

'The walls are A SHOWSTOPPER'

SMART STORAGE

'Having the drawers by the window makes the space feel more open'



COME ON IN!



ABOUT ME I'm Claire Lloyd Davies, 40, and I live here with my partner, Richard Stockley, 43, and our daughters, Connie eight, and Rosie, six. We bought our Thirties house in February 2015.

MY CHALLENGE We renovated two years ago, and had to build up funds to tackle our bedroom. The whole upstairs had been decorated in a neutral palette, and we lived with it like that for two years before choosing a look we loved. I really wanted to get it right to suit our budget and our tastes.

MY WISH LIST For our bedroom, I wanted to create a scheme that was lovely and bright to wake up to, but I really struggled to find the right look.

IDEA TO STEAL

'Choose a simple window treatment to balance out a standout wallpaper'



Claire brightened up her magnolia bedroom, using a vibrant, floral wallpaper as her starting point

When we moved house, we stayed in the local area and bought a same-sized house that was in desperate need of renovation,' says Claire. 'The property wasn't really fit for habitation but my partner Richard and I found a builder, who came highly recommended.

In fact, he originally told us he could do the upstairs in just three weeks. It was great timing because it was the Easter holidays, so we went away for a couple of weeks during the renovation, then stayed with friends. However rather than being able to skim the walls, as we first thought, everything had to be stripped back to the bare brickwork and replastered, adding another two weeks to the project.

Neutral territory

When we first viewed the house, it was so drab and uninviting, I wanted to push the boat out and make an effort with our bedroom. During the renovations, I chose the soft vanilla shade of Lead White from Little Greene for the walls, which I felt had a lovely warmth it and a mushroom-coloured carpet from Brintons.

We ordered fitted wardrobes from Jali, as we were desperate for storage, and shutters from Luxaflex, which we went on to use it throughout the house to create a continuous look. With this fresh, neutral backdrop in place, I turned my thoughts to how to bring in more colour.

The starting point

I had been looking at interior magazines, browsing online and popping into my local interior designer's showroom for inspiration, but nothing seemed to make my heart leap. Then, hurrying through John Lewis one day, I was stopped dead in my tracks by a display in the entrance. It had the real wow factor I had been looking for and was shown in >>

TOTAL
£6,005

TURN OVER FOR MY SHOPPING LIST

BOLD APPROACH

'The vibrant wallpaper really adds wow factor above the bed, balanced against the neutral walls'

Make it!
FABRIC LAMPSHADE

- 1 Invest in a lampshade-making kit (try Amazon) and cut your chosen material to size using fabric scissors. Follow the kit instructions to fix the fabric to the panel.
- 2 Trim the fabric edges and snap back the creased sides as per the instructions. Apply double-sided tape to one short edge of the panel to form the seam.
- 3 Cover both rings with double-sided tape and roll them along the edges of the fabric-covered panel.

Style Maker
ALEX SAYS



'The stacked trunks in the fireplace look gorgeous and are a clever way of filling an empty cavity with a pop of colour and character.'

PERFECT FIT

'The wardrobes came flat packed with instructions. It was such a relief to have them in place after the renovation, as we could get things organised'



IDEA TO STEAL
'Choose artwork that complements your scheme without being overpowering'

'ADD A PLAIN VELVET THROW TO LEND A TOUCH OF LUXURY, BREAK UP THE FLORAL PATTERN AND UNIFY THE SPACE'



WELL FITTED

'We carefully papered around the door to give the room a neat finish'

STYLE WITH KNOBS ON

'I chose drawer pulls in shades that matched the wallpaper, to tie in with the room'



WORDS DILLY ORME PHOTOGRAPHS CLAIRE LLOYD DAVIES

» a bedroom scenario with a wonderfully vibrant bedding set. At last I had my starting point. I took a note of the brand, Bluebellgray, and when I looked them up on my return, I was delighted to see they had a wallpaper in a similar design.

Striking a balance

I knew the wallpaper I had set my heart on could make a vibrant statement on the bedstead wall. The house is from the Thirties and the ceilings are relatively low, so initially I thought it was best to stick to the one wall. The lead white we had already used on the walls and wardrobe was a perfect match to the background of the paper, it works well alongside it and keeps the overall look fresh but inviting.

The original window bay is a lovely rounded shape so using shutters really accentuates that, so I felt there was no need for additional dress curtains. This meant I could go to town with the floral

bedlinen that had first caught my eye, plus a pile of sumptuous cushions.

Finishing touches

After all the expense of the initial renovations, we had a budget of £1,500 to complete our room. As I had invested in the wallpaper and bedlinen, I looked at cost-effective options elsewhere. Plus, with the busy pattern of the wallpaper, I thought it made sense to keep the rest of the room as calm and restful as possible. I finished it with a few simple accessories, mainly using glassware to bring in pops of colour that tied in with other elements of the room. When the work was done, everything was in place, and I stood back and looked at the overall scheme, I felt the wallpaper needed to go on the fireplace wall - luckily we had some left over. I was delighted with that final finishing touch, and now at last I can sleep easy and wake up feeling truly invigorated!

Where to buy her style

Florrie wallpaper, £205 a roll; double duvet cover, £90; pillowcase, £18; cushion, £75; Tetbury Meadow tassel cushion, £185; Charlie cushion, £75; Nevis rug, £990; Morar print, £60; East print, £40; Lola rug, £415; lampshade, £40, all Bluebellgray. Walls painted in Lead White emulsion, £38 for 2.5L, Little Greene. Faux wood shutters in white, £1,437, Luxaflex. True Velvet in Sushi EV402 carpet, £60sq m, Brintons. Wardrobes, £1,232, Jali. Hemnes double bed, £175; bedside table, £49; dressing table, £150, all Ikea. Dressing table painted in Provence chalk paint, £18.95 for 1L, Annie Sloan. Coin mirror, £225, Graham and Green. Annie table lamp in Saffron, £40, John Lewis. Storage cases, from £55, Eva jewellery box, £69, mirrored box, £35, Oliver Bonas. Velvet throw in Antique Moss, £225, Feather & Black. Flower knobs, from £3.58 each, Trinca-Ferro

FINISHING TOUCHES

'I kept accessories to a minimum, picking out the colours of the wallpaper'



HELLO PETAL

'These floral ceramic knobs from Trinca-Ferro are the perfect colour and work brilliantly with the scheme'

Buy it
Where to get Claire's lovely look
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