



NEW YORK CALLING

Mel Massey and her husband Simon took a typical Victorian townhouse and transformed it into something special by reconfiguring the layout and adding a little bit of Big Apple style. Here are the nine steps to getting their look...

WORDS RACHEL LOOS PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID GILES

WHO LIVES HERE?

Stylist and interior designer Mel Massey (mel-massey.com), her husband Simon and their two boys, Henry, 12, and Freddie, nine.

WHERE IS IT?

North London. The couple bought the four-bedroom Victorian property 12 years ago, but only fully renovated

it last summer after a stint living abroad. 'We went to New York and when we came home we were bored with the house,' says Mel. 'We could have moved but it made more sense financially to renovate, so we completely changed the layout and did a loft conversion. We moved out for five months and when we moved back in, the house felt new.'

2.

BALANCED LIVING

From the back, the full effect of the glass can be seen. 'We made sure it looked balanced, too,' says Mel. 'We don't always see the back of the house but our neighbours do!'



GRAZIA WEEK INWEEK OUT

3. PAINT A DARKER SHADE OF BLUE

One wall of the dining area is painted Hague blue (farrow-and-ball.com). 'I wanted colour but in a muted way,' says Mel. 'I would describe our style as minimal eclectic - we've collected a lot of treasures on our travels.' The wall colour beautifully sets off the original Rennie Mackintosh sideboard, which Mel found on eBay for £200. The painting is by Dan Baldwin (danbaldwinart.com). ▶

£429, swooneditions.com



ZABEL SIDEBOARD



£203, madeindesign.co.uk

ABOUT A CHAIR BY HAY



4. GO GLOSSY

With its glossy white cabinets and grey Corian top, the kitchen looks super-streamlined, which fits with the rest of the space. The sleek look is accentuated by the lower storage being drawers rather than a mix of cupboards and drawers, so the lines are neatly horizontal. The vintage pendant light was bought in Amsterdam (try pamona.co.uk).

BARBER & OSGERBY OLIO SERVING BOWL

£35, houseology.com

£69.90, digiulighistreet.com



CIRCULAR METAL SHIP'S MIRROR

7.

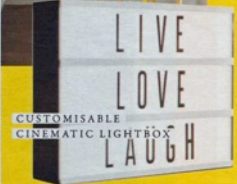
BATHING BLISS

'The family bathroom is all about the bathtub,' says Mel. Find it at bathstore.com. The basin is by swoon.se. 'I really like the shape and I couldn't find anything else like it,' says Mel. She painted the legs yellow to match the Splash coat rack from New York (bludot.com). The cool lightbox light is from boxlight.com.

£35, rockstutzgeorge.co.uk

MAGELLAN COAT STAND

£175, johnlewis.com



CUSTOMISABLE CINEMATIC LIGHTBOX

£24.99, design5online.co.uk



NORDLUX FLOAT BRUSHED COPPER PENDANT

5.

LIVE OUT BACK

The extension at the back of the house contains the light living room. 'We really wanted to have a living room that led straight on to the garden,' says Mel. In the ceiling is a skylight so 'you can look up and see the clouds'. The Forum sofas by Robin Day (try eBay) are warmed up with cushions and a hide rug. The copper light is vintage Fog and Marup. The mirror – a series of window frames with mirrored glass – was made by Mel.

£745, outthereinteriors.com



PATCHWORK ARMCHAIR

6.

ADD A BRICK WALL

One end of the living room has an exposed brick wall for texture and warmth. 'We wanted that New York feel,' says Mel. 'And I love brick – it is living and breathing.' Find old bricks at reclamation yards or sites such as reclaimedbricks.com. The eye-catching Paxos fireplace is from focus-creation.com. Mel upholstered the vintage Parker Knoll chair in fabric from curious.co.uk.



8.

TWO-TONE BEDROOM

In the bedroom, the couple painted the alcoves behind the bed a darker shade of grey to mix monochrome with wood – and then they added crystal lights from leebrooom.com. 'We wanted a calm space with a bit of glam,' says Mel. For a similar sheepskin rug see coxandcox.co.uk.



9.

LOFT LIVING

The top of the house was converted into this stylish room that is, in theory, Mel's office, but which also doubles up as a family space for when the boys have friends round for a sleepover. With one side just glass, the light is amazing and it's a great place to chill. The sofa is from John Lewis. The wall light is the Flos 265 (clippings.com).



£2,395, johnlewis.com



GIPIAN VINTAGE THE FIFTY THREE LARGE SOFA