

High and mighty

An exquisite mix of classic marble and contemporary, functional design are reflected throughout this family home

Words: **Letiche Black** Photography: **David Giles**

Built in 1905, this three-storey house in north London was purchased with change in mind. It was a big move for Lada Sullivan, her husband Patrick and their 11-year-old twin daughters, relocating from Asia back to the area where Lada grew up. She was determined to make the best use of space in the property from the start. “We were keen to create a home that would be warm, welcoming and easy to maintain. As we spend a lot of time working away, it is important that we enjoy our home as a family,” says Lada.

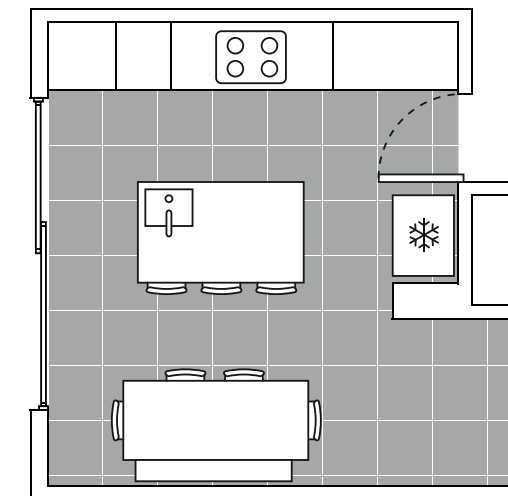
The Sullivans entrusted the renovation to Copués Construction, a long-established building firm which was recommended by a friend. Well-thought-out layouts were proposed throughout the house to make the most of the space and to ensure it flowed perfectly.

An extension was built at the rear, creating a large kitchen-diner that opens onto a serene garden. Bespoke, floor-to-ceiling bi-folding doors replaced old French doors and a new skylight was installed to bring light into the kitchen, dining and reception area, which initially was quite dark. “We are really lucky, as the kitchen is light and all our rooms have high ceilings,” Lada says.

On their quest to find a kitchen designer, Lada and Patrick came across Amberth, an Islington-based bespoke interior design company, which catered to their exact needs and brought their ideas to life. “Amberth has completed projects of all sizes and designs tailor-made kitchens, so it was perfect for the job,” says Lada.

Lada decided she wanted to create a contemporary, opulent feel in the kitchen and opted for worktops of Grigio Carnico marble, with contrasting light-grey veining to disguise any potential staining from limescale. ▶





Left: Lada wanted easy access to her mixer and toaster, whilst keeping them out of sight, so this breakfast cupboard is a great solution. Pocket doors tuck out of the way when it is being used.

Below: Plenty of light floods in via the skylight above, while pops of pink from the seat cushions add some welcome colour.



Using the surface both for the worktops and splashback helped achieve continuity in the design. A light-grey gloss lacquer finish was chosen for the tall units, to reflect light and give the illusion of more space, while a dark-grey lacquer was used on the island unit. "We wanted the two shades of grey lacquer to complement the worktop, but also to contrast with it, just like the paler veins against the darker body of the marble," explains Amberth kitchen designer Thamina Moshadid. To create a practical working kitchen, the base units contain shallow drawers to accommodate cutlery and utensils and deep drawers beneath the hob provide ample storage for plates, pots and pans.

To the right of the run of tall units, Thamina included a breakfast cupboard, hidden behind pocket doors. Power points were fitted to the back panel for small appliances. "Lada requested additional countertop space, so I designed push-to-open shelves within the breakfast unit, providing a pull-out work surface," Thamina says. Further push-to-open drawers and shelves are then positioned at the bottom, as a convenient way to store appliances when not in use.

In the master bedroom on the second floor, an eclectic combination of original Victorian features and the couple's pieces of oriental furniture creates a unique and warm feel. The furniture, lighting and accessories, including the floor-standing chest

of drawers, bed and Artichoke pendant light, were purchased in Hong Kong.

The family bathroom is located next to the master bedroom, and here Lada was looking for a 'less is more' approach. The wall-hung vanity unit and WC keep the floor clear for minimal impact and also easy cleaning. Mirror-fronted cabinets are recessed into the wall so the doors are flush with its surface, creating a sleek look and space to cleverly hide away toiletries.

