

'My house feels like a reflection of me'

Look to contemporary Italian design for inspiration – it helped Emma Stoddart reinvent her tired Sixties house

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



The big CHANGE

CONVERTING THE LOFT AND GARAGE, ADDING REAR AND SIDE EXTENSIONS, REWORKING THE LAYOUT AND REDECORATING THROUGHOUT

Get the LOOK PAGE 84

1 Living area

The neutral backdrop keeps the space light and open, while black accents and vintage Cortina reading chairs by Minotti add statement style

For a similar wall lamp, try The Mantis, £290, Houseology. Patterned cushions, £19.95 each, Mitzi B

‘The modular sofa has been with me for 15 years. I get it re-covered to update it every so often. Buying a new one seems a bit wasteful’



2 Dining area
Emma designed the space to fit her existing furniture, including the sofa, which was made to order by Roche Bobois. For a similar sofa, try the Seville modular corner sofa in Mocha, £499 per unit, Dwell

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£480,000	£184,000	£1 million



THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, semi-detached, Sixties house in Hampton, Middlesex, bought in 2009.

an online resource to support and inform people who are managing their own renovations.

WHAT IT COST

Building and decorating...£180,000
Furniture.....£2,000
Soft furnishings.....£2,000
TOTAL.....£184,000

THE LOOK

Sleek and sophisticated glamour, inspired by modern Italian design.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Understanding the process of renovating can relieve you of a lot of stress. Also, don’t be constrained by convention – think creatively when it comes to planning the layout.”

WHO LIVES HERE

Emma Stoddart, with her children Oscar, 16, and Ruby, 13. Emma is an architectural designer and the founder of Renovation Academy,



▲ FIRST FLOOR
There are three bedrooms, one of which is used as a living room, and a bathroom

