

DOCTOR FEEL GOOD

PAINSTAKING WORK
AND DETERMINATION
HAVE BREATHED
NEW LIFE INTO THIS
FORMER EDINBURGH
MEDICAL PRACTICE

Photography ZAC and ZAC
and Exposure
Words Gillian Welsh

[Previous pages] Mary-Anne Gallo and Kieron Bell designed the kitchen. The surface of the island is a sintered stone supplied by F Jones Ltd. The bar stools were made by RM Upholstery, with leather on the inside and a Romo fabric on the back. The lights and pendants over the island were installed by SKL Electrical Services. [Above] The grey marble Chesneys fireplace, faux-silk Romo wallpaper and Jacaranda rug create a luxurious feel. The soft furnishings are by Robert Langford in a robust Wemyss velvet. The cushion fabrics are from Armani, Zoffany and Romo, with fringing by Samuel & Sons. The Bella Figura chandelier and Vaughan lamps cast a warm glow. The ornaments are from Time & Tide. [Top right] The Georgian house is in one of Edinburgh's finest conservation areas. The exterior stonework was repaired using traditional lime mortar by Marionville Masonry

DETAILS

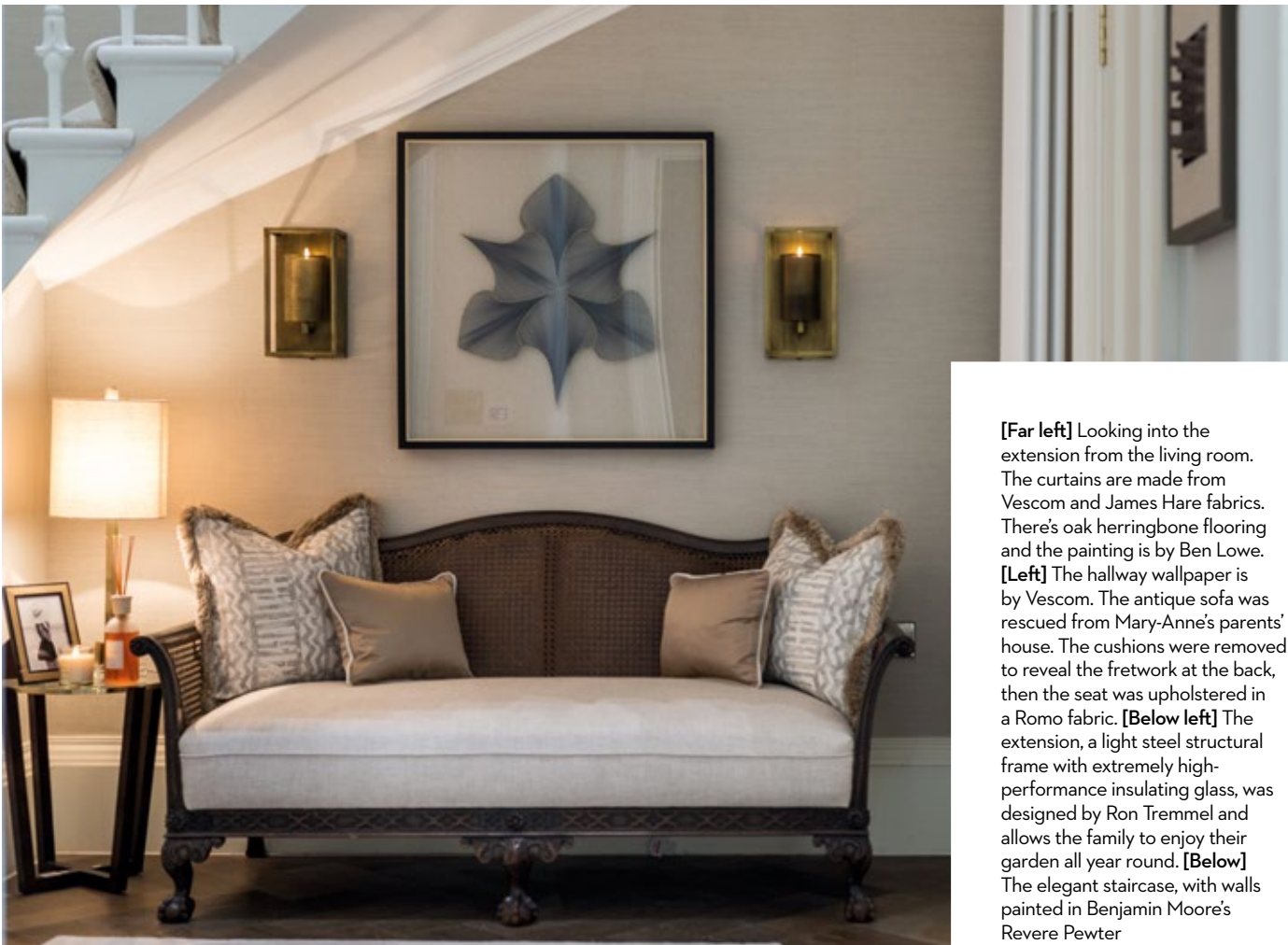
What Returning a Georgian house to residential use after decades as a doctor's surgery
Where Inverleith, Edinburgh
Interiors Mary-Anne Gallo



