

# CULTURAL MIX

Hedayat Taymour looked to her Egyptian roots when creating an eclectic interior that combines exotic finds and modern furnishings

FEATURE NATALIE WAIN | PHOTOGRAPHY JONATHAN GOOCH



### SITTING ROOM

'People always notice the chandelier,' says Hedayat. 'I've even had strangers knocking on the door asking about it after admiring it through the window.' Zarmond Suspension light, \$1,896, Spiridon Light, is an alternative. The Orbit two-seater sofa from Designers Guild is discontinued, its Florence sofa is similar, £995. Try Antique Church pine panelling and doors, £3,500, English Salvage



### INSPIRING

### HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY**  
Victorian house  
**LOCATION** West London  
**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, TV room, cloakroom, basement, five bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms  
**PURCHASED** 2014  
**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**  
'We lived in a modern townhouse in Chelsea,' says Hedayat.

FAVOURITE FEATURE 'I love the original high ceilings of the house and the classic period details'



### DINING ROOM

Egyptian-inspired artwork combines with high-end furnishings for a striking look. For a similar painting by Omar El Nagdi, try Al Masar Gallery. Artisan Invito extending table, from £2,750, Nina's House. Kartell Masters chairs by Philippe Starck, £168 each, Heal's. Mamluk hand-knotted rug by Al Katan, from £1,900, Jam Space



**W**hen Hedayat Taymour moved to London from Cairo with her husband Elwy, she knew she would bring a little bit of their Egyptian culture to their home. After a brief sojourn in Chelsea, the pair realised they needed a more family-orientated home for them and their three children, Gigi, now 12, Mymy, 10, and Alia, six, which they soon found in west London. 'I fell in love with this place the moment we opened the door – it has a wonderful soul,' says Hedayat. 'We'd seen larger properties, but this felt like home.'

Straight away, Hedayat, an interior designer, founder of Jam Space UK and co-founder of Eklego Design Egypt, set about putting her stamp on the property. 'I wanted to include references to Egypt in a mix of traditional and modern forms,' says Hedayat. In the sitting room, the River Nile glistens in an oil painting, and a piece of artwork in the kitchen, rendered in sand, illustrates Sham El-Nessim, an ancient Egyptian feast that is still celebrated today.

Although Hedayat's affection for her homeland is clearly evident, she has embraced London living, too. 'Decorating the interior of this house is a passion,' she says. 'It's a blend of East meets West, a mix of everything I love, but for me you never really design your home so much as curate it.' High ceilings and architectural details, including Edwardian property developer Jimmy Nichols' trademark terracotta lions, echo Cairo's mid-century splendour,

providing a sense of familiarity. Elsewhere, a few tweaks have enhanced the interior's sense of flow. 'We squared off the curved archway in the kitchen and restored the skirting boards for a more harmonious effect,' says Hedayat. The pair have also turned wasted space in the kitchen into an open-fronted drinks cabinet, a tile-backed fireplace and a log store. And lining the entire ground floor with whitewashed oak flooring has created a shabby chic finish that Hedayat adores. 'It's also very practical and ages well, so it's perfect for children.'

At the front of the property, two rooms have been knocked together to form one large open space, and Hedayat has styled it into two zones to house a relaxed seating area and a more formal sitting room for entertaining. In here, intricately carved weathered wooden doors from Egypt sit alongside a sorbet green Designers Guild sofa, while a beaded crystal chandelier that was made in Alexandria, adds a luxe touch.

This is a contrast to the relaxed space, where contemporary Roche Bobois seating is scattered with bright cushions made from handwoven fabrics. 'I'm not influenced by trends,' says Hedayat. 'My home is full of one-off finds and pieces that tell a story. How and why something has been created is just as important to me as the finished article.' It is a philosophy that Hedayat applies to her work projects, too. 'I find the whole interior design process incredibly enriching and we have loved transforming this place into a characterful home.'



DECORATING TIP 'Don't fall victim to trends and be genuinely in love with the furniture

and accessories you choose – a scheme will then come together naturally in a beautiful way'

**1 SITTING ROOM**

**A low-slung modular sofa creates a laid-back seating area where everyone can relax.**

Voyage Immobile modular sofa, from £2,010, Nouveaux Classiques collection at Roche Bobois. Searchlight floor lamp, £125, Ocean Lighting, is a match. Handmade patchwork Markaz cushions, from £65 each, Jam Space

**2 & 4 KITCHEN**  
**'Elwy is a mean cook and the girls like to bake cakes, so a family-friendly space**

**was essential in here,' says Hedayat.**

Bespoke kitchen by Harvey Jones. For similar metro wall tiles, try Retro Metro Green Park tiles, £74.98sq m, Fired Earth. Ceiling pendant lights, from £295 each, Noor collection at Jam Space

**3 HALL**  
**A vintage workbench is the perfect display space for photos and trinkets, setting the tone for the rest of the house.**

The Conran Shop sells a vintage beechwood workbench that is similar, £3,100

**5 MAIN BEDROOM**

**A low-level window allows plenty of light to flood through.**

Try the Galway Living table lamp, £149, Debenhams. Myakka sells similar patchwork quilts, from £124

**6 BATHROOM**

**There is plenty of space for all three children in here.** Harbour Clarity wall-mounted unit and basin, £250, Drench, is a match

**7 ALIA'S BEDROOM**  
**Multifunctional furniture is practical**

**and space-saving.**

For a similar bed, try the Bright White Darwin bunk bed, £599, Great Little Trading Co. John Lewis sells Little Fairy Bunting wall stickers by Little Home, £18

**8 EN SUITE**

**Watery blue wall tiles give this two-person shower cubicle a clean and refreshing finish.** New Yorker Smoke metro tiles, £82.90sq m, European Heritage. Large roll-top basin with stainless steel stand, £598, Clearwater Baths

FOR STOCKISTS GO TO WHERE TO BUY

