

## LIVING ROOM

*Interior designer Rose Uniacke designed the sofa to fit into the new space, choosing luxurious fabrics and rich colour to give a textured look.*

**Interiors**, Rose Uniacke, 020 7730 7050, roseuniacke.com.  
**Curtains in** Shimmer Zen Pleat 9090B-10, Microfibre, £93m, Bart Halpern at Fox Linton, 020 7368 7700, foxlinton.co.uk.  
**Similar cream armchairs**, £1,950 plus 9.5m of fabric, George Smith, 020 7384 1004, georgesmith.co.uk.  
**Cream armchairs in** Shire Linen in Oatmeal, 140cm wide, £104m, de Le Cuona, 020 7584 7677, delecuona.co.uk. **Similar coffee table**, CF14, £1165, Richard Taylor Designs, 020 7351 2567.  
**Wall paint**, Pointing, £23.99 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, 020 7351 0273, farrow-ball.com.



*“Rose understood that we did not want the house to have a conventional interior designed look; I dislike too much careful matching of paint and fabric”*



A pair of restored Anglepoise lamps with chrome bell shades and adjustable arms, resting on a round table with a yellow cloth. The background shows a living room with a bookshelf, a brown leather armchair, and a doorway leading to a kitchen where a person is visible in silhouette.

**LIVING ROOM**

*Removing a door and part of the wall between the living room and the kitchen has created a relaxed open-plan feel. A pair of restored Anglepoise lamps adds interest.*

**Restored Anglepoise lamps.** Hilary Batstone, 020 7730 5335, [hilarybatstone.com](http://hilarybatstone.com). **Similar lamps.** Anglepoise 75S, £60 each, Heal's, 08700 240 780, [heals.co.uk](http://heals.co.uk).

**T**he exterior of Susan and Peter Checketts' Edwardian house in north London looks just as it did the day it was built. Inside, however, things are rather different. The six-bedroom, three-bathroom home has undergone major refurbishment. "Our initial priorities," says Susan, "centred on the needs of our four young children: Mathilda, nine, Ned, eight, Claudia, five, and Charlie, three. We opened up the loft to create two bedrooms and a bathroom, then we re-modelled the ground floor and installed a new kitchen."

At the time, Australian-born Susan was working long hours in human resources and Peter had given up his accountancy job to look after the children and run the house. "Although our home was nice we longed for a really grown-up living space for ourselves that would work with the children during the day as well as look great at night," she says. "I read an article about the designer Rose Uniacke, who has four children of her own, and thought she would be perfect to help us pull together the look we wanted."

Rose works from the shop in Holbein Place in London that she shares with her mother, Hilary Batstone; and Susan's first visit there was a revelation. "I wanted to buy everything I saw," she says. "I loved the unique mix of 1930s and 1940s pieces – old mirrors, glass and antiques." She



**DINING ROOM**

*A simple fireplace and minimal furniture creates a calm mood.*

**Antique table.** Andrew Nebbett Antiques, 020 7723 2303, andrewnebbett.com. **Vintage Danish chairs,** Hilary Batstone, 020 7730 5335, hiliarybatstone.com. **Similar tableware,** from £9 for a side plate, Barn Dog Pottery, 07799 144144, barndogpottery.com. **Similar chandelier,** crystal chandelier, CL351, £720, Bella Figura, 07000 235523, bella-figura.com.

**BATHROOM MAIN BEDROOM**

*Inspired by a bathroom Susan had seen in Italy, she and Rose chose honed Carrara marble for the large basin and Art Deco-style lights.*

**Similar basin**, £350, 0800 023 4118, roccostone.co.uk. **Disco tap**, £891, Boffi at Alternative Plans, 020 7228 6460, alternative-plans.co.uk.

**Similar vintage mirror**, 1940s mirror, £1,800, Howe, 020 7730 7987, howe.london.com.

**Similar wall lights**, Julia Boston Antiques, 020 7610 6783, juliaboston.com.

*Rich in texture, this room has curtains in a soft green silk with woven grass paper on the walls, creating a comforting cocoon effect.*

**Curtain fabric**, Diva Creme, silk, 120cm wide, £61.60m, Chase Erwin, 020 7352 7271, chase-erwin.com. **Woven grass wallpaper**, Far East 32519, £48 roll, Bruno Triplet, 020 7823 9990, brunotriplet.com. **Similar headboard**, Rectangular Square, £140 for 4x6ft, The Dormy House, 01264 365808, thedormyhouse.com.





quickly commissioned Rose who, critically, changed the layout of the living room, removing a boxy room at one end that had been built by a previous owner, which spoiled the symmetry. The space was extended and a single garden door was replaced with a wall of folding, metal-framed glass doors. New oak floors were laid and Rose designed the sleek oak shelving and cupboards on either side of the fireplace.

As Susan and Peter had little furniture at that point, they had a fairly blank canvas to work with. "Rose understood that we did not want the house to have a conventional interior-designed look. I dislike too much careful matching of paint and fabric," Susan says.

Designer and client happily shopped together,

tracking down everything from restored radiators to fabrics and taps. "Our bedroom is really special," Susan says. Here, mid-green linen was used for the cupboard doors, with curtains in a paler silk and walls papered in a woven grass-cloth which has a sophisticated but cosy feel. The palette throughout the house is surprisingly rich, given that pattern does not appear anywhere. "I love the petrol-blue silk of the living room curtains," says Susan. "To me luxury is about fine materials, craftsmanship and simplicity." From Rose's point of view, Susan was a great client: "We felt the same about quality and colour and, for a designer, trust is so important." If proof of success is needed, friends agree that the couple have created the ultimate grown-up, child-friendly home.