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25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

OCTOBER
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HOW TO BRING THE FEEL-GOOD
FACTOR TO EVERY ROOM

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Real home inspiration

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Edwardian
terrace

Mansion
flat

Converted
cider mill

Period
cottage

Style GUIDE

Bringing an interior designer on board helped the owner of this house discover his style – and fall in love with his home again

WORDS JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD KIELY



DINING ROOM

'A slimmer table profile and curved wood chairs make the room feel more spacious,' says owner Sam.

Bespoke table, Zophia Scarlett Interiors. CH24
Wishbone chairs, Heal's. Caspian lamp, Neptune.
Balabac sideboard, Oka. Artwork, Sweetpea & Willow

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

1980s detached house

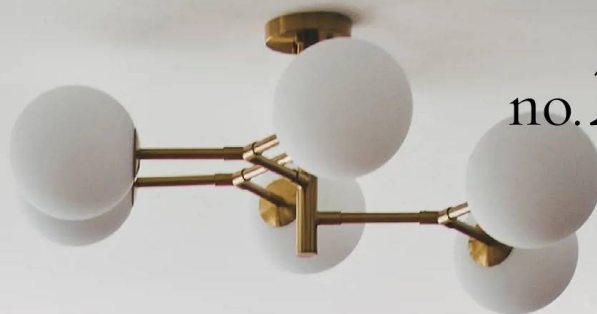
ROOMS Kitchen-diner, dining room, sitting room, office, utility, cloakroom, boot room, five bedrooms, two bathrooms

LOCATION Berkshire

SITTING ROOM

'I grew to really like the quirky handmade footstool and everyone comments on it,' says Sam. Colours are picked out in the rug.

Wavy ottoman in Burnt Sugar velvet, House Nine. Constellation 900 ceiling light, Zophia Scarlett Interiors. Da Vinci rug, Fishpools



Sam Ouazzani had lived in his 1980s house for 11 years with his daughter, Liliya, 10, and was ready to update the decor. After admiring his sister's house transformation, Sam became aware of the benefits of using an interior designer. 'My sister's home looked smart and stylish, and I really liked the details in lighting, art and mirrors,' he recalls. 'Quickly, it became evident that if I wanted to achieve the same level of finish in my own home, I needed to use Zophia Scarlett, too.'

Sam didn't have a clear plan but no longer wanted bland magnolia walls and uncoordinated furniture. He was also fed up with messy, overfilled rooms and met with Zophia to discuss his goals. 'Rooms felt awkward but I didn't really know why. I just wanted to get rid of everything and start

again,' he says. 'I was keen to live in a place that looked good and felt relaxed, and I needed Zophia's vision to guide me.'

Space planning is a core feature of Zophia's design work and she began by improving the flow. Bulky furniture and oversized lighting were removed, she changed layouts and designed bespoke joinery. 'I also moved Sam's bedroom office to one of the reception rooms and, with a toilet already in the utility, turned the hallway cloakroom into a practical boot room,' says Zophia. 'I believe no matter the finish, if the layouts are right, the house will be a success.'

A large top landing became a seating area for Liliya, which she now uses every day, while smaller bedside tables in Sam's bedroom gave easier access to the en suite. 'Zophia saw things I couldn't see,' says Sam. 'I couldn't understand



KITCHEN

'It's the same cupboards but updated in olive green,' says Sam. 'I was a little nervous about the big change but it looks great.' Cupboards painted in Nomad, Coat. Polished chrome cabinet knobs, The Handle Studio, are similar. Try the Portland Grigio concrete-effect porcelain tiles, Stone Superstore

'The oversized mirror in the dining area bounces light around the kitchen and increases the sense of space'

DINING AREA
'The built-in bench and oval table have been a game changer,' says Sam. 'There's space to move comfortably around the room now.'
Bespoke table, Zophia Scarlett Interiors.
Lansdown glass pendant lights, Jim Lawrence.
Cushions, Andrew Martin



how she was going to improve the cramped kitchen seating area because I wasn't going to extend. But she took out a radiator, changed the dining table and designed a built-in bench seat and cupboard – it works so well.'

Sam admitted to being a little nervous about using bold paint colours and even after considering a sage green swatch on his bedroom wall, he still wasn't sure. 'Zophia asked me to trust her, so I did, and I'm glad as it's the best colour in the house now,' he says. 'Colour-drenching my office navy blue was another adjustment but she nudged me in the right way and I really like the outcome.'

Zophia showed Sam style options for furniture and lighting and he became drawn to simple, stylish looks, with a hint of mid-century. He particularly liked the pendant light

he chose for the sitting room. 'The fitting was pricey and I decided to buy a cheap copy for the guest bedroom for a quarter of the price, but it looked terrible,' he says. 'From then on, I decided to be consistent with the quality throughout the house.'

At the end of the project, Sam and Liliya went to stay with his sister while Zophia styled and staged his home. 'Coming back was nerve-wracking but we walked in and it felt like my home, Zophia did a fantastic job,' he says. 'Everyone who comes here thinks the house looks great but they're often puzzled because rooms feel bigger, more open and much lighter, yet I've not removed walls or added to the footprint. We're very happy here.' 25

zophiascarlettinteriors.uk



LILIYA'S BEDROOM
'We weren't keen on a loud pink,' says Sam, 'so Zophia suggested Little Greene's China Clay with a hint of pink.'
Madison boucle ottoman storage bed, Dusk. Bleeker table lamp, Lights & Lamps. Hex bedside table, Atkin and Thyme



BATHROOM
Mottled tiles add beautiful texture.
Nina Campbell Topkapi Aqua tiles (reflected in mirror); Provence Toulon tiles, both Fired Earth

'The elegant panelling we added to the walls was a big change – it delivers a sense of character and subtle sophistication to the rooms'



MAIN BEDROOM
‘I like the headboard against the green wall panels, which go up to the ceiling to give height to the room,’ says Sam. Geometric bed in Arlan Moon fabric, Jonathan Charles Furniture. Walls in The Trail, Coat. Luxe stone-top bedside tables, Sweetpea & Willow