

House of the Month

INSPIRATION OVERLOAD



Interior designer Trilbey Gordon has created a show-stopping home that's family-friendly and an impressively stylish mix of sumptuous materials, luxe layers and edgy finishes

Photography / Kate Martin * Production / Mary Weaver * Words / Fiona McCarthy

← LIVING ROOM →

To the gentleman's club vibe of the space, Trilbey added: 'A huge disc chandelier to inject a bit of Seventies rock 'n' roll to the mix of vintage and modern pieces'.

Get the look This is the Nimbus pendant by CTO Lighting. The reclaimed stone fireplace is from Lassco. This is the Calypso rug by Suzanne Sharp for The Rug Company. The vintage Seventies coffee table is from Alfies Antique Market. The Frankie painting, left, is by Sally Jane Fuerst. The Seventies green console is by Aldo Tura.



HOME PROFILE

THE DESIGNER Trilbey Gordon, who created the space for a client who's a close friend and his two daughters. Axel, a Jack Russell cross, lives here too.

THE PROPERTY A Victorian terraced house in northwest London with a living room, kitchen, open-plan family room with a home office and dining room (with a bar area), plus a utility room on the ground floor. The main en suite and dressing room, plus another bedroom and bathroom are on the first floor. On the second floor is another bedroom and bathroom.

'Raw and refined.'

Playful and dramatic. Decadent and moody.' These are just a few of the words that fashion writer-turned-interior designer Trilbey Gordon bandies around when explaining her inspiration for the 'old-school English gentleman's club meets Seventies playboy chalet in Gstaad' vibe she's brought into this classic Victorian terrace house in northwest London. 'I wanted it to be sexy and a bit eccentric, elegant but a bit rock 'n' roll,' she says, aiming to perfectly reflect the personality of the close friend for whom she's redesigned the house to suit not only his whims and fancies, but those of his two teenage daughters too.

After years of being rented out, the home had been stripped of all its detailing (only the original wooden staircase remained) and its stretch of small rooms were 'featureless and poky,' says Trilbey. 'We opened up the space, moved rooms around and brought the kitchen to the centre of the house, truly making it the heart of the home.'

At the back of the property, a large living space, comprising a family room, dining area and small home office, looks out on to a beautiful garden, designed to appear wild and slightly overgrown. Upstairs on the first floor sits a large main bedroom with an en-suite bathroom and dressing room, plus a bedroom and bathroom for one daughter. On the second floor, there is a bedroom and mezzanine 'hang out' area for the other daughter.

Design-wise, Trilbey's starting point was a star-splattered rug bought from jeweller Solange Azagury-Partridge when she moved showrooms. She painstakingly cut the rug into pieces, then attached each piece individually, so every stair was different. 'It's the perfect wow factor as soon as you walk into the house. I'm not afraid of colour, nor is my client,' says Trilbey of the owner (a property developer), with whom she's worked on a number of projects. 'So, we really took it to the edge and had fun. The house has good energy – when he's travelling for work, he misses it.'

'I added back in deep decorative cornices, high skirting boards and wooden floors appropriate to the age of the house,' she adds.

Trilbey has used a clever mix of materials, with dark-stained oak parquet flooring, luxe brass and marble fittings and rich rugs that define separate spaces without sacrificing the open-plan feel. She's an expert at confidently combining different periods of furniture and introducing edgy twists with art, fabrics and finishes. 'When I walk into a space, I want to feel emotion. I want to see pieces that are interesting and collectible and I want the room to tell me a story,' she says. 'For me, anything goes!'

Trilbey has created a library-style corner in the living room – 'the perfect spot for 'a man to enjoy a good book, whisky and smoke a cigar!' she

says. The bookshelves heave with a carefully considered collection of antique leather and hand-painted clothbound books; tucked in between are pieces of vintage coral, framed butterflies and insects and old magnifying glasses. Two pieces of raw amethyst on the mantelpiece 'bring calm'. In the kitchen, with its glass and metal doors, Trilbey raised the ceiling just above the vintage circular light and commissioned a specialist painter to create a moody sky scene. 'To tie with the colours of the adjoining living room and lend a feeling of space and infinity,' she explains.

'It's really important to invest in pieces that mean something to you,' says Trilbey. 'Trends come and go. Surround yourself with pieces that have some soul.' This idea is demonstrated in the way she's blended interesting old doors and antique fireplace surrounds (stripped back, repainted and adapted to suit the mood of the house) and the way her obsession for mid-century furniture has led to unearthing some amazing pieces for bargain-basement prices. Like the original Willy Rizzo stone-topped dining table buried at the back of a shop in Notting Hill or the Vladimir Kagan chair picked up on eBay.

Yet for all its high style and glamour, Trilbey insists this is still very much a family home. 'It's a "feet up, lounging around" kind of house,' she says. Nothing is too precious, nowhere out of bounds. With its rich mix of tactile materials – velvets, silks, lacquered raffia and gold-flecked cork – juxtaposed with big sofas and cosy rugs, plus luxurious bathrooms and hints of warm metals, which help bounce light around each space, you can't help but get into the mood of the house. It's very seductive.

