

We wanted a sanctuary we could escape to'

A cosy grown-ups-only room is the perfect haven for these parents

WORDS AND STYLING DILLY ORME | PHOTOGRAPHY ANNA STATHAKI

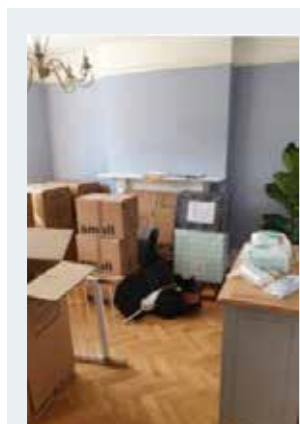


Hannah Dagger lives with her husband Leigh and their daughters Florence, three, and one-year-old Otilie in a five-bedroom detached Edwardian house in Fleet, Hampshire



PAINTWORK

Walls, ceiling and woodwork in a dramatic deep blue gives the room a cocooning feel



Before

'Previously the room was dated, cold and lacking in character. Our aim was to transform it into something much more cosy and embracing'

Did you know exactly what you wanted?

Yes – an adults' living room that would be luxurious and cosy, particularly in winter with a woodburning stove. We also wanted to be bolder with colour. Both our previous properties had been very grey, and we were keen to be more adventurous, but didn't know where to start. This is why we enlisted Slightly Quirky. Without their help we wouldn't have been brave enough to have painted all the walls, ceiling and woodwork in Little Greene's Hicks' Blue.

How did you get started?

We looked at images online and realised we wanted a designer's help. The picture that led us to Slightly Quirky was a lovely blue living room – that was our starting point. Slightly Quirky presented us with moodboards and talked us through some ideas. It was an interactive process and helped give us clarity about what we hoped to achieve.

Were there any particular challenges?

Living here with a toddler and being pregnant with our second child while the work was being carried

out was quite challenging at times. Sourcing furnishings and finishing touches was also tricky as due to Covid and Brexit there were long lead times on many items or they were simply out of stock. We waited months for some products, which was quite frustrating as we were keen to get everything finished! Deciding where to put the TV wasn't easy – we had to work out how to make the modern tech fit without impacting on the space too much.

What were your non-negotiables?

The seating – we needed a comfortable sofa and armchair that would provide enough seating without overcrowding the space, or stopping the door from opening and closing easily. We couldn't go and test the sofa due to Covid restrictions, but Slightly Quirky recommended the ones we chose. We trusted them so we took the risk, and it ended up working really well, which was a real relief as there was a 12-week lead time.

Your favourite element of the makeover?

That it feels like the peaceful sanctuary we were hoping for. It's private, restful, and really cosy.

OUR SOURCEBOOK Interior design & joinery, slightlyquirky.com. Hicks' Blue matt emulsion, littlegreene.com. Sofa, loveseat, footstool, sofa.com. Stove, homewoodsstoves.co.uk. Curtain fabric, noblis.fr. Curtain pole, curtains, brokenblinds.co.uk. Floor lamp, rug, johnlewis.com. Mirror, xxxxxxx.com. Artwork (above sofa), anettejo.dk

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

'When you take on a substantial makeover, it can be well worth the investment to work with an interior designer who understands your vision and pushes your boundaries to encourage you to make bold choices'

MIRROR

An elegant design has a slightly Art Deco feel and its gilt frame echoes the metallic floor lamp in the corner of the room

WOODBURNER

The stove sits neatly within the blue painted surrounds, providing much-needed warmth throughout the cold winter months

WHAT WE SPENT

INTERIOR DESIGN & JOINERY £4,554
PAINT £162
FURNITURE £3,362
WOODBURNER £1,440
FLOOR LAMP £195
CURTAIN FABRIC £581
CURTAIN MAKING £731
CURTAIN POLE £746
MIRROR £180
RUG £180
ARTWORK £100
TOTAL £7,XXX