A walk-in shower positioned beside a large freestanding bath makes a grand statement. "I love the look of marble, but we went for marble-effect porcelain tiles, which are durable, non-porous and easy to maintain," explains Lada. Meanwhile, the shower room on the same floor has a walk-in shower with a bespoke shower screen. The small space feels warm and welcoming and comes complete with underfloor heating.

The décor in the children's bedrooms has been carefully considered so it won't date too quickly as the children grow, personalised with pops of colour from the furniture and accessories. To keep the space clutter-free and organised, built-in wardrobes were installed.

The completed house is now a feast for the eyes on every level and a home that will no doubt serve Lada, Patrick and their two daughters well for many years to come. KBB

Previous pages (p102-103):

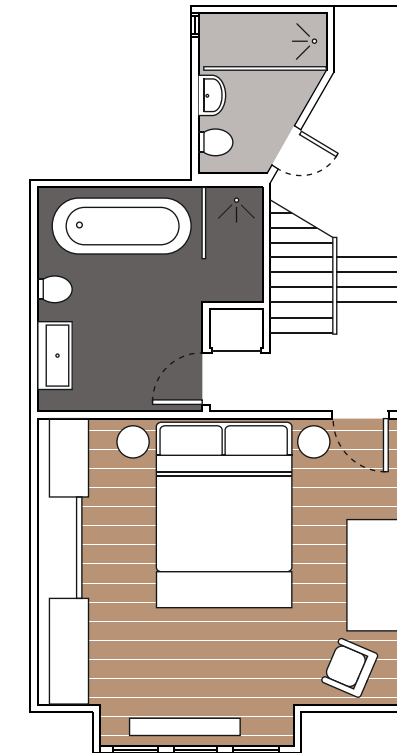
Polished Grigio Carnico marble adds a touch of sophisticated glamour and the grey gloss cabinetry reflects light and contrasts beautifully with the warm tones of the barstools and pendant lights.

Above: The new skylight and floor-to-ceiling bi-fold doors boost natural light throughout the open-plan kitchen-diner.



Above: Treasures from Lada and Patrick's travels in Asia, as well as an oil painting of Lada, add personality to the master bedroom.

Left: Rosewood furniture and silk oriental cushions add warmth and opulence against a neutral backdrop.



Left: Inset into the wall so they impact less on the room, mirrored cabinet doors conceal plenty of storage in the family bathroom.

Below: A large composite stone freestanding bath and dark, dramatic marble-effect tiles create a luxurious feel in here.



Q&A

Homeowner Lada Sullivan says...



What was the most useful tool when researching your project?

I spent a lot of time looking through Pinterest and much of my inspiration came from there.

What was your biggest expense?

Due to our high ceilings, we had to use bespoke, floor-to-ceiling bi-folding doors in the kitchen, which was the biggest expense.

Is there anything you would have done differently?

I would have gone for brushed steel fittings in the bathroom instead of chrome, as chrome tends to mark quite easily. I can't think of anything else I would have done differently.

Do you have any advice for someone embarking on a similar project?

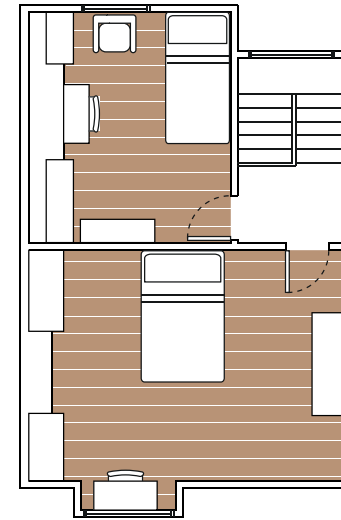
Set aside time and prepare for a long project. During your build, invest in plastic door covers to protect your space. They will stop 90% of dirt travelling from one space to another, but at the same time, don't obsess over your home getting dirty during the renovation – this time will pass and you will have many years to enjoy your new home.



Left: In the shower room, a spacious shower is enclosed with minimally framed glass for a feeling of openness.

Above: In contrast to the dark family bathroom, tiles in white marble-effect porcelain cover the walls and floors.

Opposite and page 110: The twins' bedrooms both have two generous wardrobes built into alcoves to ensure they have plenty of space to store their things.



