

The hallway links all of the rooms in the flat, so was Jessica's starting point when it came to decorating. She painted it in French Blue by Edward Bulmer Natural Paint, setting the agenda for the colour palette throughout.

An eye for COLOUR

Interior designer Jessica Adams used her instinct for colour and unique pieces to turn a bland rental flat in Barnes into a joyful and comfortable family home, filled with personality

FEATURE DOMINIQUE CORLETT PHOTOGRAPHS ALEXANDER JAMES



ABOVE Artwork brings the living room to life. The painting to the left of the fireplace is by Studio Lenca and was purchased from Art Untamed, which is where much of the art was sourced. The charcoal sketch of polo players was given to Jessica's parents as a wedding present. 'I'm not into polo at all,' says Jessica, 'but I love the sense of movement.'



ABOVE LEFT Jessica uses the far end of the living room in the bay window as her studio space. She stores her samples in wicker baskets and a cabinet, which she painted in Railings by Farrow & Ball. The antique desk was an eBay find, and the chair is from Oka. **ABOVE RIGHT** The teal sofa is upholstered in linen from Colefax and Fowler. The antique textile cushions are from Penny Worrall. **BELOW** The vintage African tribal cloth on the footstool ties in with the blue of the hallway and was the starting point for the living room colour scheme. The rug is vintage Swedish.



When Jessica Adams moved into her two-bedroom flat in an Edwardian mansion block in Barnes with her husband, William, shortly before the birth of their son, she knew this would be her opportunity to finally create a home that reflected her style and passions. Jessica is an interior designer and had been waiting for the chance to put her skills to work in her own surroundings, and conjure up a warm, welcoming and colourful family home.

The couple's previous rental flats had felt like a short-term compromise with little opportunity for improvement. And while this apartment was also rented, here was a place with large, light rooms, neutral flooring throughout, and an amenable landlord who was happy for Jessica to paint the walls in any colour. 'I didn't want the interiors to feel too safe,' she says. 'I wanted the flat to be unique but timeless, so when we move again, all the pieces would work in another setting. I decided to have fun with the wall colours, because I can leave those behind and rethink another paint colour somewhere else.' There were some restrictions – she wasn't able to pull anything out or knock anything down – but this pushed her creatively. 'The main thing was using my furniture, styling and colour to make it feel less like a rental and more like a home,' she says.

After thinking generally about light and layout, and deciding to give her son the largest bedroom so it could double up as a playroom, Jessica turned her attention to the hallway. With no natural light and originally painted off-white, this was a lacklustre space. She knew she needed to do something radical, and decided to drench the space in a colour that she loved, creating the feeling of a rich jewel box, while also providing a starting point for the apartment's colour scheme. 'The blue had to be dark enough to feel like you were in this jewel box, but also light enough that when there were no lights on, you didn't feel like you were in a black room,' she says. 'When we're in the sitting room at night, I can see that blue looking at me, and it's wonderful.' It took Jessica several months to find the right shade, but she knew that getting it right was the key to the whole scheme.

The teal sofa was, Jessica says, 'a crazy decision' powered by pregnancy hormones, however, she loves it, feeling that the bold colour works in combination with everything else. The one area of this room where paint colour was used was in the back of the bookcase. Here, a deep reddish-brown introduces contrast and make her books, ceramics and white-spined interiors magazines stand out. 'Interior design is all about contrast, and providing contrast to highlight objects,' she says.

When it comes to choosing pieces, Jessica avoids what is in fashion and focuses on timeless pieces that speak to her. The flat is filled with antiques and vintage finds, bought online at auction or from dealers, mixed in with contemporary items from Oka, Neptune, Zara Home and Ikea, and objets collected on her travels. In the sitting room, a pair of inexpensive Perspex side tables sit alongside an Arts and Crafts bobbin-legged table, and an antique desk that she found on eBay and her dad bought for her birthday.

Jessica is also partial to zhuzhing up basic but practical items, as seen with her two Ikea armchairs, which she had re-covered in a stripy fabric from Guy Goodfellow. The dining table in the kitchen was another practical choice from Ikea, being a good size and extendable, but is hardly seen under its beautiful orange tablecloth from Sharland. This was handmade in Portugal and adds to the Iberian Peninsula vibe, which Jessica wanted for the kitchen in recognition of the couple's love for southern Spain, where they were married.

Most of the rooms feature vintage Swedish rugs, which Jessica adores for their colour palette, classic design, and ability to flatter any space, while artwork (much of it sourced from her friend's art business, Art Untamed), quirky ceramics, and other carefully chosen decorative items provide the finishing touches. In the past, Jessica has sold on much of what she has acquired, and she maintains a shop on her website, but when it comes to items in this home, she feels differently. 'This is the first time we've really invested in our home. Everything I've chosen has been so thought through and carefully considered, it would be hard to let anything go,' she says. 'I feel like this place is our sanctuary.' ■ jessicaadams.co.uk

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Jessica drew on her love of southern Spain for her inspiration for the kitchen. The Sevilla blind fabric featuring bunches of oranges is from Claremont. The orange tablecloth was made in Portugal and is from Sharland.



ABOVE LEFT Jessica painted the kitchen white for a Spanish hacienda feel. The antique gateleg table was found at auction and serves as a makeshift kitchen island, providing extra prep space. The fruit basket and jug are from Sharland. **ABOVE RIGHT** The blue of the hallway can be seen from every room. **BELOW LEFT** Jessica went for impact and drama in the bathroom, covering the whole space in a vibrant orange wallpaper, *Rivière* by Paolo Moschino. **BELOW RIGHT** The abstract portrait of a woman in blues was bought from a Swedish auction house and is Jessica’s favourite painting. The ceramic wall vases are from Origo House.





ABOVE LEFT The blue theme continues in Jessica's bedroom with a vintage Swedish rug in shades of blue, and a blue throw on the bed. The walls are painted in Lilac Pink by Edward Bulmer Natural Paint. **ABOVE RIGHT** The antique bow-fronted chest of drawers in Jessica's son's room was bought at an online auction. **BELOW LEFT** In her son's bedroom, Jessica painted the woodwork in Sudbury Yellow by Farrow & Ball. The antique armchair is upholstered in a discontinued fabric by Lewis and Wood. **BELOW RIGHT** The mirror in Jessica's bedroom was bought from an antiques dealer on Instagram. The lampshade is from Fermoie.

