

# HOMES & GARDENS®

OCTOBER 2005 £3.10

## *Black & White*

THIS SEASON'S COLOUR COMBINATION

4 STUNNING HOMES IN LONDON, SUSSEX,  
CHESHIRE AND COPENHAGEN

PLUS CHIC BEDS, RUGS & WALLPAPERS

THE ULTIMATE HOME HELP

*Design expert Rita König creates a new  
look for Emma Forbes's Chelsea house*



009 10/05



# Box of TRICKS

*Beyond the traditional facade of Mandy and Tim Durham's London home is a stunningly modern extension that functions as a light-filled family room, kitchen and dining area*

WHEN VISITORS WALK IN to Mandy Durham's London Victorian terraced house they are in for a big surprise. At first glance the house is in keeping with its traditional exterior, but it is when they progress through into the kitchen that the revelation occurs. With the help of their architect, Simon Gill, Mandy and her husband Tim have created an elegant and extremely modern family room at the back of their house, which gives the appearance of being open to the garden. "We wanted a complete wall of glass so the garden became an extension of the house," says Mandy. "The flowers and shrubs are arranged so there is always something beautiful to look at in the garden all year round."

The couple and their daughters Holly and Lottie, now aged nine and six, moved in three years ago and stayed for six months while Mandy got a feel for the house. They then decamped for eight months while the renovations were taking place. As Mandy, a food writer, wasn't working at the time she decided to manage the project herself.

"We wanted a big family room that was also a kitchen, dining room and play area for the girls," she says. "We extended right over the side return at the back of the house but, instead of putting in a sloping roof, as

The breathtaking extension at the rear of Mandy and Tim Durham's period home provides a huge living area for the whole family and connects the house with the garden in a unique way.







“We wanted a complete wall of glass so the garden became an extension of the house”

**LEFT** Mandy furnished the family room with a huge sofa and a dining table from Tablemakers; the dining chairs are available from Skandium. **TOP** The kitchen area has an unobtrusive, streamlined style, while a sociable island unit is perfect for informal entertaining. **ABOVE** A striking wall of built-in cupboards provides plenty of storage.

so many of our neighbours have, we built on to an existing high wall. This enabled us to have different ceiling heights inside to define the space.”

Surprisingly, the kitchen area doesn’t dominate the room, as it is tucked away in one corner and occupies less than one third of the space. “I hate gadgets and clutter so storage is really important,” Mandy says. “I needed the kitchen to have really clean lines and subtle colours because it is part of the family room. I didn’t want cupboards along the back wall or a huge American fridge as I thought they would take over.” With her love of entertaining, one of Mandy’s main priorities was to find the right dining table to sit in front of the glass wall. “I wanted it to look quite natural without obstructing the view, so I went for a solid-oak table.”

Along one side of the room is a wall of cupboards that stores a huge amount, including some of the crockery and glasses for the dining area and the children’s toys. Having chosen a turquoise colour for the cupboard doors, Mandy was delighted to discover that the kitchen designer had bought turquoise lights for the kitchen.

“I would have liked suede dining chairs in the same colour but with the children I had to be practical, which is why I went for the Arne Jacobsen butterfly chairs in a pale turquoise instead,” she says. The beauty of this room is that the area is large enough to double up as a playroom





during the day so Mandy can supervise the children while she is cooking. The rest of the house is not so consistently modern in style as the family room, but Mandy has combined old and new by using contemporary colours and accessories. Most of the furniture in the living room was inherited, but she has added a pair of Andrew Martin bergère occasional chairs and small tables and lamps from Babylon.

However, one of the most impressive parts of the room is the antique stone fireplace that came from a chateau in France. "Gervais from Architectural Antiques in Chiswick literally turned up with a van on his return from the Continent and said: 'Have a look'. So I did and bought it on the spot." She was so delighted with her purchase that she was inspired to install a similar stone fireplace in the main bedroom. This room is also filled with inherited furniture but the deep-plum quilt from Graham & Green and the Habitat cushions add a contrasting contemporary feel.

To complete the main bedroom, the Durhams' other major task was to convert an adjoining, smaller bedroom into an en suite bathroom,

**ABOVE** A pair of Andrew Martin chairs stand by the archway leading from the living room to the library where Mandy's large book collection is displayed. Illuminated alcoves, painted a soft pink, show off some of her favourite pieces of glass.

**RIGHT** Most of the antique furniture in the living room was inherited. A painting by Italian artist Lucio Ranucci hangs above the stone fireplace.



One of the most impressive parts of the room is the antique fireplace that came from a chateau in France





**ABOVE** The main bedroom, painted in Sanderson's Neutral Light, features more family heirlooms and a reclaimed French fireplace. Graham & Green's deep-plum throw on the bed adds richness and depth to the scheme.

**RIGHT** Plain silk curtains have been edged with a deep-red velvet border to match the cushions, and Mandy found the contemporary bedside lamps at Laura Ashley.



"The best thing about the house is that most people really appreciate what we have done here"

**RIGHT** Holly's bedroom features a bed from Judy Greenwood Antiques on the right and one from Harriet Ann Beds on the left. To keep the look simple, a Philippe Starck chair from The Conran Shop has been paired with a desk that was a junk-shop find.

