

25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

SUMMER LIVING

Houses with a light & airy style

PERSONAL SPACE
STYLISH MAISONETTE

TOTALLY TRANSFORMED
1970s SYDNEY TERRACE

NEW LEASE OF LIFE
11TH-CENTURY COTTAGE

ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRY

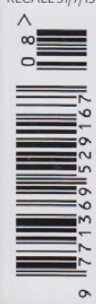
'It's the best way to put a busy week behind us'

THE SOURCE
CLEVER TIPS & IDEAS FOR SHOPPING

HOMES WITH STORIES TO TELL

LOOK AROUND 25 INSPIRATIONAL HOMES

RECALL 31/7/13





GREAT *exhibition*

Art collector Melanie Rademacher hoped this light-filled flat would be the perfect backdrop for her favourite pieces

FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Garden flat in a stucco-fronted Victorian house
LOCATION London
ROOMS Hall, sitting room/study, kitchen-diner, two bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 1996
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'I lived in a two-bedroom rented flat nearby,' says Melanie.



GARDEN
With a sleek table and stools, the outside patio is an extra room in warmer months.
Groove table, £1,400; Cube stools, £540 each, all Jennifer Newman



HALL
This space is ideal for showing off sculptural pieces. Bishop bar stool by India Mahdavi, price on application, Discover & Deliver



passion for collecting is clearly in Melanie Rademacher's blood. 'My parents are keen art collectors, and my two sisters and I were bitten by the bug from an early age,' she admits. 'We'd club together with our pocket money – the first picture we ever bought is still hanging on my bedroom wall.'

Melanie, who runs her own interior-design practice, moved to London from her native Germany in 1993, and was immediately drawn to the international feel of Chelsea. 'I quickly realised that this was the right part of London for me,' she recalls. 'I rented a few apartments before deciding it was time to buy my own home. I'd begun to realise that regularly moving with a large art collection was quite a challenge.' Melanie chanced upon her current apartment when she walked past the property and noticed that it was being redeveloped. When she viewed the garden flat, it was still a building site, but she spotted its potential. 'The floor plan wouldn't appeal to everyone because it has a large entrance hall that runs through the apartment,' she explains. 'A lot of people would have wanted to reclaim this as living space, but I saw it as a fabulous display area.'

By the time Melanie purchased the property, the shell was complete, and she was able to focus on the cosmetics. Her approach was to keep to a neutral scheme. 'Paintings and sculptures can ▶

1, 2 & 3 SITTING ROOM DETAILS
Intriguing collections abound, from these David Nash sculptures and painting to African combs and a set of miniature Vitra chairs. Find David Nash sculptures at Annelly Juda Fine Art. For antique African combs, try eBay. Utility Design sells Vitra miniatures, from £80

4 SITTING ROOM
The grey chimney breast is one of the few concessions to colour on the walls. A 3D artwork by Tadashi Kawamata adds impact. René coffee table, from £1,600, Casa Milano, from Chaplins. Chimney breast, painted in Manor House Gray estate emulsion, £34.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



KITCHEN
Pale grey kitchen units and a tiled floor can help maximise light in any room. Cattelan Italia leather Toto stools, £564, Mac & Mac. Scala Bleu limestone tiles, price on application, Granite & Marble International

DECORATING TIP
 'A muted background is adaptable and perfect for a large collection of artworks'



DINING AREA
 The amazing coffee-bean picture dominates the room. For a similar extending dining table try the Drio, £600, Habitat



I

I MASTER BEDROOM
 Two photographs by Christian Taglivini above the bed make a striking focal point. Salperton lamp base in bronzed finish, £558; shade in Truffle silk, £161, both Porta Romana

2 BATHROOM
 Bespoke wenge wood cabinetry and limestone tiles create a smart and timeless look. London hand basin, £623, CP Hart. Samuel Heath Xenon extending wall mirror, £210, John Lewis, is similar

easily get lost if the decor is too busy,' explains Melanie. To avoid this happening here, she installed stained-oak floors in the entrance hall and living space, and painted the walls white throughout the flat.

A generous sitting room also doubles as a study, so Melanie used seating as a means of delineating the two areas and then painted the chimney breast a neutral shade to create a focal point. The sofa, chairs and rug are in shades of cream, enlivened with vivid yellow silk cushions. 'In the winter, I swap the cushions and throw for wine-coloured ones, which create a much cosier feel,' she says.

The kitchen-diner is testimony to Melanie's love of entertaining, with a large island where guests can congregate. Also in here is her collection of food-related art that includes a paper sculpture of a fruit bowl and a picture of a fort, which is made entirely from coffee beans.

Melanie admits that she doesn't normally buy art with a particular room in mind, but the photographs above her bed are an exception. 'I saw these as I was decorating this room. I thought they'd be perfect against a moody backdrop, so I sourced a textured silk wallpaper.'

Of course, the problem with being a true collector is that the urge to acquire new pieces never goes away. 'Even if I moved somewhere bigger, I would only end up filling the walls there, too,' she laughs. 'For the moment, I love this place too much to leave.' 25



2

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 146