

ELLE DECORATION

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Home

Mixing inspiration from global travel with salvaged local finds, this London townhouse is both sultry and sustainable

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Creating travel adventures rooted in sustainability is Vanessa Boz's day job, so, when it came time for the BozAround Private Travel founder to decorate her family home, it's no surprise she turned to Retrouvius. The interior-design and architectural salvage firm's co-founder, Maria Speake, is a friend, and her values resonate with Vanessa's own.

'I wanted our home to be a beautiful dialogue between our multicultural family, our collections and the way we live together,' explains Vanessa, who is French and shares this Grade II-listed Georgian townhouse in leafy Primrose Hill with her Turkish husband and their three young children. The couple purchased the property just before lockdown and it had been untouched for years. Aware that big changes were needed, Maria had a suitably large suggestion to make, one that Vanessa was not expecting. The idea, to relocate the kitchen from the ground level to the first floor, felt 'radical' at the time, recalls Vanessa. However, this rethink allowed the space to take full advantage of the building's grand Georgian drawing rooms and means it is now drenched in sunlight. 'Maria knew how we lived at our house in France,' says Vanessa. 'We spend a lot of time in the kitchen, so to have it centred in the middle of the house was a brilliant idea.' The double exposure, treetop views and connection to the dining room/lounge ensure this central living space is the beating heart of the Boz family home.

When it came to decorating decisions, Maria's approach was similarly radical. Taking Vanessa's career in travel as a foundation, she suggested an earthy tone of

pink Tadelakt for the kitchen, reminiscent of Marrakech. 'It is our pink cocoon,' says Vanessa, smiling. 'Maria encouraged me to be daring and paint everything, including the ceiling, in one colour.' Salvaged cigar moulds are reused as handles on the cabinets, which are clad in a soft nubuck leather, while a pleasing slice of salvaged Calacatta Viola marble was cut to fit the worktop.

'There was a breadth of references to work with,' confirms Maria. 'Colours, countries, artworks and food... It gave us broad and beautiful ideas, and the house feels more chic in the right sense of the word.' India was Vanessa's guiding inspiration for the ground-floor sitting room, where a soft pink resonant of Jaipur sweeps across the walls, ceiling and cabinetry, with added spice provided by the vibrant turmeric yellow picked out on the architraves. A light fitting made from natural loofah, French sofas and a vintage Algerian rug all contrive to cradle the family's collected books and artworks. In the bathroom upstairs, copper salvaged from a 1970s office extension is carefully repurposed on a bespoke washstand and paired with Chateaux Vert marble and tiles found by Vanessa at Galleria Elena in Naples. The dusty-beige Tadelakt on the walls here evokes the ambience of North Africa.

The influences in this home may span the globe, but the design dialogue is a very personal one, weaving in the most important elements of both women's work. A considered journey of friendship, trust and sustainable design, this home's transformation has been a unique and beautiful experience. bozaround.com; retrouvius.com

as escapism

Living room The walls and ceiling in this room are painted in a pink Tadelakt, with the woodwork picked out in a turmeric yellow – for a selection of similar colours, try Tadelakt London. Furniture includes an original wooden 'CH25' chair by Hans J Wegner for Carl Hansen & Søn, a 'Bold' teal-coloured chair by Big-Game for Moustache, and a French sofa – for similar, try Caravane. The rug is a vintage Algerian design and the photograph above the fireplace is by the Algerian photographer Zineb Sedira. The pendant light is made of natural loofah – try Idyll Home for similar ►



Sitting room In this second cosy room, adjoining the main living space on the ground floor, there's another linen sofa – again, Caravane offers similar designs – as well as a mustard-yellow bean bag that matches the woodwork. Another natural-loofah pendant light hangs in this space. The floorboards are original pine, sanded back and given a limewash finish. **Kitchen** Moved to the first floor, this room takes advantage of large Georgian windows that look over the leafy street below. The cabinets are clad in a soft nubuck leather with brass trim, with salvaged cigar moulds used as handles. A slice of reclaimed Calacatta Viola marble has been cut to fit the worktop, and the pendant light is a ceramic Parisian design sourced by Retrouvius. The country-style oven is by French brand Lacanche ➤



