

HOME PROFILE

THE OWNERS Jenni Mitchell, her husband Danny, who works in finance, and their children James, nine, Alexander, seven, and Isla, five.

THE PROPERTY A Victorian townhouse in south London. The ground-floor comprises a living room, dining room, kitchen, playroom, cloakroom and WC. On the first floor is the master suite and dressing room, plus a guest bedroom and shower room. On the top floor are three bedrooms and a family bathroom.

HOMES/ETC

HALLWAY

'I loved this house as soon as I saw the hall,' says Jenni. 'The Victorians knew all about adding impact.'

Get the look The vintage French console is from Maison Raphael at lstdbs.com. The chandelier was found at The Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair.



LIVING ROOM

'I've furnished rooms with pieces that have caught my eye over many years,' says Jenni. 'It's an ever-evolving collection.'

Get the look The artwork was bought at the Affordable Art Fair – the horses painting is by Rini Yang and the abstract by Gordon Hopkins. The Deco-style mirror is from India Jane. The lamp is from Oka.

LIVING ROOM

Darkness reigns from above, adding drama to this flowing, sociable space.

Get the look The ceiling is painted in Blue Black estate emulsion by Farrow & Ball. The sofa, coffee table and storage cabinet are from Roche Bobois. This is the 45 armchair by Fin Juhl, available at Twentytwentyone.



'Every room deserves one amazing focal point,

something that draws your eye as soon as you walk in,' says Jenni Mitchell, standing under the blue-black ceiling that pretty much steals the show in her living room. That's not to say that she stints on other luminously glamorous details. Like her Roche Bobois cabinet of curiosities, a perfectly curved Fin Juhl chair and supersized antique mirrors. But, as Jenni says, 'Gradually, the rest of the cast comes into view, but that single star? It needs to get top billing.'

Jenni lives here with her husband Danny and their three children James, Alexander and Isla, and she redesigned the spacious south London house in two stages. 'We're very sociable people, so when we moved here five years ago, getting the ground-floor living spaces into shape was our priority,' Jenni explains. 'We have friends over most weekends, or – if the evening starts in a local restaurant –

by the end of the night either Danny or I will usually say, "Who's coming back to ours?"'

So the existing lateral layout – with a kitchen that flows into a rear dining room and then circles back to a grand living space – was bang on for the Mitchells. But each of the rooms needed a makeover and Jenni started with the living area. Here, luxe seating is given a chubby feel beneath the dark ceiling, its paint shade highlighting the original Victorian mouldings. 'I left it bare of light fittings,' says Jenni. 'Even a pendant or chandelier would detract from its impact.'

She also stuck to her principle of focusing on one major statement when she reworked the kitchen, where a star was already waiting in the wings. 'The original kitchen dresser that you can see at the back of the room was made when the house was built and I really love that it's still here,' she

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DRESSING ROOM

The stunning island steals the show in a space dedicated to fine craft and eye-catching detail.

Get the look The storage is bespoke by The London Joinery Co, using Alpheus painted panes by Solomon&Wu on the island. The glazing is by Govette Windows. This is the Modco chandelier by Jason Miller for Roll & Hill. The parquet flooring is from Element7.



says. To make sure that no other element upstaged the vintage piece, Jenni kept the new additions more low-key. 'I chose flat-fronted, handleless cabinets and a resin floor,' she says. 'I felt tiles or parquet would vie for your attention.'

The top floors were the second act of Jenni's redesign. 'I wanted the bedrooms and bathrooms to be opulent, but practical storage, especially with three young children in the house, was an absolute must,' she says. So Jenni teamed up with The London Joinery Co, which created all her bespoke pieces, including the A-list dressing room and the dreamy cubby bed in Isla's bedroom. 'My brief was, "I want storage that is stunning",' she explains.

Having spotted New York designer Athena Calderone's chic, brass-trimmed kitchen cabinetry in *Livingetc* (March 2014 issue), Jenni wanted the team at The London Joinery Co to incorporate similar detailing. 'They were brilliant to work with,' she says. 'Previously, I'd met with companies that just came, offered you a fan of samples and swatches and that was that. But Sorcha Souhan, its creative director,

was great to bounce ideas off, as she has an excellent eye. We were on the same wavelength.'

When it came to sourcing luxe curtain fabrics and interesting materials, Jenni called up interior designer Sarah Chambers. 'She introduced me to Solomon&Wu, who made the poured surfaces for the dressing room island,' she says.

This spacious area is divided from the master bedroom by steel-framed glazing. 'By day, it feels like one big space, with a flow of light from the front to the back of the house,' says Jenni. 'But at night, we close the doors and draw the curtains to make it quiet and cosy.'

The only space she didn't change is the entrance hall. 'I loved the original encaustic floor tiles and stained glass from the moment we saw the house,' Jenni recalls. 'For me, that was a pretty great show stopper. But I couldn't resist adding a few more just for good measure...'

To learn more about The London Joinery Co's bespoke cabinetry, visit thelondonjoineryco.com. Check out Sarah Chambers' interior design work at sarahchambersinteriors.co.uk

KITCHEN

Open shelving breaks up the scheme's linear look.

Get the look The Plum tray, on the shelf, is by Tom Dixon. This is a Quooker boiling water tap. The Tretchikoff disc is from Ahoy Trader.

HALLWAY

A dark band of paint below the dado takes the inky shade from the living room ceiling and leads it up the stairs.

Get the look Try Original Style for Victorian encaustic floor tiles. The Mongolian sheepskin bench was bought at lstdbs.com. The cushion is from Graham and Green.

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