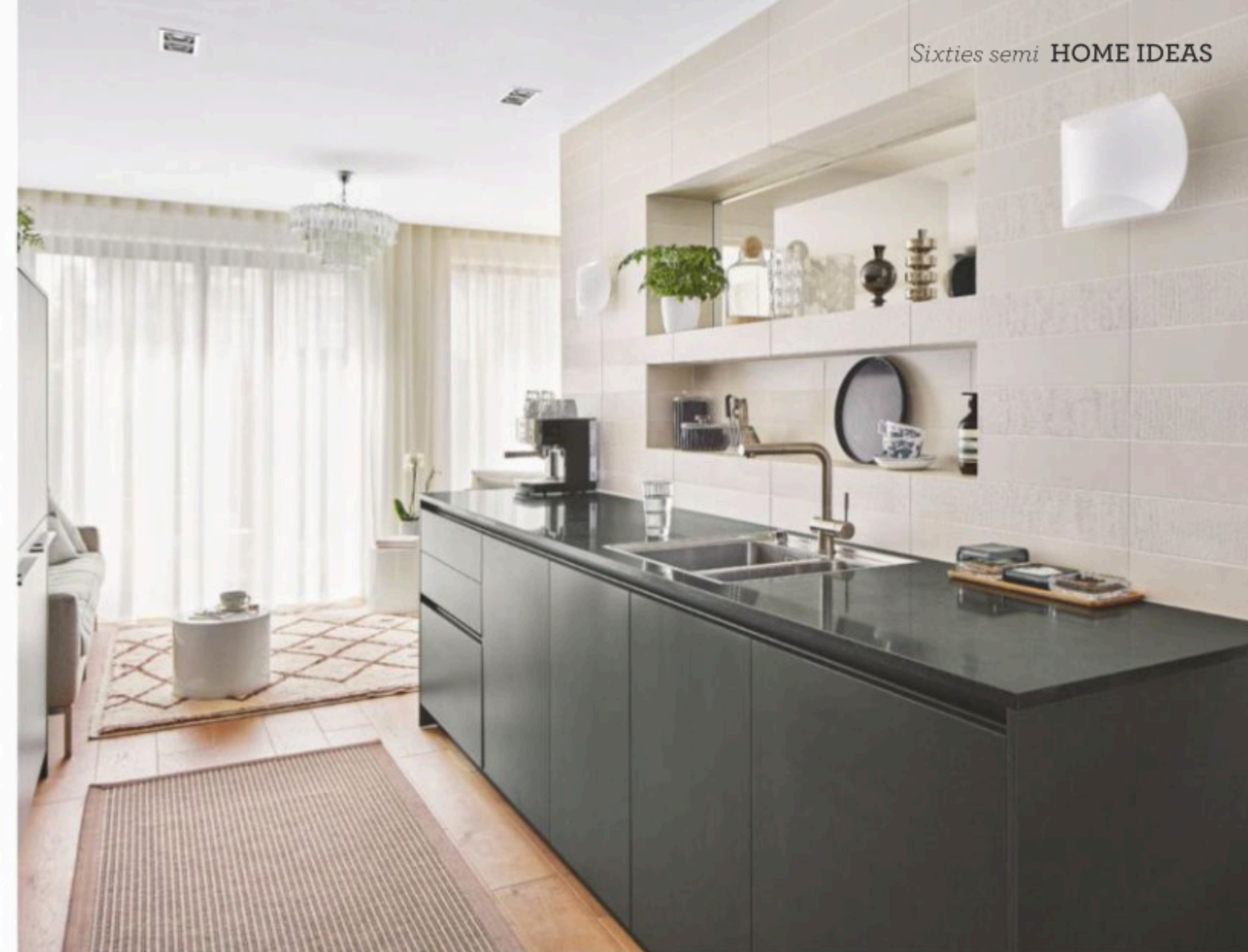


▲ SECOND FLOOR
The main bedroom and an en suite are on the top floor



◀ GROUND FLOOR
The sunroom at the front leads into the kitchen and open-plan living and dining area beyond. There’s also a utility room off the hallway

'I really love the open, flowing, connected space and how there are interesting, yet practical, areas'



4 Kitchen

Emma paid particular attention to detail in the kitchen, choosing sleek fittings and shimmering wall tiles
Pietra d'Origine tiles in Avorio, £39 for five, Not Just Tiles. Gessi Oxygen tap, £184, Sinks taps.com

3 Living area

A breakfast bar serves as a sociable seating area and creates a neat division between the open-plan kitchen and the rear living area
Bespoke rug, £650, Amiska Decor. 7ft potted bamboo tree, £99, Bloom

When she first saw it, Emma Stoddart felt an immediate connection with what was to become her home. 'It reminded me of

the houses I knew when I was growing up in New Zealand in the Seventies,' she says. Despite the flock wallpaper, swirly patterned carpets, Formica kitchen and even the elderly cat that she inherited on completion, from the moment Emma stepped across the threshold, she knew that this house was going to become home for her and her children, Oscar and Ruby.

Emma had been searching for a new start in a house where she could express her creativity. Having moved from a period property with lots of stained glass and original features, she was

looking for something that felt modern. However, having found it, she lived in it for four years without changing a thing, taking the time to explore the space and to think about potential redesign possibilities.

'I listed which elements of the house I wanted to keep, such as the internal window in the kitchen and the living space at the back of the house,' she says. 'I needed to add a large fire, lots of storage and a sunny living room. I also knew what had to go, such as the small kitchen and the Seventies décor. I referred to this list throughout the renovation and decorating process. Budget and project length can both benefit enormously when you follow a clear step-by-step plan.'

From the start, Emma knew the relationship she had with her builder was going to be →



5 Sunroom

The striking black kitchen contrasts with the white walls and the white sofa in the sunroom at the front of the house
Kitchen and honed-granite worktop, £10,000, Schüller range, Northpoint Kitchens.



9 Bathroom
Emma has made the most of the loft area, tucking the bath into the space below the pitched roof. Bath, £1,010; basin, £932; both Palomba range, Laufen

10 Hall
A simple bench sits over a row of baskets that's used for storing shoes, coats and bags. Zeus Big Irony Bench, £371, Made In Design. For similar flooring, try the Galleria Professional engineered European oak, £52 per sq m, UK Flooring Direct



eBay. 'I've loved these chairs for years, so I couldn't believe my luck when I spotted them. They cost a song compared to their retail price.'

To ensure a cohesive look, Emma decided on a simple colour palette. She painted walls in a mix of grey tones, from pale silver to dark slate, to vary the mood from cosy and enveloping to light and inviting. Oak flooring adds warmth, while black accents create sculptural shapes and focal points.

