

KITCHEN-DINER
 Amelia now has the space to entertain friends when she's home from her travels. Dining table with reclaimed oak top, £1,600, The French House. Bertoia side chairs, £690 each, Chaplins. Walls painted in All White and Lamp Room Gray estate emulsion, both £34.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Metro Sage wall tiles, £29sq m, Topps Tiles. &Tradition SR1 pendant light, £85, Nest



SITTING ROOM
 Pale walls are an ideal canvas for vibrant accessories and retro pieces. Corolla Burst limited edition digital print by Nick Jeffrey, £995 unframed, Grandy Art. Vitra Potence wall-mounted light, £925, Chaplins



STUDY
 'The builders made the shelves and desk for me,' says Amelia. Erice trestle chair, £320, Chaplins, is a good match. Roman blind made to order by Harmony Amory in Nobi 10426 fabric, £110m, Zimmer + Rohde



REPLANNED



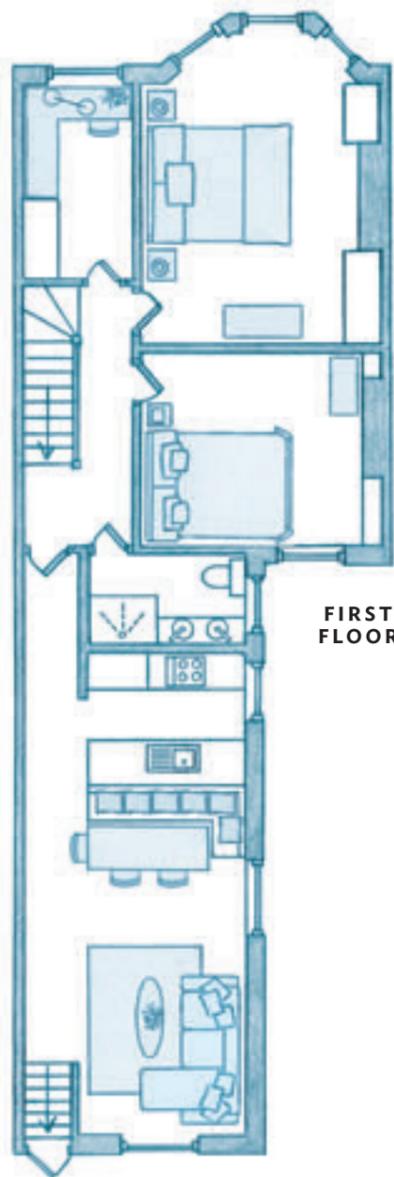
HOME TRUTHS
THE PROPERTY
 Victorian maisonette
LOCATION
 Southwest London
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner/study, four bedrooms (one en suite), shower room, basement
PURCHASED 2010
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
 'I lived in a modern apartment in southeast London,' says Amelia.

NATURAL CHOICE

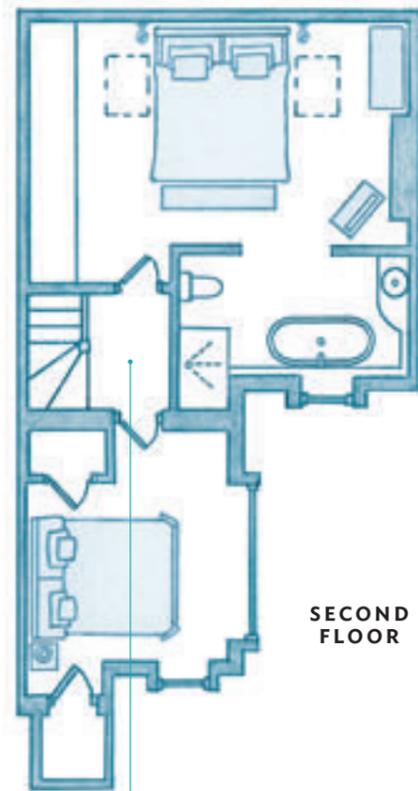
Amelia Richardson wanted her home to reflect her South African roots while offering a welcome retreat from life on the road

FEATURE ERICA MILLER | PHOTOGRAPHY NICK SMITH

AFTER

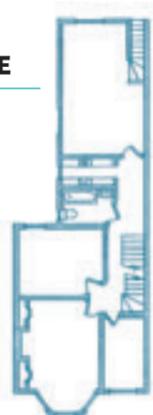


FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

BEFORE



LANDING

Custom-made shelves make good use of a space at the top of the stairs leading to the new loft conversion. As well as providing additional storage, it also adds interest to this area.



As a geologist, South African-born Amelia Richardson travels a great deal, so when she was looking for a new home three years ago, it had to offer her the ultimate sanctuary between trips. 'I work for a mining company and it's a man's world,' she says, 'so I really appreciate my creature comforts when I get back home.'

After a six-month search, Amelia spotted a Victorian maisonette located in a leafy southwest London street. 'It's a lovely area with a great atmosphere and vibrant café culture,' she says. 'The property itself, however, was small, tired and forlorn, but there was scope to change the layout and extend upwards.'

CLEVER CONVERSION

Keen to add more space, without compromising the architectural features, Amelia employed the professional services of interior designers Amory Brown. Together they came up with a floorplan that effectively doubled the living space. Converting the loft area into two bedrooms and an en-suite bathroom was key to the redesign, as was reconfiguring the ground floor to create an open-plan kitchen-diner/sitting room. 'I wanted this to be airy, functional and uncluttered,' says Amelia, 'but with such limited space we had to come up with some clever storage solutions, such as utilising the area under the banquette seating in the dining area.'

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Amelia had a clear vision of how the interior would look and wanted to use the colours of her homeland as inspiration for the palette. 'Coming from South Africa, I felt it was important to have a background of warm hues,' she says. 'The overall style had to be fresh and bright, and include lots of natural materials, too.' Amelia's interior designers skilfully interpreted her wishes creating an effortlessly chic scheme with vibrant splashes of colour.

Although Amelia readily admits that the look is more contemporary and bolder than she had imagined, she's still thrilled with the final result. 'I wanted an environment that reflects who I am and this place really does that,' says Amelia. 'It has a feeling of serenity and is the perfect retreat.'

MASTER BEDROOM
Bespoke storage keeps this serene space calm and uncluttered. For more interiors inspiration, visit amorybrown.co.uk. Bench upholstered in Hoggar fabric, £92m, Lelievre. Hector medium wall lights, £105 each, The Conran Shop. Cushions made from Fiesta Corail fabric, £88m, Manuel Canovas. Hay wooden tray, £59, The Conran Shop



MASTER EN SUITE
A luxury tub was high on Amelia's wish list. Iona Cheval mirror, £1,995, Pinch



FAVOURITE ROOM

'I love the master bedroom with its en-suite bathroom – it's so comfortable and everything strikes just the right note. After so much travelling and sleeping in tents, it's such a lovely haven to return to'

SHOWER ROOM
Light-reflecting materials and a bright palette gives the illusion of space. Walls painted in Skimming Stone estate emulsion, £34.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. The Azaay wall mirror, £199, Oka, is comparable