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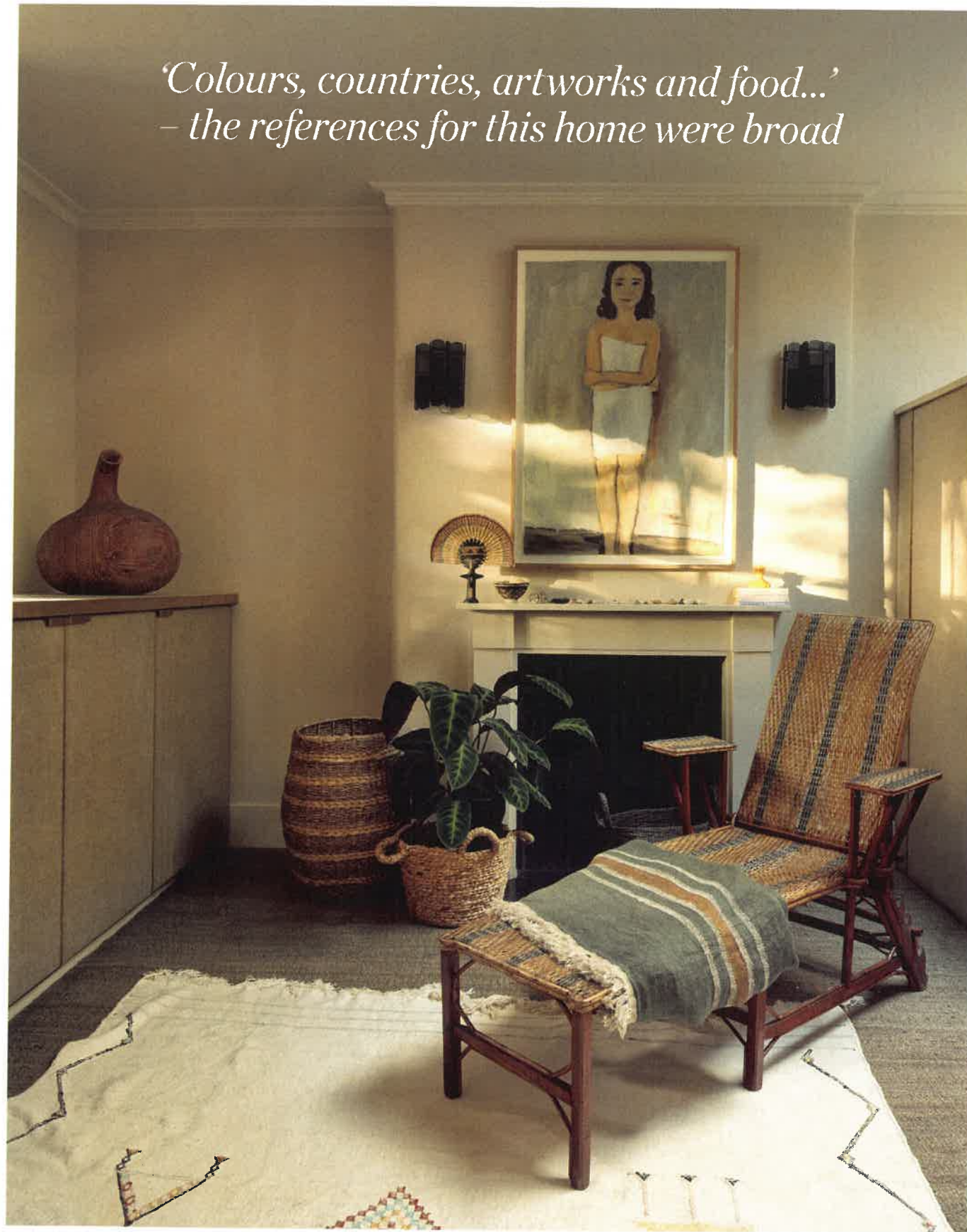


Dining room A pair of Kuba-cloth footstools (in the foreground) sit beside a pink linen Caravane sofa, which Vanessa has covered with a vintage Indian kantha cloth. Above the Indian-teak dining table from Kerala hangs a 'Q' pendant light by Pol Paris. The white dining chairs are the 'Mr Bugatti' design by Francois Azambourg for Cappellini, and the lion's head on the wall was handmade in Zimbabwe and bought in South Africa ►



Hallway Retrouvius designed the bespoke cabinet that perfectly fits the tight dimensions of this Georgian entrance hall, topping it with a thick piece of salvaged Giallo Siena marble. The glass 'Drio' pendant light is from Caravane and the artwork is a piece by LA artist Maria Emma Galba. The table lamp is by the Greek ceramicist Manousos. **Bathroom** Vanessa sourced green Chateau Vert marble and tiles from Galleria Elena in Naples. For a similar bathtub, try Catchpole & Rye. The poster is from Tate Britain, while the wall light is from the 'Glo-Ball' collection by Jasper Morrison for Flos ➤

*'Colours, countries, artworks and food...'
– the references for this home were broad*



Dressing room A woven jute carpet covers the floor, topped with a Turkish kilim bought by Vanessa. The wicker lounger is also one of Vanessa's vintage finds, and the painting above is of Vanessa's daughter, painted by her mother Martine Kefaifi. **Bedroom** BDDW's 'Flower Bed' design is covered with a bedspread purchased in India. For a similar light, try the 'Bubble Saucer' pendant by Hay. See [Stockists page](#) for details.