**BELOW** The en suite bathroom has a calming, understated feel with a limestone floor and bath surround and a luxurious walk-in shower. The sleek taps are by Vola and the striking magnolia photograph is by Alan Newnham.



complete with a double-entry, walk-in shower. "The most difficult part of the building work was getting the huge sheet of glass upstairs," Mandy recalls. "We had to take all the banisters off but it was well worth it as the room looks so fantastic."

The conversion does mean that their house has fewer bedrooms than those of their neighbours, but Mandy doesn't mind. "We spend most of our time in the family room at the back of the house and that was always our intention," she says. "It was quite ambitious but the best thing about it is that most people really appreciate what we have done here."

**FEATURE** SARAH CARTLEDGE • **PHOTOGRAPHS** MIKE DAINES

## SOURCEBOOK

**ARCHITECT** Simon Gill, (020) 7610 6874; [simongillarchitects.co.uk](http://simongillarchitects.co.uk).  
**FURNITURE** Andrew Martin, (020) 7225 5100. Architectural Antiques, (020) 8741 7883. Babylon, (020) 7376 7255. The Conran Shop, (020) 7589 7401. Harriet Ann Beds, (01580) 243005. Judy Greenwood Antiques, (020) 7736 6037. Tablemakers, (020) 7223 2075. Skandium, (020) 7935 2077.  
**ACCESSORIES** Alan Newnham, (020) 7498 2399; [newnhamphoto.co.uk](http://newnhamphoto.co.uk). Graham & Green, 0845 130 6622; [grahamandgreen.co.uk](http://grahamandgreen.co.uk). Laura Ashley, 0871 230 2301; [lauraashley.com](http://lauraashley.com). Vola, (01525) 841155; [vola.co.uk](http://vola.co.uk).  
**PAINT** Sanderson, (01895) 830044; [sanderson-uk.com](http://sanderson-uk.com). **GARDEN DESIGN** Claire Mee Garden Designs, (020) 7385 8614; [clairemee.co.uk](http://clairemee.co.uk).  
**FOR MORE STYLE IDEAS, SEE PAGE 66**





*Add texture with accessories*

**Plum silk cushion**, £18; **velvet cushion**, £65; **Linea Seduce pleated bedspread**, £150; all House of Fraser, 0870 160 7270.

*Opt for streamlined stainless steel*

**ALU2000 kitchen**, from £13,000 for an island unit, worktop, sink and dual hobs including installation; **cooker hood**, £2,937.50; all Poggenpohl, (020) 7730 7927.

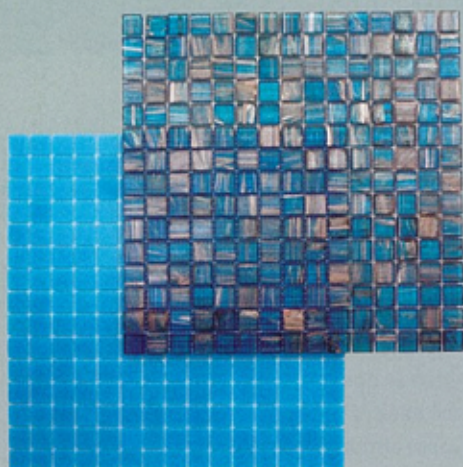


*Lay laminate floorboards for practicality and warmth*

**Classic beech flooring**, £14.99 sq m, Quickstep, (00 32) 56 67 5211; quick-step.com.

*Choose mosaic tiles*

From left, **Vetricolor mosaic tiles**, from £41.88 sq m; **Le Gemme mosaic tiles**, from £141 sq m; both Bisazza, (020) 8640 7994.



# Capture the mood

*Be inspired by the Durhams' family home with its natural materials, cutting-edge furniture and colourful accents*

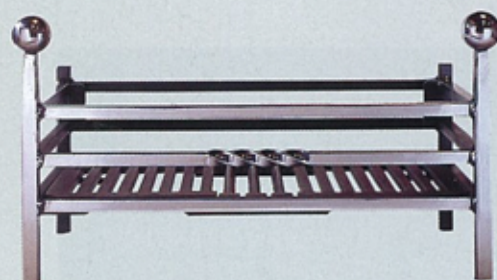
*Go for modern design classics*

**Butterfly chair**, £89, The Chair Company, (020) 7722 8888.



*Use bright paint shades as accents*

**Paints, clockwise from top left, Lulworth Blue**, £21.99 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, (01202) 876141. **Ocean**, £23 for 2.5 litres, Designers Guild, (020) 7893 7400. **The Big Blue**, £9.99 for 2.5 litres, Woolworths, (020) 7262 1222.



*Give a traditional hearth a new look with a contemporary grate*

**Popular Grate**, £259, Chesney's, (020) 7627 1410.

*Tile walls and floors with smooth limestone*

**Tiles, from top, Rose-Beauvallon Future Stone**, from £56 sq m; **White Bee Limestone**, £52 sq m; **Sienna Aged Limestone**, £78 sq m; all Ceramica & Stone, (01491) 412455.

