



BRIGHT IDEAS

Touches of contemporary colour and pattern have updated a living room.

Alex Knight, 47, her husband Shaun, 50, and their children Maddie, 15, and Archie, 11, have lived in their 1930s three-bedroom semi in Hampton, Middlesex, for the past 15 years. They decorated the living room to reflect the style of the property and created a doorway to link it with the contemporary new extension.

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WALLS
Almond white keeps the room looking light and open

CURTAINS
Full-length drapes frame the window, adding warmth and elegance

BLINDS
White wooden slats allow for privacy while still letting in the light

STRAW BASKET
Blankets and throws for snuggling up with on the sofa in the evenings are stored inside

BEFORE



ACTION PLAN

OPEN UP DOORWAY TO DINING ROOM

LAY LAMINATE FLOORING THROUGHOUT THE GROUND FLOOR

PAINT WALLS

DRESS WINDOW AND SOURCE FURNITURE

SOFA
A modern version of a classic style that works well in the period setting



PICTURES

Family photos personalise the space, while the copper frames tie in with the lamp, which was a starting point for the scheme

COFFEE TABLE
An unusual three-tier design is a focal point

RUG

The Moroccan-style geometric pattern adds interest and pattern to the floor

Why did you decide to decorate the room?

We had a kitchen extension built in 2014 and wanted to link the living room with our new open-plan area.

You decided to open up the space

Part of the wall between the living room and dining area was knocked through. We were able to reuse the original French doors that we'd saved from the back of the house when the extension was built, so that the two rooms could be closed off from time to time. New windows were put in and wooden flooring laid throughout the ground floor.

Tell us about the scheme

We wanted to move away from a traditional look and have the room blend with our new kitchen, which is in shades of grey. Using the same flooring throughout has created a sense of continuity.

Where did you begin?

I fell in love with the copper floor lamp that I found in a local interiors and gift shop and this became the starting point for the scheme. I opted for classic sofas in grey, which suit the original style of the room and give us the flexibility to change the decor if we want to in the future. Touches of black and white add definition, while copper and orange highlights bring a sense of warmth.

How did you tackle the bay window?

The room instantly looked brighter once the old aluminium frames were replaced with new double-glazed units. We chose white wooden blinds and created a lovely frame for the window with grey and white curtains in a geometric pattern. This fabric ties in with the black and white cushions and the Moroccan-style black and white rug.

Describe your finishing touches

I used fairy lights and candle lanterns on the mantelpiece for a cosy glow and the orange cushions add a bright element to the sofa. I've really enjoyed the whole process of hunting for unique items and searching out affordable pieces that can transform a room, such as the mantel clock, which I found in a local charity shop called Geranium.

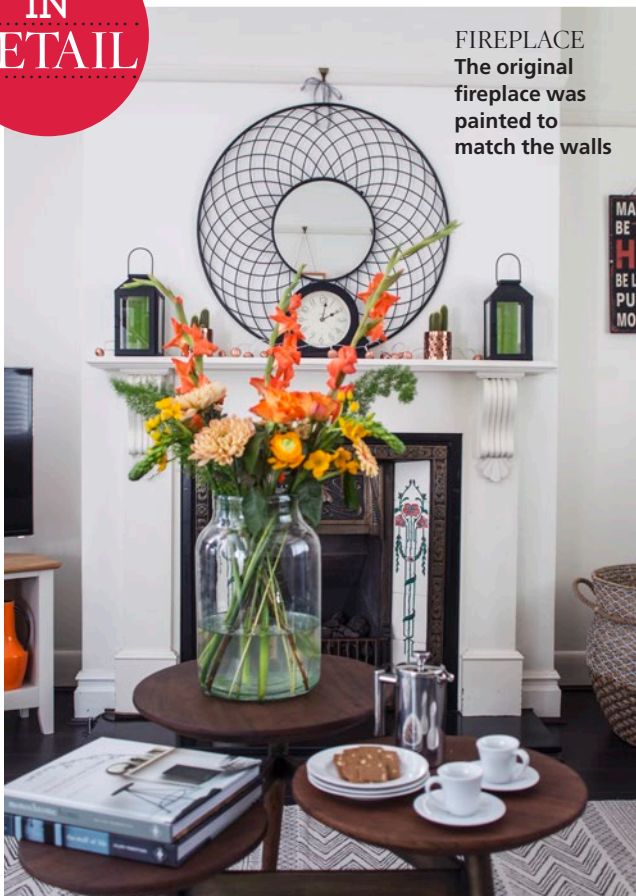
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OPEN PLAN