Sometimes the best things crop up when you least expect them. That's what happened to Riccardo and Mary-Anne Gallo, who'd been renting as they waited for the right home to buy. Stumbling across this, a doctor's surgery in one of Edinburgh's most affluent suburbs, changed their life. "The large garden really sold it to us, along with the grand proportions of the Georgian architecture," says Mary-Anne. "I could immediately see our family settled here."

But to convert the property from sterile surgery to family home would take a lot of work. Its complete change of use required interior architecture, full joinery and new lighting and furnishings. The Gallos, though, are experienced in property development and knew there would be limits on what was feasible – this, after all, is a B-listed building in a conservation area. They brought in architect Ron Tremmel, of Tremmel Properties, with whom they'd worked on previous projects, and suddenly 21st-century living began to seem possible. He applied for listed-building consent, planning permission and a building warrant for the change of use.

The Gallos wanted multi-use living spaces where they could all eat, cook, play and relax together, where their two children could do their homework while dinner was being prepared. "Family meals and entertaining play a big part in our lives. Maybe it's Riccardo's Italian heritage, but we love having friends over and often host large family meals." ▶



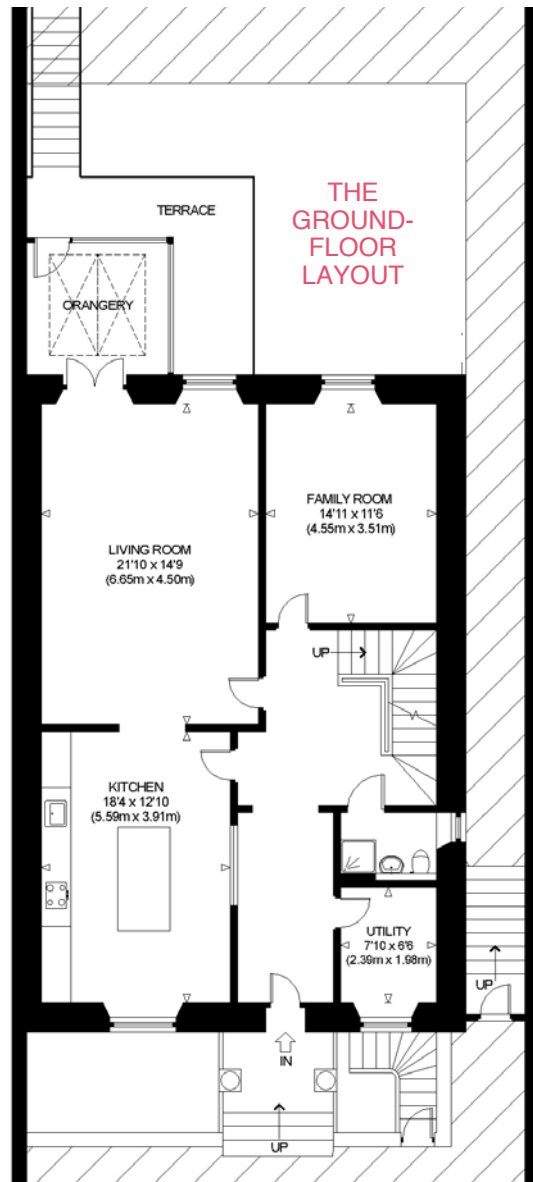
[Far left] Looking into the extension from the living room. The curtains are made from Vescom and James Hare fabrics. There's oak herringbone flooring and the painting is by Ben Lowe. **[Left]** The hallway wallpaper is by Vescom. The antique sofa was rescued from Mary-Anne's parents' house. The cushions were removed to reveal the fretwork at the back, then the seat was upholstered in a Romo fabric. **[Below left]** The extension, a light steel structural frame with extremely high-performance insulating glass, was designed by Ron Tremmel and allows the family to enjoy their garden all year round. **[Below]** The elegant staircase, with walls painted in Benjamin Moore's Revere Pewter