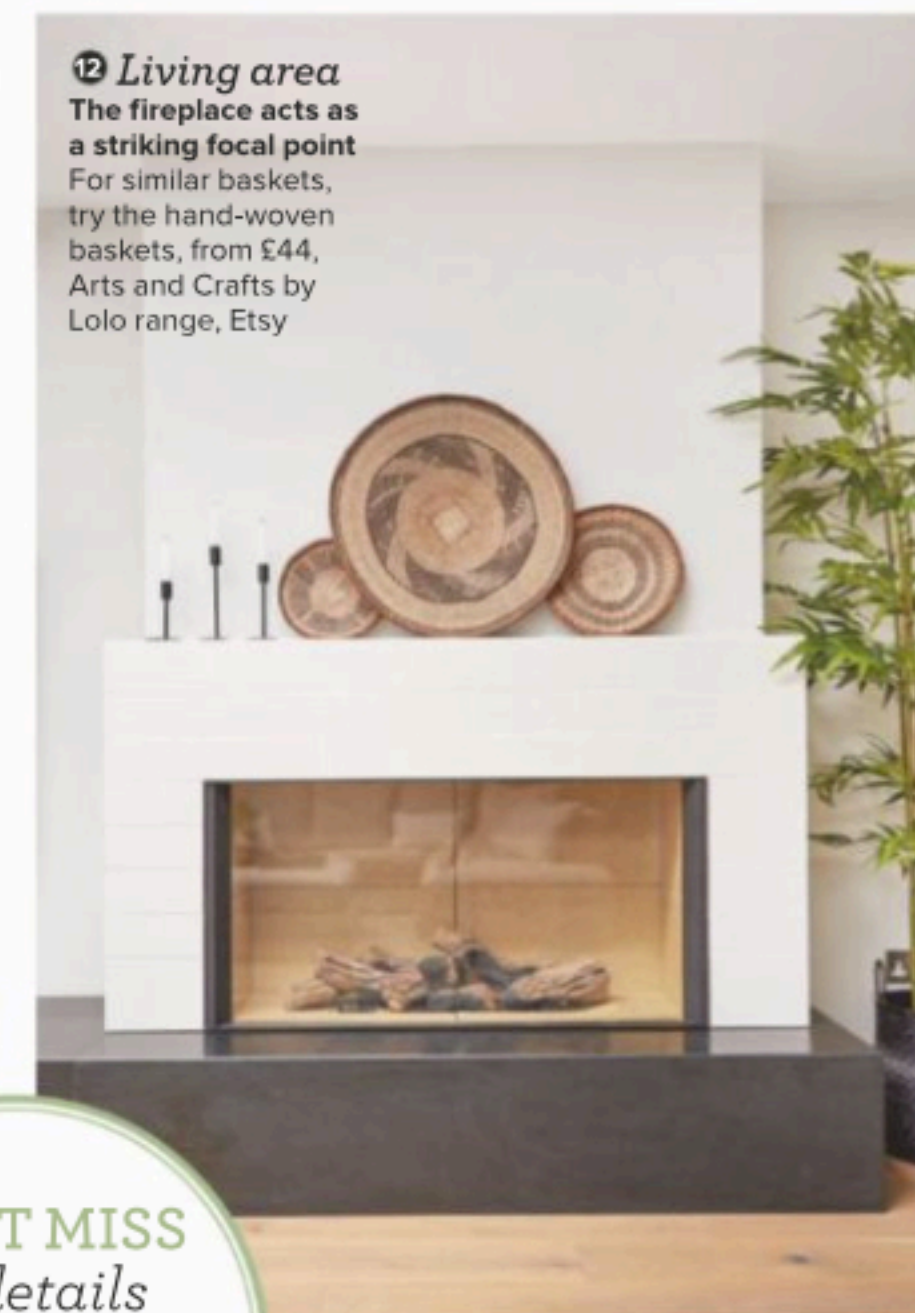
Emma is passionate about helping her clients to understand the renovation process better, and has recently developed Renovation Academy (renovationacademy.co.uk) – a library of online courses that share her expertise.

'Renovation can be a total joy and I'd love more people to experience that, rather than stress,' she says. 'When you know what you are doing you tend to save both time and money, and end up getting much better results.'

