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ENJOYING HIGHGATE'S
VILLAGE VIBE

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21ST CENTURY KITCHEN
TECH ON TRIAL

ECLECTIC DREAM
A VICTORIAN HOME WITH
MID-CENTURY ATTITUDE

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Jo Berryman

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Describing her home as “a classic late Victorian red-brick”, Jo Berryman understands she’s a lucky lady to live in a five bed abode that’s so quintessentially London – and in the middle of Hampstead village at that. Sharing the space with her husband, her two daughters, and her Dachshund-cross (brilliantly named Dolly after the country singer), the house, and its verdant surrounds, make for the perfect family setting: “There’s a lifestyle here that I love,” she enthuses. “There’s a wonderful culture that really supports being a mum with kids and dogs and all that chaos.”

But undeniably, there is an edgier side to Jo’s creative outlook that doesn’t entirely fit in with Hampstead’s postcard quaintness. She tells me: “There are moments when I think, ‘oh my god, Hampstead is almost too cutesy,’ and I crave urban decay and I want to be living in Dalston, you know, but the Heath is just so beautiful. It’s a privilege to live in such a pretty area.” That her period property has been awarded some seriously smart architectural add-ons balances out the cute. For these, Jo worked with friend and go-to collaborator for clients’ projects architect Takero Shimazaki, extending the property both up and down. “I chose him,” Jo reveals, “because we’d done a few jobs together and I really like the way he treats smaller spaces. He’s tuned into that. It’s less about gargantuan sweeping statements and more about the way he finds little pockets to maximise the space.” The results are a spectacular loft insertion that Jo describes as “like a tree house extension”, with its

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Opposite: Modern art and bright pops of colour give Jo's Victorian red-brick a contemporary edge

From top: The cosy loft extension with its far-reaching views of the Capital; a double-height dining space opens up the ground floor to maximise on light and space; Jo's walled courtyard is an extension of the living room with its weathered concrete Chesterfield and aged mirrored window frame



viewing platform that offers far-reaching sights of the Capital; and a multifunctional garden room, to be lived in year-round as playroom, yoga studio, or simply a space to sit with a cup of tea and contemplate the glorious sunshine flooding through the windows.

The house is filled with fascinating furniture, including the coolest of mid-century finds. It's plush and luxe, too, mixing the understated glamour of Deco-inspired metallics ("They're like house jewels!") with a cosy '70s suburban feel – playful and eclectic in equal measure. Outside in the walled garden sits an unapologetically eccentric grey Chesterfield sofa made extraordinarily from fibreglass and concrete, which Jo tells me is looking particularly good at the moment, explaining that "it tarnishes beautifully the longer you leave it out". A huge, ornate mirrored window frame creates the illusion of light and space in this contained little courtyard. "It's another thing that you can just leave out and it rusts and it just gets better with age. The more ►

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moss-covered it is, the more I love it. I see beauty in the idea of just letting something mature in its own right." This, I discover, is quite a theme for the designer, whose aim is to deliver sumptuous, but properly lived-in and comfortable spaces. "Having these pieces brings so much soul into the home" she proudly states. "A phrase I keep harping on about is this idea of creating 'a museum of you'." It's so true, it's what we all do, and I guess I'm a facilitator for a lot of people, helping them kind of curate the story of their own lives, whether it's through photographs, or heirlooms, or beautiful bits of furniture, fabrics, colours, you kind of weave it into the tapestry."

It's clear Jo's passion for interior design is so much more than a means to make a living. Her own home proves it's her true calling. Having the eye for it is everything, as is a fair whack of confidence to pull off such a quirky-cool look on a grand scale. But Jo exudes self-assuredness. This is a woman who seems so happy in her own skin – and naturally, within her four walls. (joberryman.com)

Clockwise from top left: Mid-century modern finds give the home character and a lived-in feel; original period features sit side by side with contemporary furnishings; Jo's master bedroom is plush and comfy in equal measure; the commodious bathroom is a lesson in modern glamour



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GET THE LOOK

COVET JO'S STYLE

Mid-century cool, soft feminine flourishes, rich metallics and laid-back leathers...
Jo Berryman's interiors style is nothing if not eclectic



Show your ceiling some love with some contemporary glitz overhead
Lahti chandelier
From £3,600 (camerondesignhouse.com)



Get the mid-century modern look with stylish storage
Antibes chest
£2,450 (uk.jonathanadler.com)



Upholstered in Designers Guild teal cotton velvet, this is the height of plush
Tux chair
£2,675 (luxdeco.com)



A classic tan leather Chesterfield only gets better with age
Shoreditch Vintage Chesterfield Sofa
£2,175 (alexanderandpearl.co.uk)



A playful slice of '70s suburbia comes in the shape of this statement mirror
Starburst
£235 (joannawood.co.uk)



Cosy and quirky, this rust red cushion is as homely as it gets
22" Mongolian Tibet Lamb fur cushion
£60.28 (etsy.com)