

# TEAM *effort*

A great collaboration between old friends led to the richly detailed refurbishment of Jemima Sissons and Leo Beckham's terraced house

FEATURE JULIET BENNING | PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS SNOOK



## KITCHEN-DINER

The couple liked the versatility of having a window and doors instead of a wall of glass. Classic English cabinetry and marble worktop, price on request; Tuscan Farmhouse Arabescato marble sink, from £2,720, deVOL. Lucia pendants, from £324 each, Hector Finch. Cipriani Limestone Distressed Finish flooring, £150.46sq m, Artisans of Devizes. Source mid-century dining chairs at 1stDibs



## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY**  
Georgian terraced house

**ROOMS** Two interconnecting reception rooms, kitchen-diner, utility room, study, four bedrooms, two bathrooms

**LOCATION**  
West London

**W**hen Jemima Sissons and Leo Beckham asked the interior designer Caroline Senley to work with them on the renovation of their home she anticipated a fun and rewarding project. 'Jemima, Leo and I are great friends,' says Caroline. 'Jemima works in the luxury travel industry and stays in lots of fabulous hotels, so she's always been exposed to the most beautiful interiors and I knew she would come armed with plenty of ideas for the project.'

Jemima and Leo bought the Georgian terraced house in west London back in 2018 with a view to eventually improving and extending it. 'They love the villagey feel of the area. It's where they socialise, easy for Leo to get to work and close to the motorway they need when they leave London,' says Caroline.

Such was the charm of the property that even after their two daughters were born and the couple needed more space, they decided they would definitely rather improve than move. They enlisted the expertise of Smith Brooke Architects and extended the kitchen to the side, also adding another room – Leo's office 'pod' – to the rear below the landing of the top floor.

'Because I know them both so well, the interior design came quite naturally,' says Caroline. 'They both have a penchant for mid-century pieces and love art so we needed to consider how to best offset their collection with our schemes. They also love colour but wanted a blend of the masculine and feminine that they would enjoy living with,' Caroline notes.



**LEO'S STUDY**  
 The wallpaper makes a striking background for work video calls. The room also contains a daybed so it can easily transform into a guest bedroom.  
 Scrolling Fern wallpaper, £620 a roll, Soane Britain. Woodwork in Etruria, £54.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Blind in Popple fabric, £160m, Fermoie

**SITTING ROOM**  
 The blue picture rail ties together all the inky hues in this warm scheme which showcases Jemima and Leo's art collection.  
 Custom ottoman upholstered in Frida fabric, price on request, Manuel Canovas. Small footstool upholstered in Cactus Flower fabric, £130m, Christopher Farr Cloth. True Love Always Wins artwork by Tracey Emin

'I love wrapping some spaces by taking wallpaper or paint colour from the walls right up over the ceiling – I believe rooms become so much more dramatic if this is done'

'I think one of the reasons this project ran so smoothly was because Jemima and Leo were both so decisive and they shared the same vision.'

Jemima had always admired deVOL kitchens and their chosen one was finished with marble worksurfaces and a striking scalloped stone sink. With French doors and a sash window looking out onto the leafy courtyard garden, the room has a surprisingly country feel. 'The garden became a strong focus in the warm weather of the 2020 lockdown and it's really become an outside room,' says Caroline. 'The window seat in the kitchen was an important way to connect outside and in and we spent a lot of time with the architect getting it right.'

The finishing touch was to update the red front door that had first welcomed the couple to their new home. 'It was the existing colour they had inherited but we gave it several more coats – colour matching it to the red of a post box – and it's a really fun detail that everyone loves,' says Caroline.

The sitting room and middle former dining room became a blended living space unified by a dusky rose wall colour that is warming yet nostalgic. It's both a place for relaxation and a gallery space offering plenty for the eye to feast on. 'The scheme features several beautiful fabrics and this is where the key pieces of their art collection are displayed. Both Jemima and Leo are enthusiastic collectors so when we were planning the schemes, we had a huge amount of fun hitting Pimlico Road,' says Caroline.  [carolinesenleydesigns.co.uk](http://carolinesenleydesigns.co.uk), [smithbrooke.co.uk](http://smithbrooke.co.uk)



‘All the beautiful fabric patterns work because they chime with the pinks, greens and blues used throughout the house’



**TOP-FLOOR BATHROOM**

The same tiles throughout looks sleek. Walls in Ferdinand absolute emulsion, £54.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Shelter Island Harbour View floor tiles, £120.97sq m; East Hampton wall tiles, £116.88sq m, both Fired Earth

**MAIN BEDROOM**

Both the trim on the blind and fabric of the custom-made headboard reflect Jemima’s love of scallops.

Custom headboard in Betsy, £184m; blind in Raine, £238m, both Cinny at Turnell & Gigon. Zac spotlight, £426, Hector Finch

**FAMILY BATHROOM**

This space was completely reorganised to focus on the children’s bath time.

Blind in La Jungle by Christopher Farr Cloth, £160m, available at Jane Clayton. Joinery painted in Azurite, £55 for 2.5ltr, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint

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