

Keeping up with
the Joneses

Redesigning their room's layouts gave the Jones family a much more practical family home.



When Lisa and Steve Jones started renovating their three-storey Victorian home two years ago, they knew what they wanted, it was a case of making it work. Each had a very different wish-list. Boys toys were top of his. “A bit of a gadget man,” is how Lisa describes her husband, Steve. “There were certain things that he specified, such as a separate shower tap in the kitchen, an American fridge, a plasma screen in the dining area and a leather chair for the living room.” Lisa also had precise requirements, but hers were concentrated in the kitchen. “I chose the Shaker style and colour. I originally thought I’d like a wooden worksurface to give texture, but it wasn’t really practical with the children, so I opted for granite,” she recalls. “We



Inside info

Who lives here? Lisa Jones, a full-time mum, her husband Steve and their two young sons.

What sort of house is it? A three-storey Victorian red brick terrace.

Good advice? Pay attention to details such as plugs – builders don’t live in your home, so specify plenty of electrical sockets and make sure they’re in the right place.

Most striking feature? The smart living room with its eye-catching square design wallpaper and bold painting that really stands out against the neutral coloured backdrop.

KITCHEN The once cramped kitchen is now divided into three sections: a cooking area, TV corner and a dedicated table for dinner with friends. Lisa immediately fell in love with the Manuel Canovas fabric that interior designer Brenda suggested for the windows. The units are painted in Farrow & Ball’s French Grey.

went to a specialist and it was really daunting, all these pieces of granite and us with our little colour sample of the units. It was a real leap of faith. Steve told me, 'If it doesn't work, we're not changing it'." Luckily for Lisa, the French Grey painted units enhance the brown and grey tones within the stone. She also knew exactly what she desired in terms of function, "Somewhere where we could sit, watch TV, eat informally, plus drink with friends." The reversed layout of the old kitchen and dining room made such a request almost impossible. The dining table was previously cramped into a small area, which now houses a large Butler's sink, whilst the spacious dining and social area has been created from what was once redundant floor space.

Although Lisa and Steve were confident about how they thought their home should look, the narrow layout of the house made colour scheming and accessorising difficult. While flicking through magazines for ideas, she spotted interior designer, Brenda

Get the look

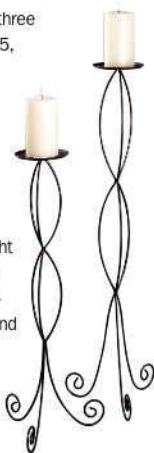


The Cotswold Co's set of three seagrass baskets, £36.95, have wooden handles. Tel: 0870 241 0973.

Cargo Homeshop's 90x83x90cm leather Vincent chair costs £599. Tel: 01844 261800.



Argos' hand-crafted wrought iron candlesticks, £14.89 per pair, come with church-style candles and are 78 and 98cm tall inc. candles. Tel: 0870 600 3030.



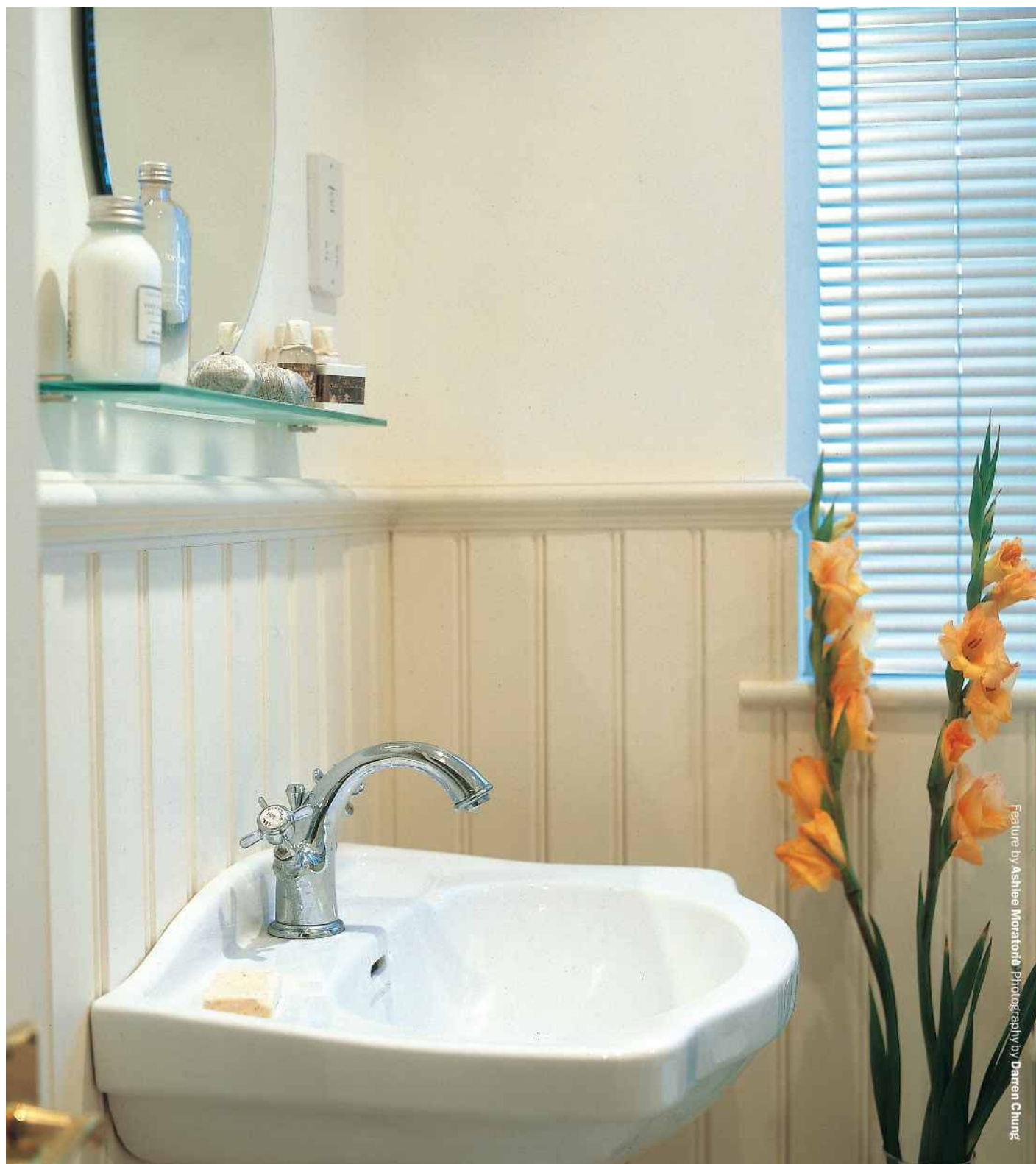
For fab and funky walls, try Contour Cube Silver wallpaper from Focus. It costs £9.99 per roll. Tel: 0800 436436.



