

Thanks to the energy and creative vision of its owners, a once damp and uninspiring flat has been transformed into a maximalist haven of colour and pattern with references ranging from the building's Victorian roots to rustic Mediterranean style and (almost) everything in between



The HOME with a little bit of EVERYTHING

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LIVING/KITCHEN AREA

A bespoke bookcase frames a wide doorway through to the kitchen where a cabinet from a gentleman's outfitters has been turned into a central island. **Bookcase** in Stone Blue, Farrow & Ball. **Larder cupboard**, eBay. **Stools**, Sklum →



Like many people, Jodie started an Instagram account, @thehouseupstairs, to record the progress of a home renovation when she and her husband Olly purchased a derelict two-storey flat in March 2020. But unlike most, Jodie stuck at it – both the refurb and regular updates – and found a niche that saw the number of her followers soar and prompted a career pivot. Now, with more than 100,000 followers and her own collection of bespoke furniture being sold to a legion of fans up and down the country, the hard work and frequent posting is paying off. ‘When we found our home, I don’t think a single other person was interested in buying it as it had no working plumbing or heating, not to mention terrible 1960s windows and damp everywhere,’ recalls Jodie. ‘But we saw great proportions, as well as the potential to knock through into a very large loft space, which we’ve since done.’ The couple are the first to admit that they outsourced to professionals rather than tackle →

HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE

Jodie Hazlewood, a make-up artist and interior designer, her husband Olly Hunter, a commercial photographer, and Roy Dandy, their Miniature Pinscher

THE PROPERTY

A maisonette in a converted Victorian mansion in Mapperley Park, a suburb of Nottingham



KITCHEN

Above Designed to feel like a part of the living area, the kitchen contains units made from vintage furniture. **Walls** in Strong White, Farrow & Ball. **Woodwork** in Invisible Green, Edward Bulmer. **Floor tiles**, Handmade Terracotta Tile Company. **Wall tiles**, Maitland & Poate. **Cabinetry**, vintage from PC Pirates. **Cooker**, Lacanche. **Lamps and lights**, Pooky



HALLWAY

Left Jodie with Roy Dandy, a Miniature Pinscher acquired during lockdown. **Walls** in Setting Plaster and **door** in Red Earth, both Farrow & Ball

LIVING ROOM

The designated entertaining area features a well-stocked bar. **Curtains** in Amalfi fabric in Ivory, Clarke & Clarke. **Armchairs**, Oka and vintage. **Table, rug and cushions**, The House Upstairs. **Lamps, Oka. Cupboard** (used as bar), eBay



LIVING ROOM

Jodie and Olly have created two sitting areas from a single living room: this half is for relaxing and watching TV. **Walls** in Stone Blue, Farrow & Ball. **Sofa**, vintage and covered in Sanderson fabric. **Armchair**, Sofa.com. **Lamps**, Pooky. **Cushions** and **ottoman**, The House Upstairs

HALLWAY

Right and below Knocking through several rooms, the couple have turned the hallway into a multi-purpose space for entertaining and working from home. **Walls** in Setting Plaster and **staircase** in School House White, both Farrow & Ball. **Table**, vintage from PC Pirates. **Chairs**, Ikea. **Shades**, sourced from Malawi. **Consoles**, Scumble Goosie. **Rugs**, sourced from Morocco and The House Upstairs. **Artwork** (right), photograph by Slim Aarons. **Lamps**, Pooky



it themselves – as most of the initial jobs were so big they wouldn't have known where to start – but the process provided a steep learning curve for them both. 'Our confidence in DIY is slowly growing,' says Jodie, 'so we definitely do more things ourselves now.'

But where to begin with such an enormous undertaking? Pragmatism, it seems, was key. 'The most important question we asked ourselves at the start of the renovation was: "How do we want to live?"' remembers Jodie. 'Our answer was that we wanted to entertain with ease, to be able to relax and be comfortable, and to live in an open-plan way but with private areas tucked away.' And more than three years later, it's clear that this is exactly what they have achieved, with fluid spaces that flow seamlessly from one to the other and feel casual but convivial.

