

KITCHEN (*this page*) Pendant lights by Michael Anastassiades add a modern twist to this classic kitchen, in contrast with the marble-topped painted cabinets

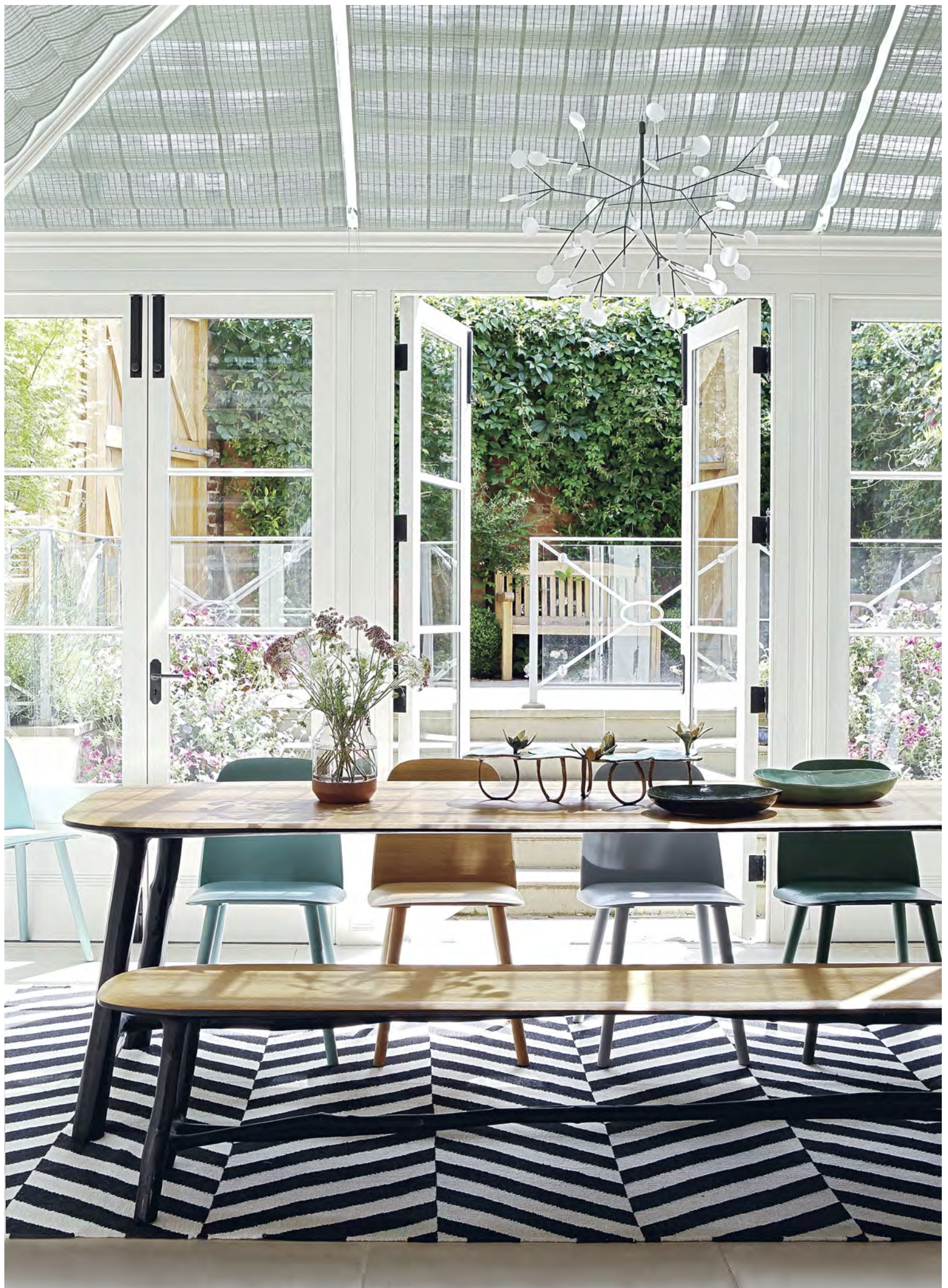
Bold comfort

The owners of this end of terrace in north London called upon designer Suzy Hoodless to help them add colour, pattern and a dose of fun to its restored and extended Victorian bones

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DINING AREA (*opposite*) The owners added this generous conservatory at the back of the house, featuring three sets of french windows. Muuto 'Nerd' chairs expand the palette and a monochrome rug helps tie the look together





SITTING ROOM This silvery grey and dusky pink palette is one that the owner never tires of. Fritz Hansen's 'Favn' sofa is upholstered in a sturdy grey fabric by Kvadrat, while curtains made from Dominique Kieffer 'Crepe de Lin Démesuré' linen in rose antique soften the look

It was a desire to add some more vivid brushstrokes to a largely classical canvas that prompted the owners of this four-storey north London town house to turn to designer Suzy Hoodless. A year-long renovation had seen the property's Victorian bones sensitively restored, but a true revival required some left-field flourishes. 'I like the contrast between classic architectural features and contemporary interiors,' says the owner. 'We had a beautifully traditional backdrop, thanks to the neoclassical approach of our architect Liam O'Connor, but I wanted to mix things up a bit.'

