



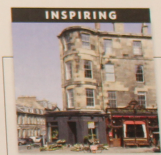
SITTING ROOM
As well as restoring the windows and shutters, the couple sanded and sealed the original floors. Floorboard stain, Colron Refined Jacobean Dark Oak wood dye, £27.84 per litre, B&Q. Britannia three-seater sofa, £1,798. DFS. Graham and Green sells porthole mirrors, from £59 each



MOODY HUES

A daring palette has brought cosy comfort into Asta Young-Smith and Stuart Holligan's period apartment

FEATURE FIONA REID | PHOTOGRAPHY DOUGLAS GIBB



INSPIRING

HOME TRUTHS
THE PROPERTY
B-listed Georgian flat
LOCATION Edinburgh
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom, shower room
PURCHASED 2014
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
"We lived in a three-bedroom Victorian flat in Edinburgh, which we also fully restored," says Asta.

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KITCHEN-DINER
'I have always liked this anthracite shade,' says Asta, 'and I love colour schemes that are nice and cosy.' Häcker cabinetry with Neff appliances and Silestone worktops, around £15,000; Cavalio Concept Metalstone grey tiles, £20.94sq m, all Developments Direct. Try Trent Furniture's Loop Back side chair, £261

GUEST
The dark grey theme with white accents, Hemnes white single turquoise throw. Ikea. Take a look at cover with piped



Asta Young-Smith and her partner Stuart Holligan have a passion for neglected period properties. Where other people might see a wreck, they see an exciting project waiting to happen. But still, the Georgian flat they bought in Edinburgh's New Town in 2014 took considerable visualisation.

'I liked the bow-ended walls in the sitting room and master bedroom, but the floors, decor and everything else was terrible,' says Asta. 'There was magnolia everywhere,' adds Stuart. 'These types of properties weren't designed to be boring – quite the opposite.'

The flat had been a student let and the interior was very run-down, with the original shutters literally hanging off some windows. Asta and Stuart wanted to restore all the character that had been lost over the years, as well as reinstating windows, shutters and fireplaces, and creating a family home for

themselves and their children, Marcus, now 20, Lucas, 18, and Matas, 12. Luckily, they have a wealth of experience: Asta is a kitchen and bathroom designer, and Stuart has a restoration and refurbishment business.

On the day they moved in, the couple began by stripping back the interior, starting with the sitting room. 'We wanted to tackle a room at a time so that we'd have one space that we could enjoy, while the rest of the flat was in turmoil,' says Asta, who chose a daring hue for the walls. 'We love greys and this cosy shade is ideal for the Scottish weather. Even before we started work on our kitchen, I had decided on the anthracite finish for the cabinetry, so that colour flows into this room.'

Asta opted for white composite worktops to go with the modern grey units. 'I wanted a handleless design for a clutter-free look,' she explains. As a sleek minimalist scheme wouldn't have suited the family's lifestyle or indeed the property, Stuart built a chunky

timber dining table into the wall. A set of vintage bentwood café chairs bought from auction and restored help to soften the look further. Stuart also created a master en suite from scratch and updated the existing shower room and bathroom with large-format tiles and contemporary fittings.

Creating a sense of warmth was central to the overall design, which is reflected in the rich colour palette and rustic textiles seen throughout the flat. The pair are always on the lookout for characterful finds, from the oil portraits bought at auction houses to vintage pieces sourced from antiques shops. Together with finishing touches, such as logs piled inside a fireplace and bunches of dried heather, they all add a homely feel.

The project was finally completed earlier this year, and the couple are thrilled with the result. 'It has been a long journey,' says Asta, 'but envisaging how it's going to look in the end, is what always keeps you going.'



KITCHEN-DINER

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BATHROOM

The pair mixes up the modern styling. The 1.6m bath and vanity unit, £365, is from all Vitra. Porcelain tiles, £299 sq m, are from Development Direct. The Belgravia tower radiator, £58, Bedside, is similar



MASTER BEDROOM

Warming textiles lend a subtle Scottish air to this scheme's aesthetic. Headboard designed by Asta and upholstered in Moon Sky tweed, £16.50sq m, Ampersand Interiors. Orange cushions, £25 each, John Lewis

INSPIRATION 'When designing the interior, I tried to capture memories of places I'd been - remembering how it felt and then recreating that experience with colour'



GUEST BEDROOM

The dark grey theme continues in here, with white accents adding crispness. Hemnes white single bed frame, £50; the Gurli turquoise throw, £5.50, is comparable, both Ikea. Take a look at the plain cotton cushion cover with piped edging, £6, La Redoute



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