See Trilbey's work at trilbeygordoninteriors.com

DINING ROOM

'It's all about the mix for me,' says Trilbey. 'I used a rich palette of luxurious fabrics, mirrored surfaces and brass finishes. Playful yet polished! I love that whole Hollywood Regency style and the beautiful oversized chandelier was my starting point.'

Get the look The vintage marble dining table is by Willy Rizzo. These are Milo Baughman chairs, recovered in a Dedar velvet. This is a Seventies Vistosi chandelier. The rug is from Stark Carpet. The artwork is Jason Shulman's *The Wizard of Oz*.





← **KITCHEN** →

'The kitchen was inspired by the look of beautiful Thirties Parisian pharmacies,' says Trilbey. 'I designed the island to look like a freestanding piece of furniture and the unlacquered brass brings warmth and depth to the space.' The Forties circular light is the *pièce de résistance*.

Get the look The pendant is from Marché aux Puces in Paris. The Tiffany Blue Amazonite is from The Marble & Granite Centre. Find similar wall tiles at Fired Earth. The cabinetry and shelving are bespoke.

BAR ↘

'I decided a bar would be a cool thing to put in, but I thought it should be really Seventies, almost tongue-in-cheek,' says Trilbey, laughing. Gold-flecked cork wallpaper on the walls and ceiling, mirror-backed bar units and shelves filled with vintage Seventies glasses inscribed with the owner's initials (found by chance on eBay) helped to 'create a small space with a big personality - everyone seems to love it!'

Get the look The bar units were custom-made. The brass cabinets and screen dividers are bespoke. This is a Nero Marquina marble floor. The Japanese Cork wallpaper is by Phillip Jeffries.



'I LIKE CONTRASTS - AN OLD CHAIR COVERED IN CONTEMPORARY FABRIC, OR A SEVENTIES VASE NEXT TO A SLEEK, MODERN SURFACE'



↙ **MAIN BEDROOM** →

'I wanted the bedroom to feel both masculine and calming,' says Trilbey of the way she's mixed a luscious teal wallpaper with a bold border of white around the top to keep things light and airy.

Get the look This is Amalfi Silk vinyl wallpaper by Phillip Jeffries. The bed was custom-made. The butterfly throw is from Kokon to Zai. The alpaca fur rug is from The Rug Company. The side table, bedside lamp, antique door and Seventies chairs, recovered in a Dedar velvet, are from Galerie Glustin in Paris. The Curtis Jere Sunburst mirror is from Charles Burnand.

← **HALLWAY**

The star-splattered stair runner contrasts brilliantly against the dark-stained oak parquet flooring and walls painted in a historic shade of blue.

Get the look The stair runner was made out of a rug by Solange Azagury-Partridge. The vintage Seventies chandelier is by Vistosi. The walls are painted in Oval Room Blue estate emulsion by Farrow & Ball. The butterflies were custom-framed.

HOME TRUTHS

What can't you live without? Eyeliner – I never leave home without it!

Do you have a guilty secret? I'm embarrassed to admit it, but I love McDonald's. The whole works – Big Mac, Chicken McNuggets, chocolate milkshake and an apple pie!

What's your shopping destination? Ministero del Gusto, a concept store in Marrakech filled with incredible vintage furniture, clothing and artisan pieces. Also, Caravana in Tulum, Mexico, for the coolest beachwear.

Anything on your bucket list? I'd love to learn how to drive. I never did and now I'm too scared...

What's the first thing you do when you get home? Make a cup of strong Yorkshire tea and get into my pyjamas. I'm more of a homebody than people think.

Do you have a passion, apart from interiors? I really love to garden. I enjoy every aspect of it and have designed several gardens now.



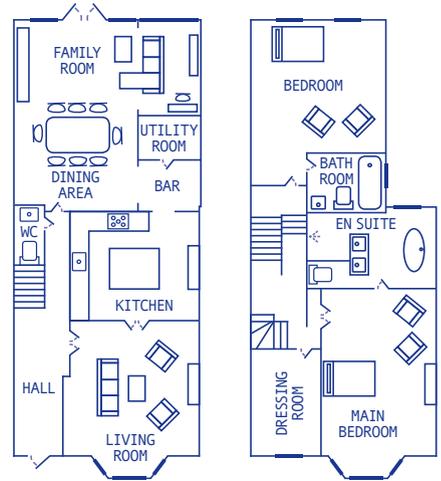


MAIN EN SUITE

'I wanted this bathroom to be zen - a place to totally disconnect, relax and indulge,' says Trilbey. There is a working fireplace, generous steam room and shower.

Get the look The antique fireplace, freestanding bath, vanity unit, lights and marble tiles are all from CP Hart.

THE BLUEPRINT



GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

