

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

End-of-terrace Georgian house

LOCATION North London

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, study, snug, utility room, cloakroom, two bedrooms, dressing room, two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2012

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I rented an apartment in a modern building on the bank of the Thames,' says Stephen.

SITTING ROOM

An elegant sage velvet sofa makes the ideal centrepiece.

Bradwell sofa, £2,590, Fleming &

Howland. Vintage tray table, £225, An Angel At My Table.

Black Finnsdottir porcelain table lamps, £399 each, Dovetail Living

PERSONAL TOUCH

Moving from a contemporary apartment to a Georgian terrace required a style rethink for owner Stephen Gough

FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH

READING AREA

A beautiful floral rug helps link the indoor and outdoor spaces.

Magnolia Ice wool and silk rug by Vivienne Westwood, £1,460sq m, The Rug Company. Bespoke armchair, price on request, LifeStyle. Mrs Lots side table, £558; convex mirror, £1,243, both Julian Chichester



For Stephen Gough, moving from an apartment in an über-modern, Norman Foster-designed building overlooking the River Thames, to a Georgian end-of-terrace townhouse in north London, was a big step but he made sure he was going to embrace the experience.

'My partner works as a GP in Birmingham during the week and she joins comes down to join me at weekends, so I really wanted to find a place that was within a short drive of Euston station,' he explains. 'The housing

stock in this part of London tends to be Victorian and Georgian, so I knew I was likely to end up buying a period building.'

What Stephen sacrificed with his new property in terms of cutting-edge design, was more than made up for by the house's original features – high ceilings, beautiful plasterwork and elegant windows that pull light into the building. He also inherited some of the less-pleasing traits of a house that was constructed nearly 200 years ago. 'I was aware that

there was a problem with damp because I had commissioned a specialist survey, but the expert hadn't recognised the extent of the issue,' says Stephen. 'Then, on the very same day I completed on the house, I received an email from the vendors informing me that there was standing water behind the walls in the basement, right where the electrics were.'

Having a busy job in the City, Stephen knew he wouldn't have enough time to oversee the damp-proofing works, and he ►

FAVOURITE ITEM 'The convex mirror above the fireplace in the sitting room is the piece that I like best in the house. I especially love its aged feel'



KITCHEN

Five shades of soft stone and green were used on the walls and cabinets to add interest and help brighten this space.

Bespoke kitchen units, price on request, Tim Moss. Wall units painted in Off White, and base units in Fawn, both £50 for 2.5 litres of estate eggshell; Farrow & Ball. Kadir rustic limestone, from £48sq m, Ceramica & Stone

soon realised he needed help with furnishing and decorating the house, too. 'I'd rented my previous flat, which was fully furnished, so I literally owned just a bed,' he says.

He turned to Nicola Pratt of LifeStyle, an interior-design firm based in Islington, with a relatively open-ended brief. 'I thought it made sense to have a style that was in keeping with the period of the building but still had

a modern edge,' he explains. 'Other than that, I was really quite open to ideas.'

The basement floor was the area that required the most attention and in order to waterproof the room, the kitchen had to be removed and reinstated. 'Nicola took advantage of the situation by tweaking the design, commissioning a new tall storage cupboard, and adding underfloor heating

and a textured limestone floor,' explains Stephen. The previous owners had chosen two different shades of soft green for the base and wall units, and Nicola worked with this palette, opting for three different shades of soft white for the walls and ceiling to help brighten the space.'

The muted greens have been carried through to the double reception room on ►

DECORATING TIP 'It's really important to play to the strengths of a property and not allow the interior to compete with the architectural details'



DINING AREA

Stephen picked up the vintage-style pendant lights while on a trip to France. Antique nickel-finish lights, from £77 each, Re. Walls painted in Wimborne White estate emulsion, £34.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



STUDY

The old boot room was converted into a compact study for Stephen. Bespoke Thunderball mural, from Getty Images Collection, from £55sq m, Surface view



SNUG

Shutters control the light entering this relaxing top-floor room.

Bespoke corner sofa, price on request, Loungin'. Hilaire floor lamp by La Fibule, £750, Urban Living Interiors

25BH | GEORGIAN TOWNHOUSE



MASTER BEDROOM
Accents of burnt orange enliven this chic space. Angelica king-size bed, from £895, Sofa.com. Brooke cotton rug in orange, £663, Madeline Weinrib



DRESSING ROOM
Stephen repainted the existing cabinetry and replaced the handles. Strictly Studded floor mirror, £495, The French Bedroom Company



BATHROOM
The elegant bath provides the focal point in this space. Astonian roll-top bath, £810, Aston Matthews. Walls painted in Dix Blue estate emulsion, £34.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



GUEST BEDROOM
Pale tones and textures give the room an air of tranquility. Montague upholstered bed, from £925, Feather & Black. Betsy bedside table, £395, Graham and Green

FAVOURITE ROOM 'Funnily enough, the guest bedroom appeals to me most of all because I think the colours in here are perfect, and so serene'

the upper ground floor. 'As the front door opens directly into this space, the sofa visually divides the sitting room from the entrance, and a pair of tall table lamps help to screen off the area,' explains Stephen. 'The other half of the room leads to a courtyard garden, and we use it as a reading room. I particularly love the wool and silk rug in here as it picks up on the greens of the bamboo

planting outside, while pulling together all the colours used throughout the house.'

Meanwhile on the two floors above, the master bedroom, dressing room and guest bedroom exude a sense of quiet luxury, with upholstered beds, crisp linens and cosy throws. Stephen also decided to turn a seldom-used third bedroom into a comfortable snug, complete with an inviting

sofa that is upholstered in a combination of faux suede and soft padded cotton.

'I love tactile pieces,' says Stephen, 'and this is one of the keys to this interior. All the different textures we've used, such as linen, velvet, wood and tumbled stone, have brought new life into this house. It's a contemporary update on a classic theme, and that makes it my perfect home.' 25

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