

BIJOU CORNERS

Interior designer Brooke Copp-Barton has suffused a London flat with a pink and teal elegance

Photography: Megan Taylor





Can you tell us about this project?

What was the brief? This bijou 2 bedroom flat in the heart of London Victoria is to be used as a pied-à-terre by its owners who live outside of London. Set in a beautiful turn of the century apartment block, the basement flat was bursting with period features - but it was utilitarian, tired, and in much need of a complete refresh. So the brief was simple - to inject colour, charm and warmth and turn this functional flat into an inviting home from home - whilst being respectful of the history and grandeur of the building.



Left: **Oval mirror** from Westelm, **fireplace tiles** from Bert & May.
Below: **Rug** from Tribe Rugs, **teal sofa** from Love Your Home



Dining table and chairs from Vinterior, green pendant light from Naomi Paul, custom made bookshelves by Endgrain

How would you describe your signature style as a designer?

I usually describe my style as elegant and eclectic, modern and vintage - I like to mix colour, materials, styles and pattern to create characterful homes full of warmth and charm.

How has your approach to design evolved over the years?

My approach to design has certainly become much more instinctive as it has evolved. I always start with the bones of a building and try to create interiors that are respectful and complementary to the space - keeping and enhancing quirky, original features wherever possible. And I am now much more aware of sustainability, particularly in terms of the materials I use and sourcing pre-loved vintage and antique finds.

What was the biggest challenge you faced during the design process?

It was a challenge that the client lived so far away up in Cheshire - we were able to meet regularly during the design phase but once construction / decoration was underway I was the client's eyes and ears on the ground. I'm thankful our contractor Sonsino Turcan were such a pleasure to work with, as with a period renovation like this there are always curved balls thrown your way.

What part of this completed project are you most happy with?

The colour palette - it's not for the faint hearted. I was lucky to have a client who embraced colour as much as I did and who was willing to take a leap of faith out of her comfort zone. I love how we've been able to weave strong greens and blues through the whole space, linking the rooms and creating a harmonious effect across the whole flat.

What was your favourite element of design to work with?

The eclectic mix of pattern and furniture - I loved being able to mix florals with geometrics, vintage furniture with cutting edge modern design. The dining table and chairs for example were a stunning mid century find from Vinterior, which sit beautifully beneath



Interior designer Brooke Copp-Barton



Kitchen clock from Vinterior, concrete breakfast bar by Relentless.
Below: Edwardian dressing table from Vinterior



the beautiful artistry of Naomi Paul's pendant lighting. And the Catarina rug from A Rum Fellow may be a surprising choice next to the more traditional suzani style pattern of Lewis & Wood's Zarafshan in the bedroom, but it just seems to work. There are so many examples here where the old works in harmony with the new.

Were there any DIY solve-it-yourself moments?

Our builders were fairly horrified when I suggested ripping out the previous fireplace insert - it was a reproduction one so not authentic to the property. We wanted to keep the original period surround but strip the fireplace cavity back to bare brick and add in an electric stove. When the brickwork was finally revealed it was covered in a hundred years' worth of debris and soot - so the poor chaps donned face masks and undertook the painstaking job of scraping the bricks back to a near to original state. They did a marvellous job and the results speak for themselves. Bravo!




Chandelier from Vinterior.
Above: **Wisteria wallpaper** by Pearl Lowe for Woodchip and Magnolia.
Right: **Armchairs** from Vinterior

Which designers/artists/figures inspire you in your work as a designer?

When I graduated from KLC, I was fortunate enough to do an internship with Harding and Read. I love Nicola Harding's work, her mix of colour, the freshness, her innate sense of place. Nix was very generous with her time and it was an informative period - it was a privilege to work as part of her team and an opportunity for which I am very thankful.

What kind of pieces did you source for the project?

I love beautifully made pieces - be it old, new, functional or decorative. Here there is a mix of mid century furniture - like the dining table, dining chairs and armchairs which all have such a beautiful shape (we simply re-upholstered the chairs to give them a new lease of life) - together with modern design like the Anders light from award winning design studio Pinch. I also love the beautiful Afghan rug - a modern piece, made by traditional methods - that gives a vibrancy and energy to the heart of the flat.



Do you feel a responsibility to create eco-friendly design?

Absolutely. In our industry where we are constantly reshaping the homes in which people live, there is definitely a collective responsibility to try to re-use and recycle wherever possible.

Best piece of advice you received from a creative peer?

When designing a scheme there are so many decisions to make all the time, that often it can feel quite overwhelming. So go with your gut, make a decision and move on. It was the simplest and best advice I was ever given.

How do your clients feel about including pieces with a past?

Generally, my clients embrace it. I think there is a charm and lived in warmth to including pieces that have a back-story as they help to give heart to a home. And you can't but think of the stories they could tell. In this project for the kitchen worktop we sourced reclaimed laboratory desks from Retrouvius which apparently came from the science department of Eton College. If only they could talk!

Is there a place from which you take inspiration?

So many! Chiswick House is a local favourite, as is the V&A - the tea rooms on their own are simply gorgeous. With children of a certain age we are also re-visiting many of the National Trust properties at the moment and I love admiring the fine detail and artistry that has gone into so many of these stately homes. And some of the ceilings are simply spectacular - it usually pays dividends to look up!

What is next on your project list?

I'm currently working on a beautiful Arts & Crafts home in Chiswick, a Victorian terraced house in Shepherds Bush, and a stunning farm conversion in the Cotswolds, where we are turning an old farm and all its outbuildings into a number of separate residential units.

See more of Brooke Copp-Barton's work at home-interiordesign.co.uk



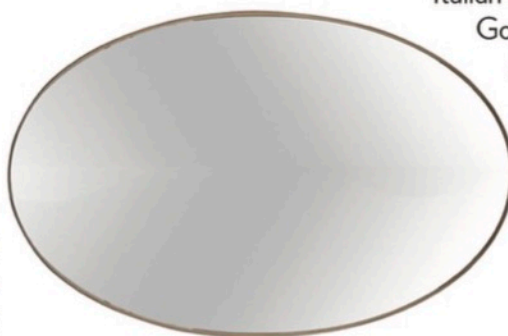
Bedside lamps are a mixture of Pooky and Samarkand Design, **bedside tables** from Line Bjerre, **rug** from A Rum Fellow



Hans Agne Jakobsson
Green Sixties Svera
Pendant Lamp
£370



Handmade Antique Persian
Kazvin Rug £805



Italian Mid Century
Gold Mirror
£1,627



Mid Century Cane Back
Walnut Armchairs By
'American Of Martinsville'
£1,250

Wide Shabby Chic
Cane Bed Frame
£475



GET THE LOOK

Zarafshan in rust/slate
Lewis & Wood £126.22/metre



McIntosh Mid Century
Teak Dining Table
£1,600



1940'S Art Deco Armchairs
In Luxury Burgundy Velvet
£1,300