First task on the list was ripping out and replacing the electrics and plumbing, followed shortly after by removing those unfashionable windows, many of which were missing lintels so major structural work was required. This led to yet more structural work, such as knocking through the separate sitting and dining rooms to create the open-plan living/kitchen space they wanted, then replacing the main staircase and extending into an unused loft void to create their bedroom and adjoining dressing room. Next, they turned the original kitchen into a guest bedroom with ensuite, upgraded all the bathrooms, changed a →

MAIN BEDROOM

Right Having spotted the loft area beneath the eaves through a hatch at their first viewing, Jodie and Olly have turned it into their bedroom.

Walls in School House White, Farrow & Ball.

Bed, Bensons For Beds.

Headboard and fabric, The House Upstairs and Mrs Alice.

Side tables, Oka. **Lamps**, H&M. **Blind**, Mrs Alice.

Rug and bench, The House Upstairs.

Pendant light, Pooky

SNUG

Below Just off the bedroom is a luxurious space for relaxation with a bath, projector screen, coffee station and woodburner.

Vintage **sofa**, covered in Gastón y Daniela fabric.

Chair, vintage. **Coffee table**, The House Upstairs covered in Lost & Found fabric, Christopher Farr.

Bath, BC Designs painted in Charleston Gray, Farrow & Ball. **Tiles**, Milagros.

Rug, The House Upstairs



bedroom into a snug complete with freestanding bath and converted a box room into a second guest bedroom by reinstating the vaulted ceiling, adding a new door and window, and replacing rotten walls. Last, but certainly not least, was replacing the front door. It was a major reconfiguration by anyone's standards.

As with any refurb, there were some unforeseen costs, as well as some welcome surprises, mostly in the form of much sought-after period features – gold dust for those in the throes of converting a Victorian house. 'We discovered all the original ceilings – hidden behind suspended ceilings that were installed when the mansion was converted into three flats in the 1960s – as well as beautiful floorboards, stained glass and chimneys,' says Jodie. 'We've really tried to put personality back into the property by reinstating its history.'

With the hardest part done, Jodie and Olly were free to channel their creativity – and remaining budget – into furnishing their blank canvas. Jodie explains: 'We wanted the interiors to look lived in – as though they had always been there – with nothing too perfect or overly staged.' Seeking inspiration from travels, social media, hotels, stately homes and books, they set about adding to their already eclectic collection of furniture, accessories and textiles, sourcing vintage pieces and reclaimed treasures via Instagram as well as from the occasional auction. 'We also →



BEDROOM SITTING AREA

With new Velux windows, the loft bedroom is a light-filled space decorated with cosy layered textiles and eye-catching patterns. La Pannonie wallpaper, Pierre Frey



love flea markets, eBay and Facebook Marketplace,' adds Jodie. In fact, the reclaimed kitchen, marble fireplace and reupholstered sofas are just a handful of spoils from a pick and mix of fruitful resources. But building up their scheme didn't stop there. Colour and pattern, too, have been layered to add further character. 'I love to throw everything together, but always with a sense of balance,' continues Jodie. 'So I try to counter any vibrant elements with calmer touches.' Throughout, she and Olly have created an aesthetic that feels effortless, well-travelled and absolutely timeless, somehow managing to evoke both British charm and Mediterranean spirit: 'Once you open the door, we wanted it to feel like you could be anywhere, a bit like a magical escape.'

But not everything has been completed. Next on the couple's hit list is the dressing room – 'a bit of a dumping ground' – and the garden. And then... who knows? 'A life abroad might be in our future,' says Jodie, 'and I think we've got another big project in us.' Watch this space, because if it's anything like this joyful maisonette, it's going to be wonderful. **HB**
Find Jodie's furniture and homeware on thehouseupstairs.co.uk



GUEST BEDROOM

Top and above The couple wallpapered the walls and ceilings to give this room a cosy cottage feel and they used one of Jodie's favourite fabrics, Lasso by Pierre Frey, on the headboard to make it fun for their nieces to stay in there. **Wallpaper**, Anna French. **Walls** in Joa's White, Farrow & Ball. **Chair, console and lamp**, vintage



BATHROOM

This space may be small, but it makes a big impact. **Tiles**, Moroccan Zellige. **Basin**, Ikea. **Sconces**, Pooky. **Mirror**, vintage

