

THE HOMES MAGAZINE FOR MODERN LIVING

Living etc

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RECALL 28/2/2018



FRESH

It's hard to believe this clean-cut and elegant house, full of covetable furniture and contemporary art, was a nightmare of swags, tails and ruby red Victoriana before interior designer Tamzin Greenhill worked her magic

FOCUS

Photography/Paul Raeside * Production/Mary Weaver * Words/Jo Leevers

HOME PROFILE

THE OWNERS Interior designer Tamzin Greenhill, her husband Johnny Park, who works in finance, and their daughters Clementine, eight, and Theodora, four.
THE PROPERTY A Victorian townhouse in north London. There is a kitchen and living room on the ground floor. The family room and dining area are on the lower-ground floor. The main suite and dressing room are on the first floor, with a study and WC on the half-landing. There are three bedrooms and a bathroom on the second floor, with the family bathroom on that half-landing.

LIVING ROOM

'Every room deserves a centrepiece light and I love this mid-century design,' says Tamzin. 'It's big, but is so poised. It never feels overbearing - it just hovers elegantly.'

Get the look The lounge chair is by Martin Eisler. The paintings are by Jessica Dickinson. The photograph is by Nan Goldin. The mid-century light is from Caira Mandaglio - try Istdibs for similar. The coffee table is by Fernand Dresse.

LIVING ROOM

'This room is turning into a bit of a chair party, but when I see a beautiful chair shape, I can't resist it,' says Tamzin.

Get the look The chair, *centre*, is a mid-century find, recovered in Christopher Howe corduroy. These are Austrian armrest stacking chairs by Roland Rainer for Emil & Alfred Pollak. The cabinet is by Ico Parisi. The photograph is by Ryan McGinley. The drawings are by a family friend.



FAMILY ROOM

The lazier end of the double-aspect family room mixes luxe seating with conceptual art from L.A., exemplifying Tamzin's style – timeless with an edge.

Get the look The sofa is by Minotti. The cushions are from The Conran Shop. The *Delay* artwork is by Shannon Ebner.



faithful fans of Victorian style, look away now. Because when Tamzin Greenhill took on this north London townhouse, she broke with tradition, stripping out the overbearing fireplaces, terracotta tiles and generally staid aura and replacing it with a style that's lighter, brighter and a whole lot sharper.

"This was your basic Victoriana tribute nightmare," she says. "A ruby red dining room with swagged curtains and pelmets and kitchen tiles depicting country folk playing flutes – not us at all." However, she reasoned, all the better for ripping it out. "Even if we'd bought somewhere that had already been done up, I'd still want to start afresh and create my own look."

Tamzin is known for clean-cut interiors punctuated with covetable furniture and contemporary art – and her own home, which she shares with her husband Johnny and their daughters Clementine and Theodora, is no exception.

But before Tamzin could start indulging her obsession with iconic lighting and mid-century shapes, the house's old fireplaces had to go. "We went against the grain and removed six of them," she says. "They were huge and dominated the rooms – if you've got a doorway on one wall, a radiator on the other and a really grand fireplace, it doesn't leave much scope for redesigning a space."

Tamzin's solution was to replace them with surrounds in minimalist black steel and Belgian tiles – and pass on the old ones to her neighbours. "I said, 'Pick what you want – just help yourselves'." The result was clean, uninterrupted lines for Tamzin to work with and a good start to neighbourly relations.

She and Johnny moved here from Manhattan via a brief sojourn in Primrose Hill, although Tamzin was born and bred in the UK. The village feel of the area was one of the draws. "In New York, you can go forever without chatting to your neighbours," she says. "Here, people popped by with a homemade cake and flowers – I was so touched!"

Just as well she had the locals on side. Tamzin's rework of the house included creating a lower-ground floor where there had previously been a dark cellar. It's now a surprisingly light space, where her love of iconic design shapes comes to the fore, set against pale timber cladding and flush cabinetry, black-framed glazing and seamless terrazzo flooring.

"This is the most contemporary part of the house," says Tamzin, who took her time getting the surfaces just so. "The flooring team said they had never provided so many samples to one client," she says. "But I take that as a compliment – it means I did my research thoroughly!"

Tamzin applied a similarly precise approach to the rest of the house, waiting until exactly the right Pierre Jeanneret chairs, the perfect Georgian sofa and the most delicately balanced mid-century Italian pendant came along. The result is spaces that exercise restraint and balance: such as the angles of a chandelier subtly mirrored by an Alexander Calder mobile and the curves of two Martin Eisler armchairs echoed by a pair of Fifties chairs from Golborne Road.

