



**LIVING AREA**  
 The zigzag wallpaper around the fireplace is a nod to the house's 1930s heritage. Bloomsbury Stripes wallpaper, £169 a roll, Ottoline. Lixtorp bookcase, from £359, Ikea. Similar vintage green leather armchair, £539, Hemming & Wills. Similar vintage kilim rug, Pantiles Oriental Carpets. Chelso pendant light, £219, Lights & Lamps



# HIDDEN *depths*

Interior designer Charlotte Luxford's 1930s semi is Tardis-like – you step in and are amazed by the sense of space (and charm)

FEATURE FRANCESCA BROWN | PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID MERREWEATHER



**KITCHEN**

Open shelving brings interest to the space while the marble worktops and brass finishes add a touch of luxury.

Bespoke units, Canterwood Joinery, painted in Museum eggshell, £34.50 for 1ltr, Mylands. Carrara marble, price on request, Vitruvius. Cookie pendants, from £20.25 each, Pooky. Brompton wall lights, £95 each, Neptune



‘The new extension is packed with character thanks to an eclectic mix of vintage finds and contemporary design’

**HOME TRUTHS**

**THE PROPERTY**

A 1930s semi

**ROOMS** Sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, utility room, shower room, three bedrooms, bathroom

**LOCATION** Kent

From the outside, Charlotte Luxford’s home appears much like any other 1930s semi, but once inside, it becomes apparent what makes this house special. A metal-framed glazed door in the hallway offers a glimpse of the greenery beyond, luring visitors into the open-plan living space for the ultimate ‘wow’ moment.

An impressive span of sliding doors and a tall picture window frame uninterrupted views of the tree-lined North Downs. ‘This is my favourite spot, perching here on the banquette seating and gazing out at the hills – the incredible scenery and tumbling garden are the main reasons we bought the house,’ reveals Charlotte.

**GREAT POTENTIAL**

When Charlotte and husband Martin purchased the property in 2017, it required a lot of work, but Charlotte knew she could transform it into something special. With more than a decade of experience writing for homes magazines and as founder of Luxford Interiors, she has developed a unique talent for blending old and new. While an extension was always on the cards, it was a surprise second pregnancy that spurred plans to create a large family kitchen-diner and living space, as well as a new utility and shower room.

‘The tiny, dark kitchen wasn’t conducive to family living, and while I managed with my first child, Isabella, I could see it was going to be overcrowded with two,’ admits Charlotte. ‘Obviously we had a hard deadline and I knew it would be tight, especially as we started work in the middle of winter and a pandemic.’

**BIG SUCCESS**

The hard work paid off and the couple have a bright and spacious family space that’s packed with character. An eclectic mix of mid-century furniture, vintage finds and contemporary design ensures the new addition blends in seamlessly with the

'If you're stuck for inspiration when designing a colour scheme, art or a favourite object is a great place to start'



**DINING AREA**  
The Ercol chairs were a charity shop find. Shalstone Ercol dining table, £999, John Lewis & Partners. Chevron oak medium laminate flooring, £34,995sq m, Quick-Step. Drake wall lights with sphere waffle shades, £115 each, Pooky

original house, with art adorning almost every wall. 'There's a new-age Bloomsbury spirit in the art and design world now that's certainly inspired my style,' says Charlotte. 'I've always found art integral to interior design. Each piece tells a story and captures a moment in time. I like the gallery wall for that reason; there's a linocut I commissioned especially for our wedding invite and a watercolour Martin and I bought in the Cotswolds on our first holiday together. It makes me smile each time I see it.'

### PRELOVED FINDS

Charlotte also has a keen eye for a bargain and tries to reuse items or buy second-hand where she can. The designer tiles in the bathroom and the Perrin & Rowe kitchen tap were Facebook Marketplace gems, while Charlotte's Ercol dining chairs were £20 from a charity shop, as was the mid-century sideboard in the living area. She's also turned her hand to upcycling various pieces with her hand-painted Bloomsbury-style designs to give them a new lease of life.

Upstairs, the bedrooms are a delightful mix of colour and pattern, with Charlotte's signature colour palette of pinks, greens and blues shining through. 'Isabella's room is one of my favourites; I wanted that nostalgic children's bedroom look without being too twee,' says Charlotte. Both Isabella and son Laurie's room feature art, naturally. 'I promised I would buy or make my children a piece of art for each birthday – a print, something small – in the hope that art will mean something to them, too, and they can build their own collections.'

The couple now have the spacious family home they dreamed of, but Charlotte says there's still work to do. 'Interiors evolve, as we do as people, so I don't think the house will ever be complete – just a delightful work in progress.' 5

### MAIN BEDROOM

This scheme was inspired by the John Piper print above the bed. Walls in Pink Ground estate emulsion, £54.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Herringbone bed linen, from £14, Heal's. Tree wall lights with Stanlette shades, £125 each, Pooky

### SHOWER ROOM

Rich wood and pink stripes on the floor are a wonderful contrast to the green tiles and panelling. Neapolitan Pink floor tiles, £88.99sq m, Ca' Pietra. Dyroy Green metro tiles, £59.99sq m, CTD. Panelling in Pleat intelligent eggshell, £75.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene

