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COVER STORY Transformed - this striking London terraced cottage

Particulars

LOCATION

West London

AGE

Georgian

BUILDING

Four-storey detached house with ½-acre garden

ROOMS

Drawing room, dining room, kitchen, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, conservatory, self-contained flat on lower ground floor

MOVED IN

1965



1 The conservatory, which looks over the garden, was the first extension to the house in 200 years

2 The drawing room walls are painted in Rameses Red by John Oliver (020 7727 3735). The opulent blinds were made by Caroline Docker at Hang-Ups (020 7371 8817) with Vieille Alsace fabric by Claremont

3 Sarah in the garden, which has a pavilion beyond the topiary hedges

Capital style

The London home of Edward and Sarah Miles is the perfect combination of gracefulness and glamour



Today it is rare to find a detached Grade II-listed Georgian house with half an acre of garden within easy reach of central London. When Sarah Miles married her husband Edward more than 20 years ago, he had already been living in the house since 1965, and he and the property had developed quite a rapport. So, it was with fresh but sensitive eyes that Sarah made changes to suit both.

When the couple's daughter, Alex, was a toddler, the lower ground floor was a family playroom-cum-television room, but as Alex grew up, Sarah wanted to make it into a flat so that her parents could visit from the US. To create an alternative space for Alex and her friends, the couple added a conservatory leading off from the dining room.

The first thing that catches the eye when entering the house is the elegant, cantilevered staircase with curved mahogany banister rail. This sweeps up like an unfolding spiral and is carpeted, as is the hallway, with a David Hicks design from 1965. Immediately to the left of the front door is the drawing room, which has a distinct feel of genteel living >





1 The drawing room is home to some of Sarah's needlepoint cushions and a bow-fronted Georgian cabinet

2 & 4 The walls in the hall and landing are covered in a Zoffany wallpaper. The star-shaped light is Georgian and the rug was bought in Istanbul

3 The kitchen walls are painted in Cane by Coles (020 7376 4628)

5 The dining room is papered in Watts of Westminster's Bellini (020 7376 4486) and is lit entirely by candles



and Georgian etiquette. The room has three floor-length sash windows, complete with the original shutters, and the walls have been painted in a deep red from John Oliver. 'We picked off a bit of plaster and they matched the original colour,' explains Sarah.

The kitchen, which leads off the hallway towards the dining room, used to be in the basement and now overlooks the garden at the back of the house. The soft mustard shade on the walls is, says Sarah, 'a good colour, because it works in north, south or west-facing rooms.' Edward is a good cook

and often prepares the evening meal, so this is very much a family room as well as where friends sit for an informal supper.

The dining room is a wonderfully dramatic and romantic room, where it wouldn't seem inappropriate to change for dinner. On one wall is an old chimney breast with alcove bookshelves lined in green, and these, together with a glass-fronted Victorian Gothic bookcase, give the effect of a hidden library in a vast country house. The wall-sconce candle holders, which Edward found in a skip, came from the old Dorchester hotel. ▷

The couple have created a true oasis and a magical hiding place



1

2

Upstairs on the first floor there are two main bedrooms, one of which Sarah, who is a director of a construction company and works from home, uses as an office. 'I like to use the bed as a desk and cover it with my paperwork and make my phonecalls,' she says. 'It's like a study and bedroom and sitting room all in one, and it's very cosy.'

Sarah and Edward's garden is predominately green and white, and it has tall yew hedges which lead on further and further into a circular area like a theatre, from where the house is only just visible above the tight green screen. It is hard to believe that the roaring traffic and the crowds of central London are only a few miles away. The couple have created a true oasis and a magical hiding place from the 21st century. **50**

WORDS Olivia Temple
PHOTOGRAPHY Spike Powell

1 The tallboy by the window and the clock on the mantelpiece in the master bedroom are heirlooms. A colourful majolica jug also adds a sense of grandeur

2 As in the master bedroom, the elegant, patterned wallpaper in the bathroom was made using an original early wooden block especially by Coles

25 Good ideas

Sarah and Edward's house is full of gorgeous curtain treatments. For those of us with plenty of enthusiasm but little experience, Simplicity Limited (01698 337000) now produces a range of easy-to-follow patterns for a variety of window treatments - all including a glossary and special tips. Visit their web site at www.simplicity.com for further information.