LIVING ROOM The focus of the living room is a painting by an ex-colleague that Lisa bought for Steve before becoming a full-time mum. The square design of the Focus wallpaper echoes that of the window blind fabric on the opposite wall. The other end of the long room is an ideal space for the children to play, or for Steve to listen to music, whilst sitting in his favourite Conran leather chair. The chimney breast lies in the middle adding an air of elegant tradition to the space.







Gibson's advertisement for the Complete Interior Company. "I asked Brenda for involvement because I didn't know how to tackle a long room," Lisa recalls. Brenda began with the elongated living room, creating a divided feel, without the use of walls but with the furniture layout. "I designed it so the family could use the room as two rooms with two functions, or just open it up when guests are around," she explains. The striking symmetry of louvre shutters at both ends of the room,

combined with the attention-grabbing square design of the Focus wallpaper and blinds opposite draw the end walls in, also lessening the room's corridor-like effect. Brenda used neutral taupe shades as a foundation for the scheme, but took colour cues from the large painting that hangs in the main living space.

As the couple's parents often come to stay, Steve and Lisa decided to re-structure the top floor, converting two amply sized bedrooms into one bedroom, a study cum

guest room and a shower room, so that visitors have ensuite facilities. Brenda's biggest challenge was the layout of the ensuite shower room. Lisa and Steve liked the idea of a shower/wetroom, but limited space and a large window, which dominates the bathroom, prevented this. Brenda put the space to better use by fitting a smaller shower area plus much needed storage. To give the room a more spacious feel, she kept it simple with traditional sanitaryware, Shaker style wood



Get the look

Create a natural ambience with granite candleholders from The Cotswold Co. Size and colour will vary slightly, they cost from £19.95 for a short holder. Tel: 0870 241 0973.



The ultra-modern Aloha from Myson Towel Warmers is available in 12 sizes and a variety of finishes and costs from around £692 for the number of bars shown in chrome. Tel: 01204 863200.



Sleep stylishly on a Low Deco bedframe by Warren Evans, from £195 for a double frame. Tel: 020 7693 9393.



TOP FLOOR The newly converted top floor of Steve and Lisa's London home is dedicated to visiting parents. The combination of lichen coloured furniture and linen walls gives the bedroom a fresh, spring-like air. The small second guest room doubles as a study. In the bathroom, interior designer Brenda Gibson combined traditional tongue and groove panelling plus sanitaryware with modern, chrome radiators for a classic, contemporary look.



ABOVE LEFT Lisa chose the light and dark blue colour combination. The bed was made specially, so that Zak couldn't fall out.

Useful contacts

- Complete Interior Company.**
Tel: 020 8878 2282.
- Farrow & Ball.** Tel: 01202 876141.
- Manuel Canovas.** Tel: 020 8877 6400.
- Osborne & Little.** Tel: 020 7352 1456.
- Focus.** Tel: 0800 436436.
- Conran.** Tel: 020 7589 7401.

panelling and clean, crisp white tones.

Ben was only a baby when the couple moved in, and as yet neither his nor Steve and Lisa's bedrooms have been decorated. A special room for toddler Zak was a priority though and the tonal colour scheme in his bedroom was picked by Lisa. Taking inspiration from the star design curtains by Osborne & Little, she teamed dark and light blue – stars by night, clouds by day.

When commended on her use of colour, whether it's through the paintings she chose, or the serene green theme, which runs throughout their home, Lisa is quick to pass on the praise, "Brenda was spot-on with fabrics, I would never have found them on my own." She also offers this advice, "An interior designer is a lot more cost effective than you imagine; choosing the wrong fabrics can be an expensive mistake."

Get the look

Get the space-age feel with the Just Kidding collection of fabrics from Osborne & Little. It costs £24 per m. Tel: 020 7352 1456.

