

**T**here's a wonderful sense of balance to Rose Uniacke's

Victorian terraced home in West London, which the top interior designer, 45 (right), shares with her film producer husband David Heyman, nine-month-old son Harper and three of her four older children (by a former marriage).

Fuss-free yet elegant; child-friendly yet sophisticated; calm yet comfortable, it is this signature style that a savvy bunch of international clients discovered when Rose teamed up with her mother, antiques dealer Hilary Batstone, at her Pimlico antiques shop nine years ago. As well as buying antiques and styling the shop, Rose took on interiors projects, and Rose Uniacke Interiors soon followed.

Rose's look relies on balance and texture. 'I like strong, tough, solid things that have "bite", but then I soften the edges with fur, cashmere or crystal,' she says. This is why you'll find a pair of faded purple leather 70s chairs (topped with damask cushions) alongside 60s lamps, 200-year-old mercury glass mirrors and an 18th-century chunky oak console table.

The 1860s terraced house is wider than ➤



**ABOVE**

A painting by Anne Collier hangs in the living room between a pair of early 19th-century mercury glass mirrors. Chloe Alberry sells reproduction Venetian mirrors, from £440 (60cm x 80cm), tel: 020 7727 0707. The Victorian chair and footstool were upholstered in taupe-coloured corded velvet

**LEFT**

Rose designed the honed black granite units in the kitchen. She substituted wall-hung cupboards with oak shelving. The pendant light is a 1960s design; for a similar one, try Sean Berg, tel: 020 7313 6590, seanbergltd.com

**FAR LEFT**

The collage is by Canadian artist Steven Shearer

**OPPOSITE**

A portrait of Rose by Matthew Carr is displayed above an 18th-century oak console table in the living room. The Victorian chair is from Rose's mother's shop Hilary Batstone, tel: 020 7730 5335, hilarybatstone.com, and the photographs are by Josef Koudelka



# ROSE SOFTENS THE EDGY

With 'tough' furnishings smoothed by touchy-feely textures, interior designer Rose Uniacke has created a home full of drama and comfort

Report JOHANNA THORNYCROFT  
Photographs ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL





◀ average and with a pair of open-plan, double living rooms and a huge kitchen extension on the ground floor, it has enviably large and well-planned living spaces.

Rose creates symmetry with accessories and furniture, hanging oversized mirrors in pairs or placing matching tables and lamps either side of a sofa. Then, to avoid the look becoming too formulaic, she places furniture at different angles. 'I always think a room is more interesting and sociable if the furniture is not rigidly arranged around the walls,' she explains.

Apart from ongoing interior design projects, Rose is renovating a second family home that the couple have recently bought near her soon-to-open shop and design studio. When Rose says she is busy, it is probably the understatement of the year. **Y**

Rose's new shop opens on 26 January; 76-78 Pimlico Road, London SW1, tel: 020 7730 7050, [roseuniacke.com](http://roseuniacke.com)



#### ABOVE LEFT

Floating shelves run the length of the walls in the dining area. To create a similar effect, try Ikea's floating Lack shelf, £15.65 (L190cm), tel: 0845 358 3363, [ikea.com](http://ikea.com). The white painted dining table is by Dutch designer Piet Hein Eek, [pietheineek.nl](http://pietheineek.nl). Solid Floor sells similar oak flooring, from £79 for a square metre, tel: 020 7221 9166, [solidfloor.co.uk](http://solidfloor.co.uk)

#### ABOVE RIGHT

Rose removed a section of the dividing wall between the master bedroom and bathroom to create floor-to-ceiling storage cupboards. The use of mirror enhances the feeling of space. The bath and basin taps are by Boffi, from Alternative Plans, tel: 020 7243 9747, [alternative-plans.co.uk](http://alternative-plans.co.uk); to get this look on the high street, try Homebase's Cuba shower mixer tap, £199.99, tel: 0845 077 8888, [homebase.co.uk](http://homebase.co.uk)

#### LEFT

The leather chairs in the master bedroom are 1950s originals by Borge Morgensen; try [mydeco.com](http://mydeco.com) for a similar design. A chocolate-coloured goatskin rug from Rose's shop softens the dark-stained floorboards