



TWO BECOME ONE

Eugenie Nixon and her husband Guy cleverly linked both their flats to create one spacious family home

FEATURE KATIE TREGGIDEN
PHOTOGRAPHY BRUCE HEMMING



REPLANNED

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Two-storey Victorian apartment
LOCATION West London
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, three bedrooms, bathroom, shower room
PURCHASED 2005
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'Before I moved here, I had a place in Notting Hill,' says Eugenie.

KITCHEN-DINER
A marble fireplace and velvet armchair along with streamlined cabinets give this room a relaxed look. Walls painted in Paint Library Slate II flat emulsion, £37.50 for 2.5 litres, Paint & Paper. Cornicing, from £80m, Hayles & Howe. Units, from £300, Mowlem & Co; sprayed in Mole's Breath estate eggshell, from £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



SITTING ROOM
The new state-of-the-art staircase contrasts with the traditional style of the property. The bespoke oak staircase was built by Smet. For a similar sofa, try the Minster, £5,698, George Smith



MASTER BEDROOM
Vintage furniture set against a dramatic wall colour creates a grand setting in here. Clifton chest of drawers, £800, Laura Ashley. For a similar chair try Versailles Mummy Gold, £459, The French Bedroom Company. Walls painted in London Clay estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Dobby stripe double duvet set, £240, House of Fraser, is a match

FAVOURITE FEATURE *'I love the cornicing. It's exactly as it would have been originally, and we painted it a slightly different colour to the walls to really highlight it'*

Eugenie Nixon and her husband Guy lived across two apartments before joining them into the family home of their dreams. Eugenie was living in her own place when she became pregnant with their first child. As soon as she heard the flat above Guy's in west London was on the market, she snapped it up. For 10 years, the couple and their growing family – they now have two boys, Stanley, 7, and Rex, 4, plus Guy's two older sons, Orlando, 18, and Sholto, 16 – resided in both flats, with the living rooms in one and their bedrooms in the other. They moved between the two via a communal staircase. 'The neighbours didn't mind,' says Eugenie. 'They got quite used to seeing us come and go in our pyjamas.'

Then the couple decided to turn the two residences into one. The main job was finding a way to connect them, and architect Stephen Fletcher came up with the idea of having a modern staircase going through the middle of both properties. 'The biggest challenge was making sure the staircase didn't destroy the rooms downstairs,' explains Eugenie. 'We wanted it to take up as little space as possible.'

Another contemporary addition was the minimalist kitchen on the ground floor. 'I was after a room that didn't look too kitcheny – I wanted it to "disappear",' says Eugenie. 'At first, Guy didn't like the sound of it, but when he realised how clean and simple it was

going to be, he changed his mind.' For the other rooms, the couple were keen to keep to the style of the property. 'We planned to respect its Victorian roots,' says Eugenie. Unfortunately, the previous owners had removed a lot of the original features. 'They stripped out the cornicing, and there was a hideous concrete fireplace,' she says. So Eugenie had bespoke fireplaces made and cornicing put in from a Victorian mould. 'One thing that was perfectly intact were the original tiles outside covering the steps leading up to the front door,' says Eugenie. 'All we had to do was give them a polish.'

A trip to France proved to be pivotal in finding key pieces of furniture to complete the look. 'I had an old farmhouse kitchen table, but Guy was hankering after an Eero Saarinen Tulip table, so the jury was out,' explains Eugenie. 'Then we went to a flea market in Paris and saw this 1950s Italian marble table. I thought the price tag said €9,000, but it was actually €1,200, so we bought it!' It's paired with sturdy Tolix chairs because the couple wanted something robust for the boys. They also bought some lamps on the same trip. 'We were only there for a short time, but came back with a lot,' she says.

The thing Eugenie loves most about her finished home is its sense of calm. 'The pared-back look and muted colour scheme make it a real retreat,' she says. 'It's somewhere we can relax and just be ourselves.'



BATHROOM
Marble brings a touch of luxury to the period features. Marble, £4,500, The Marble & Granite Centre. Lefroy Brooks Classic undercounter oval basin, £370; Lefroy Brooks Connaught deck-mounted bath shower mixer, £677, both Just Lefroy. Towels, from £2 each, John Lewis



STANLEY & ORLANDO'S BEDROOM
Built-in shelves are a great space-saving option for compact rooms. For similar shelves try Lack, from £5, Ikea