

The middle living room with Rotondo armchairs from the Socialite Family, a Tisbury coffee table and Greyson floor lamp from Soho Home



True colours

Plain white walls didn't reflect Lisa Tudor-Jones' fashion-led life. Her solution? A more eclectic palette of colours — and a 'disco loo'

Words and photographs
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Finding a decorative style that sticks has always been a challenge for Lisa and Danny Tudor-Jones. The couple, who both work in fashion, admit to having been through a few phases in their lives together, from dark and moody (affectionately christened their "Abigail Ahern years") to white and Scandi, influenced by Lisa's time working for minimalist fashion brand Cos.

"During lockdown we had white walls throughout, but instead of feeling fresh and light our home began to feel drab and grey," says Lisa, 44, who, along with Danny, 48, shares this north London Victorian semi with their sons, Reuben, 10, and Rafa, 4, plus cats Dolly and Dude. "We were all yearning for a bit of warmth and colour — the aim was to find a look that reflected us and had staying power."

White walls were banished in favour of sophisticated colour pops, from powder-blue woodwork and a rich burgundy gloss cloakroom to an attention-grabbing mustard-yellow patterned stair runner. But those

The bath area in the bedroom features a vintage French bobbin stool. **Above** Lisa Tudor-Jones





confident design choices required some help to take flight. “We didn’t need our hand holding as much as a little empowerment,” says Lisa, PR for female-founded denim brand Seventy + Mochi. “So we asked the interior designer Laura Stephens to help mastermind the renovation. I followed her on Instagram and had always admired the way she reframed period details — respecting heritage elements while giving them a fresh twist.”

The couple had bought their home in 2017. It had been previously reworked by Robert Dye Architects and its bones were in good shape, but the ground floor and basement in particular were lacking flow. “The problem, as with many period homes, stemmed mainly from that awkward middle room, which rarely receives



The kitchen with olive-green cabinets and red accents. **Above left** The understairs coat space/powder room is painted in Little Greene’s Arras gloss. **Below left** The cinema room with Vinterior coffee table

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enough light and often suffers from a lack of identity,” Laura says. “So as well as creating decorative cohesion, we needed to revisit the purpose of every room.”

Out went the rarely used dining table — moved instead to a delineated space in the rear sitting room — and in came a wood-burning stove and a fashion-forward chill zone, defined by a pair of diagonally striped armchairs and warming mink-hued walls. A solid-white sliding door was replaced with glazed blue double doors leading from the hallway.

“I’m inspired by the architecture and colours of Palm Springs, especially seen through the lens of photographer Slim Aarons,” Lisa says. “So we wanted to echo that colour palette. But I would never have been brave enough to go for the darker ceilings in the middle room and kitchen, which pick out the architectural details so effectively, or to pair the bedroom’s blue walls with a bold mid-brown.”

That mix of warm neutrals and jewel tones lends energy and pace, but the couple made some equally impactful functional tweaks. “I was desperate for proper coat storage, which was proving a headache,”



The dining area with Tom Dixon wall lights. **Left** The stair runner is by the interior designer Laura Stephens. **Above right** Glazed blue doors open from the hall

Lisa says. “Then Laura came up with the idea of reworking the understairs powder room.” Now a pompom-trimmed curtain separates the space into a WC and a cloakroom. “Its red gloss finish is super-glam: our friends nicknamed it the ‘disco toilet.’”

Sundays see the family kicking back in the basement cinema room, decorated in a moodier forest green and aubergine palette. “It’s a great space to decamp to for afternoon films or to watch sports,” Lisa says. “And we’ll often have a relaxed lunch at the kitchen counter.”

Fittingly, the couple’s fashion ethos is reflected in their home. In an echo of Danny’s British denim brand Walter, which uses offcuts to make its collections, many of the lampshades have been crafted from fabric scraps left over from the renovation. “We love the artistry behind fashion but also the longevity inherent in a well-made piece,” Lisa says. “That’s exactly how we’ve approached this redesign — playfulness and adventure, balanced with a sense that what we’ve created is intended to last.” ■

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