

# atHome

SCOTLAND on SUNDAY

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**INSIDE**  
56 PAGES OF  
PROPERTIES,  
INTERIORS  
AND IDEAS

## GLAMOUR GURU

Interior designer  
Joanna Berryman  
rips up the rule book



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*At home with... Joanna Berryman*

Words **Tessa Williams** Photographs **Graham Jepson**



With classic original features, Joanna Berryman's Hampstead house was ready for some rock and roll flourishes



# ROCK & HOMELY PLACE



Clockwise from main: Joanna in her kitchen; open shelving for storage and display; a colourful mannequin; a luxurious bathroom; tactile accessories; sociable circular seating







**A**T just 33 years old, Joanna Berryman has already had more adventures than most people rack up in a lifetime.

The single mother of four-year-old Nico was married for three years to the bass player of Coldplay, Guy Berryman, who originally hails from Kirkcaldy in Fife. They met while they were both at boarding school in England and were sweethearts from an early age before marrying at Claridges in London. Although no longer together, they remain in close contact for their daughter.

Joanna experienced the rise of the band first hand and admits living with a rock star is certainly not dull. She travelled widely on tour with the band, including Japan, China and the Far East, as well as living for three months in the chic W Hotel in New York's Times Square. "It was wonderful and kind of liberating living in a hotel for that length of time," she says. "We used to go out to all these wonderful eateries and discovered so many interesting places together - I love New York. The band were producing an album at the time and it was really exciting to be around all the buzz of New York," she adds.

Half Filipino and half English, Joanna is strikingly beautiful and looks rather like a young Bianca Jagger. She has also had a fascinating career history to date, including working as a fashion stylist for glossy magazines and a press office assistant for hip lingerie brand, Agent Provocateur. At one time she also owned her own boutique, Jezebel, on London's Marylebone High Street, but these days has turned her attention to interiors with the launch of her interiors company, Matrushka.

A four-storey, four-bedroom townhouse, just a stone's throw from Hampstead Heath, Joanna's home has the hallmarks of glamour and style you would expect from a rock chick and interiors guru. Farrow & Ball paint, unusual artworks, and photographs by Helmut Newton and Terry Richardson all add up to a very stylish ♦♦



## At home with... Joanna Berryman

home.

"I always loved Hampstead and when I finished studying at Middlesex I wanted to live somewhere close to the park. Guy and I lived in a similar house close to this one, but after we split up I bought this house because I adored the gorgeous Victorian features it has. Everywhere has marble fireplaces and original cornicing," she says.

When Joanna moved in she made a number of changes. "At first it started off as purely cosmetic, but soon morphed into major works. I put in a glass extension to the rear and knocked walls through on the first floor to create a master suite, gave the bathrooms and kitchen an overhaul, as well as completely redecorating throughout." The house originally had four double bedrooms, but Joanna converted one into a luxurious dressing room.

The minute you enter the property, you can tell it is the home of someone who loves art and music. There is a great mix of styles, from the iconic Helmut Newton photographs to the perspex shelves displaying stylish book covers. "I always think books are too beautiful just to see their spine," Joanna says.

Joanna has a few favourite pieces dotted around. "I love the circular sofa, which I got from Alfies Antique Market, because it encourages people to be more sociable by sitting in a circle," she says.

Joanna spent her early childhood in Hong Kong. "I remember it quite well. We lived in a high-rise apartment in Hong Kong, where high-rise living was the norm. I used to dream about living in a picture-book cottage with an upstairs. Both my parents had very distinctive tastes. My father, who is a retired engineer, used to build and make things for me out of wood; he appreciated craftsmanship and linearity. My mother embraced her South East Asian roots and our home was filled with batiks, fabrics and cane furniture picked up from travels in Asia," she says. "I moved to go to boarding school in England when I was 11," she adds.

Joanna also has a small cottage in Gloucestershire and through time spent there she has met with local craftsmen and has started selling their wooden handcrafted furniture through her company. "The problem with so much of today's furniture is that it is mass produced.



### My favourite things

What is your favourite perfume?

I wear Kiehl's Musk every day and Golconda by JAR for special occasions.

Who is your favourite fashion designer?

Vivienne Westwood.

Who is your favourite artist?

I have two current faves: Alice Instone, who I recently sat for, and Grace O'Connor.

What are you currently listening to?



I'm having a Bowie moment.

What was the last film you saw and loved?

I Am Love by Luca Guadagnino.

What is your favourite holiday destination?

Jaipur, in India.

What was the last book you read and loved?

The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion

I'm not saying that I hate Ikea, they have some wonderful designers, but the thing is to have good quality products that are made in the UK and by hand - there are so many good craftsmen here," she says.

Joanna has got many of her furnishings from London salvage and reclamation yards such as Retrouvius and Trainspotters. "I also love places like Alfies in Marylebone or Amy Perry in Tetbury, Gloucestershire," she says.

"Ebay is another great place to find things and flea markets - Portes de Vanves is my favourite in Paris, while The Conran Shop and Twenty-twentyone are good for clean, modern design," she adds.

"If I didn't live in London, I would love to live in Paris for the sheer glamour of it and the importance of style. I do love London though, especially for Hampstead Heath, the Tate Modern and the quirky boutiques and eateries you get

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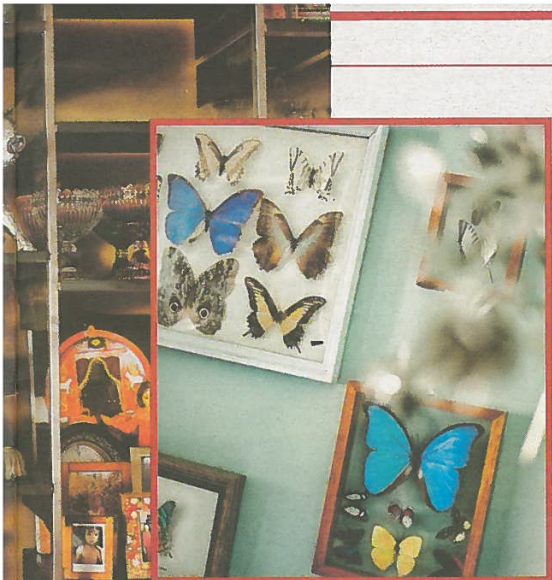
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Clockwise from main: shelves for Joanna's collections; butterfly pictures; Joanna's dressing room; a bathroom; quirky artwork on a bedroom wall; bold floral patterns; an eye-catching mirror over a fireplace



'I love this sort of rough and luxe juxtaposition, I feel it lends itself to living fully within a space'



here," she says, Joanna fell into design, having studied film and media at university. "From doing up my shop

Jezebel in Marylebone, I felt there was a real niche for non-identikit design, I have never been a big fan of the Kelly Hoppen look - various shades of taupe, nor militant symmetry. I believe in bold, brave design and layering. I remember customers would love the way we created pockets of homely detail, within quite an industrial space. I love this sort of rough and luxe juxtaposition, I feel it lends itself to living fully within a space," she explains.

Joanna chose the name Matrushka because she has always loved Russian matryoshka dolls. "Matrushka is derived from that name, for me it suggests the birth and perpetuation of ideas," she says.

"At the moment, I am mainly working for private clients, but would love to work on a boutique hotel. I'm also designing a range of occasional tables and storage units, all made from sustainable wood sourced from Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire. The range is quite decorative, has a playful, equine feel and is beautifully crafted."

No doubt the results will be just as stylish as their designer. \*

[www.matrushka.co.uk](http://www.matrushka.co.uk)



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