The original French doors taken from the back of the house were reused when the living room was knocked through

IN
DETAIL



FIREPLACE
The original fireplace was painted to match the walls

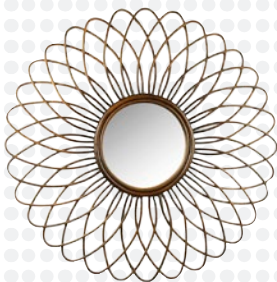


COLOUR CONTRAST
Neutral grey sofas and understated grey and white curtains set off the vibrant orange touches and bold textures

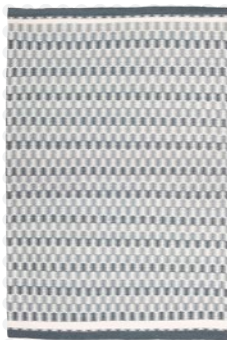
HOUSE BEAUTIFUL SAYS...

‘The French doors link the living room with the rest of the ground floor for an open-plan area that can be closed off if needed.’

GET THE LOOK



Rattan ornate round mirror, £105, Puji



Duster wool and cotton rug, from £245, Loaf



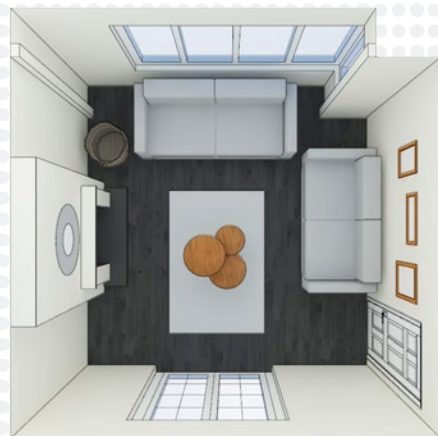
Acropolis table lamp, £39, Very

WHAT IT COST

Paint	£37
Seating	£2,098
Flooring	£319
Curtains	£647
Blinds	£130
Total	£3,231

FLOOR PLAN

A simple arrangement of furniture and vibrant colourful touches keeps the room modern and bright



SHOPPING LIST

Walls painted in Welsh Flint emulsion, £18.98 for 2.5L, Dulux. Pinch-pleat curtains made up in Abacus, Liquorice, £647, Hillarys. Flexible curtain track, from £6.50, Wilko. Soft White wood Venetian blinds, £130, blinds-2go.co.uk. Elite Quick-Step laminate flooring, £19 a sq metre, Hampton Flooring. Copenhagen sofas in Navora Grey: large, £1,099; small, £999; both Marks & Spencer. Moroccan leather footstool, £60, East Unique. Tripod coffee table, £350; Maya block-print large rug, £190; telephone, £55; all Graham and Green. Romo Bakerloo cushions, £55 each; double wall coffee press, from £30; all John Lewis. Round black mirror, £24.99; basket, £16.99; copper picture frames, £7.99 each; wall plaque, £12.99; tiled-top side table, £16.99; all TK Maxx. Floor lamp, £160, Urban Suburban. Copper pendant light, £40; grey lampshade, £30; both Next. Tripod lampshade base, £12, Cargo. Copper fairy lights, £11.99; metal stool, £16; both Clas Ohlson. Lanterns, £14.99 each; copper pot and cactus, £2.99; black and white cushions, £9.99; all H&M. Flowers supplied by Bloomon

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE WHERE TO BUY PAGE

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