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SourceBook

DESIGN

Kitchen Amberth (020 7354 8958 or www.amberth.co.uk)

Building work and bespoke furniture Copués Construction (020 8363 3523 or www.copuesconstruction.co.uk)

KITCHEN

Cabinetry Bespoke by Amberth, as before

Appliances Oven, steam oven and warming drawer, Siemens (0344 892 8999 or www.siemens-home.co.uk); Fridge-freezer, Fisher & Paykel (0800 088 6605 or www.fisherpaykel.com)

Worktop Grigio Carnico grey marble, MLGW (020 7720 9944 or www.mglw.co.uk)

Flooring Topps Tiles (0800 783 6262 or www.toppstiles.co.uk)

Pendant light Purchased in Hong Kong. For similar try Beat Tall pendant, Beat Wide pendant and Beat Fat pendant by Tom Dixon, Heal's (0333 212 1915 or www.heals.com)

Dining table For similar try John Lewis (0345 604 9049 or www.johnlewis.com),

Chairs Tulip chairs and bench, Etsy (www.etsy.com). For similar try Haus (020 8533 8024 or www.hauslondon.com)

Barstools Swoon Editions (020 3389 7550 or www.swooneditions.com)

Coffee machine Francis Francis, Amazon (www.amazon.co.uk)

Tap Combined mixer and boiling-water tap, Quooker (0345 833 3555 or www.quooker.co.uk)

MASTER BEDROOM

Bed Made in Hong Kong. For similar try Heal's, as before

Wardrobes Copués Construction, as before

Pendant light PH Artichoke Suspension Light, available at Nest (0114 243 3000 or www.nest.co.uk)

Bedside table Swoon Editions, as before

Table lamp John Lewis, as before

Framed wall art For similar try Etsy (www.etsy.com)

Chest of drawers For similar try Habitat (0344 499 4686 or www.habitat.co.uk)

Fireplace ornaments From Asia. For something similar try Etsy, as before

Rug Ikea (020 3645 0000 or www.ikea.com/gb)

MASTER BATHROOM

Bath Lusso Stone (020 3370 4057 or www.lussostone.com)

Basin, vanity unit and WC Catalano (www.catalano.co.uk)

Brassware Crosswater (0345 873 8840 or www.crosswater.co.uk)

Flush plate Geberit (01926 516800 or www.geberitcollection.co.uk)

Mirrored cabinets and shower screen Copués Construction, as before

Tiles Porcelain Tiles (020 8731 6787 or www.porcelain-tiles.co.uk)

Wall paint Mole's Breath, Farrow & Ball (01202 876141 or www.farrow-ball.com)

Towel radiator WärmeHaus (0333 305 2202 or www.warmehaus.co.uk)

Shutters The Sash Window Workshop (01344 868668 or www.sashwindow.com)

SHOWER ROOM

Basin, vanity unit and WC Villeroy & Boch (020 8875 6006 or www.villeroy-boch.com)

Tiles Porcelain Tiles, as before

Shower screen Copués Construction, as before

Brassware Crosswater, as before

Towel radiator WärmeHaus, as before

CHILD'S BEDROOM 1

Bed, desk, desk chair and armchair For similar try Ikea, as before

Wall paint Parma Grey and Lulworth Blue, Farrow & Ball, as before

Rug Vivienne Westwood. For similar try The Rug Company (020 3141 3040 or www.therugcompany.com)

Wardrobes Copués Construction, as before

Wall art For similar try Etsy, as before

Bedside lamp Refurbished birdcage handmade in China. For similar try Etsy, as before

Blinds John Lewis, as before

CHILD'S BEDROOM 2

Bed, bedding, desk and desk chair For similar try Ikea, as before

Wall paint Mole's Breath, Farrow & Ball, as before

Wardrobes Copués Construction, as before

Wall art Purchased in Asia. For similar try Etsy, as before

Pendant light Flos. For similar try Heal's, as before

Desk lamp John Lewis, as before

COST

A similar kitchen would cost around £29,000, a similar bathroom would cost around £10,000, a similar shower room would cost around £8000 and built-in wardrobes in two bedrooms would cost around £8000



Seamless step-free flooring creates an indoor-outdoor feel between kitchen and garden.