"I'd say I'm a careful collector of furniture," says Tamzin, "and I have a bit of an addiction to Istdibs." Both she and Johnny collect art and photography, which injects extra dashes of originality into their home. Without the distracting floridity of period features on the walls, photography by Moby, Nan Goldin and Anne Collier can get top billing.

While Tamzin is a believer in investing where it matters, she won't be extravagant where there's no need. So, the kitchen table base is by Jean Prouvé, but the kitchen carcasses are by (gasp!) Ikea. However, the Michael Anastassiades lights in the kitchen and lower-ground floor were on her essentials list and they exemplify the kind of clean-lined simplicity that appeals to Tamzin. "His pieces are my idea of perfection," she says.

Bright and brash doesn't work for Tamzin, least of all in her bedroom, where she has painted walls in deepest blue, reduced the fireplace to a black steel surround and hung blackout curtains to create a space that's cossetting after dark.

And where she does use colour in her home, she tends towards judicious splashes, such as a vibrant blocky yellow that emanates from the Jessica Dickinson artwork in the living room or the super-shiny red of the Herve van der Strasse stool in the family room. "I don't use colour in a shouty, 'look at me' way," says Tamzin. "A clean, crisp frame, then interesting shades and shapes to bring things to life – that's much more my style." And definitely no ruby red Victorian swags or pelmets.

See Tamzin's interiors portfolio at tamzingreenhill.com



DINING AREA

A pivoting door leads out into the garden and helps provide end-to-end natural light, while designer lights add illumination. Toys, games and the stuff of family life are stored in the run of handleless cabinets.

Get the look The table is a bespoke design by Clayton Cabinets. The Mobile chandelier and Tube wall light are by Michael Anastassiades. The dining chairs are vintage Mart Stam for Thonet. The concealed storage is by Tamzin Greenhill Designs, made by Grovecourt.

LIVING ROOM

Bespoke ice-white and brass shelving provides storage for Tamzin and Johnny's stacks of art and design books.

Get the look The shelving is by Tamzin Greenhill Designs. The butterfly artworks by Damien Hirst. The vintage chair is by Hans J Wegner.





↑ **KITCHEN**

'The phrase "timeless" gets overused, but I do try to follow that ethos,' says Tamzin of her crisp, streamlined space. 'And if I do get bored of the cabinets, I can simply update with different handles.'

Get the look The base of a dining table by Jean Prouvé is covered with a marble top. These are Medea dining chairs by Vittorio Nobili. The light is by Michael Anastassiades. The cabinets are Ikea carcasses, with handles by Sugatsune Kogyo UK. The appliances are by Gaggenau. The bar stools are by Allan Gould.

→ **STUDY**

Here's where Tamzin plans interior designs for her clients. 'This table is usually covered with moodboards and samples,' she says.

Get the look The Tulip table by Eero Saarinen for Knoll and EA 217 office chair by Charles and Ray Eames for Vitra are available at The Conran Shop. The artwork is by Ben Branagan.

HOME TRUTHS

Who's your favourite designer? Joseph Dirand, based in Paris – pure perfection.

Current bedside reading? *How Not to Die* by Dr Michael Greger.

Dream dinner party guests? Comedians Sarah Silverman, Larry David and John Oliver would keep us on our toes.

Your favourite Saturday routine? The farmers' market with my girls, a walk on Hampstead Heath and dinner with friends. Small, good pleasures.

What's on your playlist right now? Frank Ocean's *Blonde*.

And your secret skill? I can do a one-handed cartwheel.



HALLWAY
 'I try to ease the visitor into my more contemporary rooms, so the hallway still has a hint of Victorian style – it's a transitional space,' says Tamzin. She drew the line of old tiles, though. 'They are still underneath, if the next owner wants to rediscover them,' she adds.

Get the look The floor tiles are by Emery & Cie. The photograph is by Anne Collier. The Esper pendant by Roll & Hill at SCP is similar to this one.

'I aim for timeless over trend-driven looks. Something very on-trend has already had its moment'





← **MAIN BEDROOM**

'Blackout curtains are a bedroom essential for me,' says Tamzin. 'Luxe textures and beautiful art are great, but my perfect sleeping space needs total darkness.'
Get the look The walls are painted in Blue Note emulsion by Benjamin Moore. The artwork is by Wangechi Mutu. The throw is by Frette. The headboard is upholstered in a fabric by C&C Milano. The bedside light is by Paavo Tynell. The cabinet is vintage.

MAIN BEDROOM ↓

A sumptuous rug makes this corner of the main bedroom a cosy space for the couple to unwind in.
Get the look The rug is by Luke Irwin. The ND83 chairs are by Nanna Ditzel Design for Snedkergaarden. The artwork is by Wangechi Mutu.



THE BLUEPRINT

