



By opening up the spaces in her city cottage, Joanna Smith has created the pared-down, contemporary home she had always yearned for

LONDON PIED-A-TERRRE



OPPOSITE PAGE AND BELOW RIGHT

In the living room, white walls and a stone floor in Oriental Bead from Color1 Ceramics, 020 8891 0091, color1.co.uk, contribute to the relaxed feel. Joanna has

found newer pieces, such as the contemporary sofa, similar to the Loli sofa from The Corvax Shop, 020 7531 6704, corvaxshop.co.uk, with antique

furniture, providing a pleasing mix of old and new. The antique mirror was bought years ago, but for similar try The French House, 0870 901 4547, thefrenchhouse.net. Flashes of colour have been introduced with the striped lampshade and striped cushions from The General Trading Company, 020 7750 0411, general-trading.co.uk.

RIGHT Joanna, who is an interior decorator, enjoys the quiet of her study where the walls are lined with family photographs.



When the last of their children moved out of the family home two years ago, Joanna Smith and her husband, Harry, felt the time was ripe to downsize their London property. The family had lived in a Victorian house in Richmond for 15 years, but the children's departure had created lots of redundant space.

"We've always spent holidays in Cornwall," explains Joanna. "So we decided that we should 'upscale' there, and then move into a smaller place in London." Southwest London was an area that Joanna particularly liked, so she set about finding a small, more centrally located house with lots of character.

SEEING POTENTIAL

Although the couple were hoping to buy a small house, they didn't see anything that was really suitable. Then one day, the agent showed them round a tiny Victorian artisan's cottage and Joanna fell in love with it. "It was a complete wreck," she recalls, "but I could see it had potential. It was so pretty, with a tiny garden, and I knew we could make it work. It also had very high ceilings – essential when you have a husband, such as mine, who is six feet five."

While the exterior of the cottage bore its original features, inside, all the





FAR LEFT Joanna turned a bare garden well into a pretty grove by adding plants and a stone fountain, seen from Marston & Langford, 020 7891 5717, marstonandlangford.com.

LEFT AND BELOW LEFT To complement her kitchen units by Harvey Jones, 0800 380 8856, harveyjones.com, Joanna chose Anna chairs from The Country Space, 020 7589 7401, country.com, and covered them in various fabrics so that they can work elsewhere in the house when not in use here. The fabrics include Cartouff, Check in Beige and Seawater. Check in Green, both from Jane Churchill, 020 7244 3327, janechurchill.com, and Barney Trevellyan Wedgwood and Mosaic, both from Designers Guild, 020 7351 5775, designersguild.com.

BELOW Joanna chose sleek contemporary MirzaAire, Sanitaryware for the bathroom from Cole & Co Interiors, 020 8991 0691, cole1.co.uk, adding shotters from American Shutters, 020 8876 5905, americanshutters.co.uk to the window to soften the space.





THIS PICTURE Joanna's daughter's room, used by her when she visits, has a desk by Bespoke Shaker, 020 7486 8525, shaker.co.uk, and her favourite rug, Swirl by Paul Smith at The Rug Company, 020 7229 5148, rugcompany.co.uk.

fireplaces, together with any corning or coving, had been ripped out. Although Joanna was keen to restore the original doors, once she stripped off the paint and saw what poor condition they were in the idea was quickly abandoned. On the builder's advice, she replaced them with a mix of new doors and modern sliding doors to maximise space.

CONFIGURING THE SPACES

Joanna worked with architects Smith & Brooke to open up the rooms and rework the layout to suit their needs. Her main objectives were to create a third bedroom and bathroom on the top floor and a dining area on the ground floor which would be large enough to seat 12. The living room was opened up by removing the doors to the hall, and the chimneybreast was moved to the centre of the space where Joanna added a cosy wood-burning stove. The tiny kitchen and outside loo were knocked down and in their place a larger kitchen with space for a table and chairs was built.

A CLASSIC SCHEME

A decorator by trade, Joanna admits she is not one for the latest fashion or fad. "A house should look timeless," she says firmly. Her desire for simplicity is reflected in both her choice of colour scheme and furniture. "We have a Grade-II listed farmhouse in Cornwall, full of mahogany antiques, so I wanted the cottage to be a real contrast." Keeping the selection of paint colours to a minimum to create a continuous decorative scheme, Joanna chose a light palette of whites and off-whites, maintaining interest by varying the strength of colour according to the rooms.

Set against the neutral backdrop, Joanna has brought her home to life by introducing rich colours and fabrics to the upholstery and soft furnishings. She has also added her own quirky flourishes to the cottage, such as the opulent Fornessetti bureau, which takes pride of place in the living room.

"There are no rules," Joanna says. "I think a home should always be comfortable and practical, but entirely individual. That's my philosophy." ▶

Joanna Smith, Point West Design, 07789 931814.
Simon Smith & Michael Brooke Architects, 020 7627 7630.

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