Her own home is a testament to this. 'I really love the open, flowing, connected space and how there are interesting, yet practical, areas, such as the front living room that opens onto an enclosed courtyard and the "arrivals area", with stacks of storage for coats and bags,' she says. 'Now it's finished, it feels very much a reflection of me. I am very comfortable here.'



11 Sun room
Classic designs and minimal accessories make this a perfect spot to unwind in. Circular gloss stacking table, £149 for two, Dwell



12 Living area
The fireplace acts as a striking focal point. For similar baskets, try the hand-woven baskets, from £44, Arts and Crafts by Lolo range, Etsy

DON'T MISS the details
Keep lines sleek and add a few carefully chosen decorative objects for a serene scheme

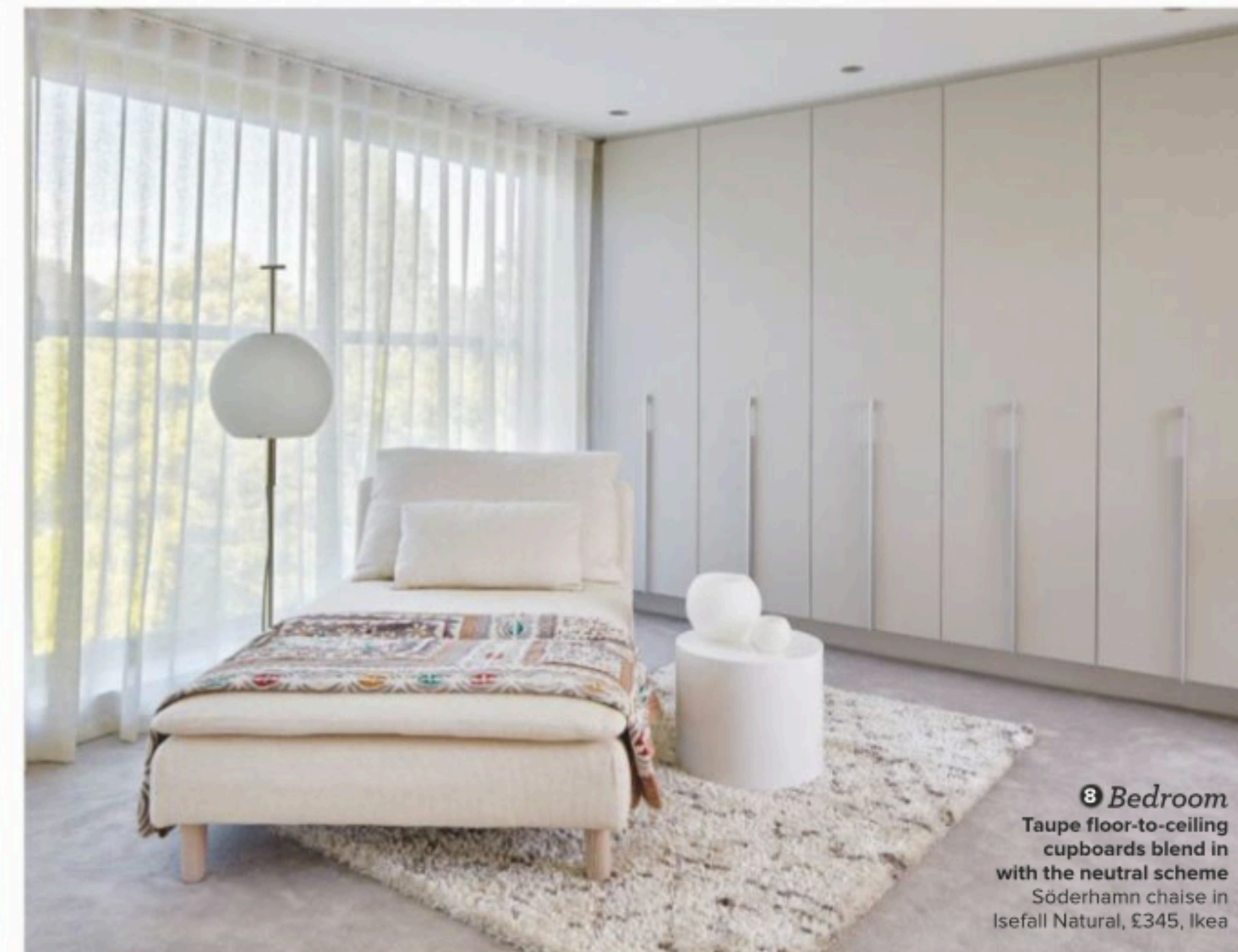


13 Kitchen
Softly curved bar stools are an elegant touch. Visu bar stools, £325 each, Muuto range, Made In Design



14 Bedroom
A square daybed has a contemporary look. For a similar throw, try the Alpaca in charcoal and white, £89.50, Mitzi B