The fact that this is an end terrace gave the couple lots of scope. 'There aren't a million and one options when it comes to reconfiguring traditional London houses,' says the owner. 'But we benefit here from light on three sides.' They decided to play to that strength by having a large side extension built, complete with east- and west-facing terraces, adding a conservatory at the rear and comprehensively reworking the internal space. This included returning the kitchen to the basement and introducing an elegant sitting room and

library space to the ground floor. Throughout, cornicing has been reinstated, doorways have been widened and copious integrated storage has been added to manage the demands of a growing family of three young children.

The owners have a preference for mid-century pieces, wood, metal, stone and a 'Nordic colour palette'. By the time the wife met Suzy, she had gathered a few key items, but felt she had run out of steam. 'We had plenty of design references as common ground, including an appreciation of the works of Giò Ponti and Fornasetti,' says Suzy. 'But the owners hadn't really lived with print, pattern and bolder hues before, so I knew I could add a playful touch.'

Like the bones of the house, the pieces that Suzy inherited provided a solid framework for the ensuing schemes. The owners had a dining table and bench by Valentin Loellmann, defined by their tactile shape, and a pair of geometric rugs in the sitting room and library. Suzy took these prompts and scaled up, adding simple but eye-catching lines, including Fritz Hansen's classic 'Favn' sofa and a vivid chartreuse 'Papa Bear Chair' by Hans J Wegner in the sitting room, complemented by leopard print and graphic cushions. Suzy's robust scheme fulfilled the owners' brief that fabrics must be 'indestructible' to withstand small hands and feet. 'I love the natural rhythm throughout the house and its surprising spikes in colour,' says Suzy. 'Everything here has earned its place.'

The house is studded with statement pieces, yet each is incorporated in an understated way. In the basement dining area, Muuto 'Nerd' chairs in an array of hues expand the colour palette, while above a marble-topped kitchen island, a trio of pendants by Michael Anastassiades brings the look up to date. The first-floor children's bedrooms have plenty of fun touches, including a vivid blue painted mural in the son's room, as well as bold fabrics and wall hangings. Suzy allayed the owners' fear that they might tire of these accent colours. 'Accessories can always be switched to dial down the look,' she says. 'The biggest danger lies in not taking a risk at all.'

The second floor, housing the main bedroom, a bathroom, a shower room and two dressing rooms, signals a change of pace with its scheme of soft greys. Here, everything has its place. Shelving in the bedroom and bathroom houses more books from the owners' collection, while a concealed jib door in the bathroom opens to reveal the wife's dressing room. The other, belonging to the husband, is connected to the shower room.

It was a matter of adding in places and pulling back in others to get the balance just right, explains Suzy, pointing out that walls are painted mostly in Little Greene's low-key 'French Grey'. 'I can always judge the success of a project by how it makes me feel, and I would love all of these pieces in my own home.' As for the owner, she is enjoying her introduction to colour and pattern. 'I love living with bold, graphic print – it gives me pleasure every day,' she says. 'This house doesn't have aspirations above its station; the children use every space freely, but utility hasn't taken over. These are comfortable rooms to be enjoyed and that's just what we wanted' □

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SITTING ROOM AND LIBRARY The mirrored coffee table was sourced from Mint. A Hans J Wegner 'Papa Bear Chair' adds colour, while a cushion in 'Albert Indigo' by Sister Parish on the other armchair picks up the soft geometrics of the rug. The library beyond has bespoke shelving





SECOND-FLOOR LANDING (*opposite top left*)

Two lamps from Blanchard Collective stand on a sideboard with a sculpture by Arne Lindaas

STUDY (*top right*) Ib Kofod-Larsen chairs add to this room's pared-back aesthetic

MAIN BEDROOM (*bottom left*) This grey, blue and silver scheme features a bespoke nailed headboard covered in Dedar 'Adamo & Eva' velvet

SHOWER ROOM (*bottom right*) An arched mirror reflects the shape of a window in the adjacent dressing room

CHILD'S ROOM (*this page*) A painted mural disguises floor-to-ceiling storage. Curtains in Christopher Farr Cloth's 'Breakwater' in lemon add a playful zing

