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BEST
PROPERTIES
REVEALED!

25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

JULY 2023

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INSPIRE YOUR RENOVATION PROJECT

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Space & light

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ROOM WITH A SUMMER-LOVING STYLE

Coastal
cottage

Victorian
terrace

Retro ranch
house

Georgian
mews

Period
maisonette

Almost every first-time buyer has to contend with space issues and less than inspiring schemes, but interior designer Marina Byers turned those challenges on their head with a clever application of colour and pattern, an inventive approach to storage and a hearty dose of playfulness. ‘I wanted to make sure that our home imbued a sense of warmth from the moment you step across the threshold,’ says Marina, who shares this apartment with partner Archie.

Though the apartment is compact, it’s blessed with a generous sized sitting room, which the couple wanted to take full advantage of. ‘We knew that with a clever furniture layout we could accommodate six or seven friends at a time for drinks or weekend lunches,’ says Marina, who incorporated easy-to-move stools for useful occasional seating, as well as a slimline desk for home-working. ‘Before introducing decorative details, we thought carefully about how to maximise the space,’ says Marina. ‘That involved commissioning plenty of joinery throughout, such as alcove storage, a banquette in the kitchen-diner and space in the bathroom for a concealed tumble dryer.’

Practicalities dovetail with visual appeal in this home: in the sitting room, the cupboards either side of the fireplace



KITCHEN

‘Panelling is a clever way to elevate a scheme as it provides a sense of polish,’ says Marina.

Wall panelling in Breakfast Room Green, Farrow & Ball. Glass lamp base, Graham and Green



DINING AREA

Marina transformed this colourful corner with built-in banquette seating that conceals extra storage.

Seat pads in Kemble in Charcoal, Romo. Positano Parasol cushions, Andrew Martin. Velvet cushions, Oka



SITTING ROOM

Soft pinks, sands and brass elements are anchored by a blue backdrop.

Pink cushion in Isabella fabric in Marble, de Le Cuona. Brass lamp base; shade, both Matilda Goad & Co. Ottoman in Apsley, Jane Churchill