FEATURE AND STYLING: DILLY ORME. PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID PARMITER. BOX COPY: LISA FAZZANI. PLANS: PERSONA ID. FLOWERS: INTERFLORA



8 Bedroom
Taupe floor-to-ceiling cupboards blend in with the neutral scheme
Söderhamn chaise in Isefall Natural, £345, Ikea

important. She chose someone she had worked with before, who understood her vision and shared a similar passion for detail. 'A builder with a good attitude, who's committed to the job, is worth his weight in gold,' she says. 'My builder really cared about going for that next level of finish and, because I felt confident in his work, I could focus on the creative process.'

Emma totally refurbished the house, putting in new wiring, heating and insulation, as well as replacing windows and doors. On the ground floor, a full-width 6m extension across the back of the house has created an open-plan living space, while a side extension added an entrance area, a hallway with storage and a sunroom. Emma installed a new kitchen and put utilities in the garage extension. Upstairs,

she had a new bathroom installed, and the loft was converted into a bedroom and en suite.

While the building work was progressing, Emma turned her thoughts to the overall look of the interior. Inspired by her favourite Italian brands, Minotti and B&B Italia, she put together a scheme based around modular seating, contemporary lighting and a mix of luxurious textures and finishes.

Not everything was bought new: Emma has owned some pieces for many years. 'The modular sofa has been with me for 15 years,' says Emma. 'I get it re-covered to update it every so often. Buying a new one seems a bit wasteful, especially as this sofa is so comfortable.' She found the two leather-upholstered Minotti Cortina chairs on →

6 Main bedroom

The tranquil grey-and-white palette continues into the bedroom in the converted loft
Walls painted in Flat Emulsion in Slate I, £37.50 for 2.5ltr, Paint & Paper Library. Juju hat (on wall), £195, Design My World

7 En suite

A voile curtain screens off the en suite. To link the two spaces, Emma used the same paint shade on the walls as she did in the bedroom
Curtain made in Clio in Natur, £45.50 per m, Equipo DRT range,



3 of the best MID-CENTURY BUYS



£325

Tall order
Long lines in pale oak have a Scandi feel
Visu bar stool in oak, Muuto range, Nest.co.uk



£169

Nice curves
The splayed legs add retro appeal
Oscar coffee table in mango wood, Swoon Editions



£277

Organic shape
An iconic Sixties design
Pierre P. Slice chair, Italia Designs

Get Emma's look

Give a modern living space understated style with a neutral palette and slick finishing touches

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



ASK EMMA

■ WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME? 'The open, flowing, connected spaces.'

■ DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE IN FIVE WORDS 'Clean, unpretentious, personal, simple, calm.'

