

ELEGANCE & STYLE

Geraldine and James Sorrell combined classic and modern to give their home a stunning new look

FEATURE CATHERINE DORAN PHOTOGRAPHY TONY TIMMINGTON

HOME TRUTHS

✿ **THE OWNERS** Geraldine Sorrell, a garden designer, her husband James, who is a property developer, and their children Jack, Elly and Molly, plus Fudge the cat
 ✿ **THEIR HOME** Georgian-style detached house, built in 1998
 ✿ **LOCATION** Surrey
 ✿ **ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, snug, cloakroom, study, playroom, five bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom
 ✿ **PURCHASED** 2007
 ✿ **PREVIOUS PROPERTY** 'We moved here from a Victorian terrace in southwest London,' says Geraldine.

HALL
 'I found this antique mirror when I was looking for something grand to reflect the sweep of the stairs,' says Geraldine. On-Reflection is a good source of decorative mirrors; a comparable antique oval design, with etched frame and scrolled cartouches, is priced at £3,300

SNUG
 Serious but not sombre, this scheme blends tones of dark green and blue to stunning effect. New Details of Rome wallpaper, £135 per roll, Cole and Son. Bespoke armchairs and footstool, Urban Living Interiors. Wenge coffee table, £600, Sarah Shorrocks at Outstanding Interiors



were well established, with imposing and beautiful Silver Birch and pine trees,' says Geraldine, who is a garden designer. Meanwhile, her husband, a property developer, was struck by the building itself. 'Even on that initial visit, James was visualising how

great it would be to add a spacious, modern extension onto the side return of the house,' Geraldine recalls. So, virtually from the moment the couple made the place theirs, they began to redesign the interior. 'The original layout was fine but rather traditional,' James explains. 'What we wanted to achieve was a balance between this neo-classical look and the more contemporary elements, such as the kitchen, that I'd earmarked to be installed in the new space.' Once the extension was complete, with a master bedroom suite sited above the kitchen, the Sorrells began to think about how the new rooms should ▶



be furnished. Having been brought up in an old Sussex farmhouse, Geraldine still hankered after a homely, comfortable style. So the challenge the couple faced was how to merge their different tastes, and the two areas of the house, into a coherent whole.

As a result, they decided to bring in professional help, in the form of interior designer Sarah Shorrocks. 'All I did was help them to articulate their own vision,' she says, 'and together we introduced an exciting range of colours and textures into the decor.'

In the couple's bedroom, for example, a panel of opaque glass cupboard doors and a range of fuchsia

accents add an Oriental feel to the scheme. In contrast, the revamped sitting room is far more traditional and a home for many of the family heirlooms that Geraldine has inherited over the years.

Elsewhere, the new kitchen-diner blends sleek, hi-gloss cabinetry and stainless-steel splashbacks at one end with solid-oak furniture at the other. While the reception rooms are cosy, welcoming spots for family gatherings – the couple's eldest child Jack is away at boarding school, but is often back at weekends – other areas boast a refined, adult elegance, the sumptuous snug being a case in point. Here, ►



DINING AREA

'We designed this spot so we could take in the lovely views of the garden,' Geraldine explains. The Ercol Artisan collection, £1,585 for a table, £325 for a chair, Barker & Stonehouse, would suit this setting. For a similar bookcase, take a look at the Flow design by Kay + Stemmer, £1,550, Heal's.

Farmhouse Oak vinyl flooring, £71 per m, Amtico



SITTING ROOM

This large space runs the length of the house, but is divided in two by the console table in the middle of the room, with more seating placed further beyond.

Bespoke leather footstool by Wayne Dawes, from £895; Mulberry Millfield armchair, £1,650, both Outstanding Interiors



DECORATING TIP
'Don't be a slave to what everyone else is doing – trust your own instincts about palettes and design'

KITCHEN

'The cabinetry needed to be in keeping with the clean, sleek lines of this side of the house,' says James. Kitchen, £10,140, designed and installed by Charnay. American Oak vinyl flooring, £71 per m, Amtico

INSPIRATION
'My mother, Vee Wallace, is a painter, and I've definitely picked up my love of colour from her'



MASTER BEDROOM
A selection of vibrant accessories add verve to the upstairs suites. Laura Ashley's Shirland chenille throw, £80, is a match. Bespoke wardrobe, £5,000, Hanging Space

Geraldine and James opted for an opulent look, with tactile, velvet-upholstered seating and wenge side tables, teamed with a stunning feature wallpaper, whose motifs of Roman architectural drawings allude to the house's neo-classical design.

'I think we've achieved a real balance between the two styles in the house,' James enthuses, and his wife happily agrees. 'We had such a great time sourcing all the new furniture and accessories,' says Geraldine. 'James is a perfectionist, and he'd knock this place down and start again from scratch if he wasn't so delighted with the result. Thankfully, he's got no plans to do anything like that!' 25



JACK'S BEDROOM
'Our teenage son loves to come back here at weekends,' says James. Hampton Union Jack cushion, £28, John Lewis



MASTER EN SUITE
Colour coordinating the pelmet with the towels is a clever idea. Pelmet, £160, made up Kandola Dupion silk in Passionfruit, £25 per m, Outstanding Interiors. Blind, £45, John Lewis, made up in Harlequin Alina, £33 per m

✿ FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 154