998



1 & 2 Dyelma Brown at St John's Wood Interiors (020 7586 5807) made the drawing room curtains. Dovecot Studios (0131 347 5547) created the iris tapestry, which is based on a painting



3 The garden room's ripple sycamore and oak chairs covered in Natural and Nutmeg linen came from Linley (020 7730 7300), and the marble for the walls from Pisani (020 8568 5001)




kitchen units she had seen in a magazine. 'When we finished, we realised we had to do the whole house,' says Patricia. 'We were thrilled with the difference the changes made.'

The house was replastered and rewired, skirting and cornicing was replaced using original designs, and the walls were painted with colours from Farrow & Ball's National Trust range in keeping with the house's Georgian origins. While the work was going

on, the couple lived in a first-floor flat they had bought in the neighbouring house. 'We would have gone mad otherwise, as the builders were there for a year,' says Patricia.

Eight months after the builders had finished the work and with their daughter Cerys, now 18 months, about to be born, the couple decided to add a garden room. 'It was important to have more space next to the kitchen for children,' explains Patricia. 'The area had

been a seating area in the garden that we never used, so we didn't have to sacrifice any space.' The couple also knocked through to the flat next door to create more rooms.

Patricia and Simon don't regret taking on such a big project, and would do it again. 'The pleasure achieved from creating your perfect environment is addictive,' says Patricia. 

WORDS & PHOTOS Joanna Bailey

'We were thrilled with the difference the changes made'



1 The unusual light in the dining room was bought at Fritz Fryer Antique Lighting (01989 567416), while the flooring is Quartisan French oak from The Natural Wood Floor Company (020 8871 9771)

2 Using bird's-eye maple with cherry inlay, Bill Davies of Penny's Mill (01373 836210) built the units in the kitchen

3 The sanitaryware came from CP Hart (020 7586 9856)

4 In the master bedroom, the walls are in Parchment by Zoffany (08708 300350). The fireplace came from Chesney's (020 7627 1410) and the bed from Simon Horn (020 7731 1279)

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25 GOOD IDEAS

The Gorrings' dining table boasts beautiful dinnerware. Churchill China (0800 085 3581) offers a similarly elegant range, The Royal Palaces, featuring details from royal heritage sites. Prices range from £2.50 for a tea saucer to £141 for a 30-piece dinner set.



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