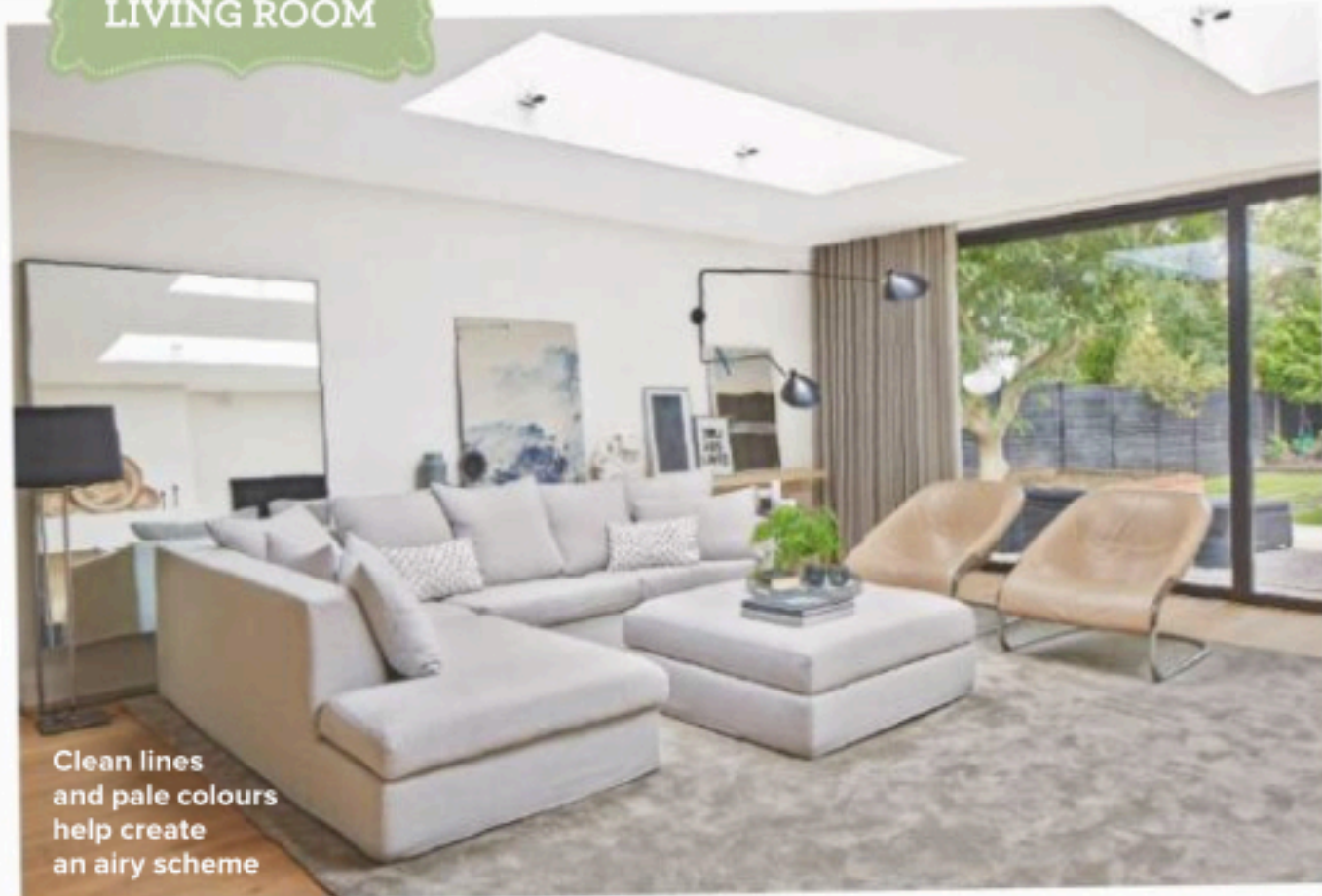
■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE HOMES BUY AND WHY? 'The sheer full-length curtains. They soften the architecture, making the rooms cosy at night and giving an ethereal effect during the day.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE ONLINE INTERIORS SHOP? 'Keeping an eye on eBay has allowed me to buy high-end designer furniture. I love Made In Design for the big brands.'

■ WHAT INSPIRED YOU? 'Minotti and B&B Italia's roomsets for design details.'

FEATURE LISA FAZZANI PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID PARMITER

LIVING ROOM



Clean lines and pale colours help create an airy scheme

Making waves

Opt for a simple yet striking print
The Great Wave at Kanagawa print on canvas (H20cm x W30cm), King & McGaw



£24.95



£290

Stylish steel

Go for a Fifties-style metal wall light
The Mantis wall lamp, Houseology

£27

Take a stand

This steel floor lamp with black cotton shade makes a quiet impact
Leighton floor lamp, Very



£1,650



Cool blue

Zone an open-plan living area
Finlay II corner sofa in Fraser fabric in Duck Egg (H80cm x W230cm x D230cm), House range, John Lewis

£10



Dimpled beauty

Bring shine to the table with a silver-effect bowl
Hammered metal fruit bowl, Next

£59



Seeing stars

Add a touch of busy pattern to your sofa
Embroidered cushion, BoConcept