

House of the month

Edgy British design and feminine glamour may seem unlikely partners but, in Jo Berryman's lovingly styled home, they're perfectly matched

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Jo's living room works because she's chosen gorgeous pieces, but given each one space to breathe. I feel your home is a museum of you, she says. The Vivienm Westwood Union Jack wall-hung VW Flrug is available from The Rug Company. The Seventies table and curved sofas we discovered at Alfies Antique Market. The mirrored dresser is from the Chinesi department at Selfridges. The sculptural blue vase is from Magne F. Find similar

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'I love materials that change as they age – a home should be a breathable, organic space'

crave momentum,' says former fashion stylist Jo Berryman. 'I need to be changing, constantly moving things on, having something interesting to aim for.' Jo's gorgeous Hampstead home reflects her boundless curiosity – not to mention a well-honed magpie eye. There are plenty of lovingly selected pieces, each with a story to tell, contained and displayed in little pockets of beauty. What, on paper, sounds a bit Old Curiosity Shop, in reality hangs together with calmness, confidence and ease.

Jo, who runs an events styling consultancy (and is also a yoga teacher and single mum to daughter Nico, two), bought the four-floor property in 2007. 'I fell in love with its bare bones, as well as the location – it's handy for Hampstead Heath,' she says. 'I love that the doors are crooked and the floorboards creak – I think that sort of thing gives

But Jo wanted to stamp her own style on the house, too. So the first job of the yearlong project was to sort out the house's structure. 'I decided to sacrifice a bedroom and knock through to monopolise the whole first floor for myself. Extremely indulgent, I know, but I love "luxe" living and wanted space for my clothes and things.' Indeed, Jo's huge bedroom – with its walk-through wardrobe, freestanding bathtub and bespoke display area dedicated to her shoe collection – is a grown-up girl's dream.

Decadent space achieved, Jo repainted throughout in various shades of white to keep the house fresh and modern. 'I wanted a clean backdrop so I could dot all my stuff around and show it at its best,' she says. 'My thinking all the time has been to create a sense of contemporary chic, but to marry it with my easy-going, relaxed lifestyle.'

The sitting room showcases some dramatic pieces, such as the huge Vivienne



Westwood Union Jack rug hung as art, and a Damien Hirst skull painting – complete with glittering teeth. I really like to champion British design. I love mixing a refined and feminine sensibility with unexpected dashes of "hard-arsed" stuff. My current obsession is skulls. I think they're macabre but beautiful.' Especially when studded with Swarovski crystals...

The basement kitchen/snug (see front cover) is the heart of the home to where everyone gravitates. The simple, white and stainless-steel galley kitchen at one end gives way to a relaxed area with a chesterfield and comfy chairs. 'I wanted definite compartmentalisation,' says Jo, 'a family space to flop down in and have a cup of tea, so that the kitchen doesn't monopolise the room.' Bright-red, feathery pampas grass plumes sit alongside objets and votive candles on the mantelpiece, while oblique shelves display a treasure-trove of

books. 'It's important to have your books out – they're like jewels,' says Jo.

Hallway walls are festooned with an impressive collection of modern art and photographs. (Most of the pictures are by Nico's father, Coldplay bassist Guy Berryman, who's a keen photographer.) A tiny room off the ground-floor landing contains a mini library – painted in very bold Farrow & Ball Rectory Red. 'I think small spaces can take loud colours.'

So, given her penchant for variety, does Jo have plans for more changes? 'I'm going to extend into the attic space at some point, and perhaps create a sun roof. Right now, though, the priority is getting a runner on the stairs. I like the distressed look, but it's so noisy without one. I'm thinking of a real departure and going for pillar-box red...'

For more information about Jo Berryman's events styling consultancy, check out matrushka.co.uk. >

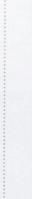
















BOOK CLUB

Instead of just showing the spines of books, she had bespoke shelving made so she can put the covers on display. This clever storage solution doubles up as a piece of wall art. Try bookcaseshelving.co.uk for a range of different display shelving options.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Kartell Lizz chair, £131, nest.co.uk. Kulla table lamp, £39.05, lkea. Batik rug, £88, WovenGround.

from Jo's house



OVER THE TOP

It's also a dust-free way to show off your treasures. To create this look in your home, try grouping together similar-shaped objects. Head to Hen & Hammock for a



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