With approval from the planning department, they were able to open up the kitchen and living spaces, attach a modern glass box extension at the rear to serve as a connection between inside and out, and insert a large window with balcony in the roof to take in views of Edinburgh Castle. Where the back garden was previously cut off from the living space, it's now a well-used sun trap in which to unwind. "When you're at the back it's so peaceful. You'd never believe you were in such a busy central location." Overhauling the windows helped cut out most of the noise from the front; Edinburgh firm Bonningtons Ltd refurbished the casements and fitted new sashes, replacing the old glass with Pilkington's Spacia slimline double glazing.

More upgrading followed: underfloor heating was laid across the whole of the ground floor, courtesy of Affordable Heating and Plumbing, and speakers, a Lutron lighting system and state-of-the-art Cat 6 wiring were installed, giving the family effortless control over their home comforts. Another local firm, PlasterTec, was brought in to repair damaged cornices and ceiling roses and to skim the walls for a smooth finish.

Making one cohesive sociable and functional zone of the kitchen, dining and living areas was the cornerstone of the redevelopment. Crucially, it had to work not just for ►





[Top left and right] Mary-Anne's son's bedroom is adorned with wall stickers from Etsy. The headboard has been covered in a Clarke & Clarke fabric. The tipi and the lion's head are buys from Not On The High Street. [Bottom left and right] Pink and bronze accents decorate her daughter's room. The four-poster bed came from Argos and has been accessorised with pink linen curtains. The wallpaper is Birdcage Walk by Nina Campbell. Fabrics from Chase Erwin and Clarke & Clarke upholster the desk chair and the mirror is from Curiosity Interiors



family life, but as an entertaining space too. “The goal was to make these areas luxurious yet practical and able to stand the test of time,” says Mary-Anne. “The design needed to be understated and elegant to suit the property – and it started with the kitchen.”

Aiming for that elusive mix of traditional, contemporary and timelessness, she focused her efforts on finding the right kitchen designer. “I wanted custom-made furniture of exceptional quality, ideally supplied by a local workshop, using specially sourced materials,” she says. After much research, she came across Kieron Bell, who’d been the Scotland supplier for Mowlem & Co, a Newcastle firm that specialises in high-end bespoke kitchens. She and Bell hit it off – so much so that they’ve since begun working together as Designer Kitchens and Interiors.

Here, wall panelling (painted in Farrow & Ball’s Elephant’s Breath) adds interest, as do eye-catching details such as the brass Perrin & Rowe tap, brass handles from ►

[Below] The understated master bedroom is a calm sanctuary. James Hare silks, Romo velvet cushions and chairs in a Romo chenille-covered chair add a note of elegance. The headboard is another piece by RM Upholstery and the carpet here (and in all the bedrooms) is from Edinburgh Carpet Warehouse.

[Opposite] The en-suite has bespoke cabinetry, tiles from the Edinburgh Tile Studio and sanitaryware from Victor Paris. Mary-Anne, who had a career in finance before moving into property development, designed the bathrooms



[Below] A large window and balcony were added to the attic, making the most of the views towards the castle. The Andrew Martin chairs are a good place to sit and read. [Bottom] Made-to-measure wardrobes make best use of the space



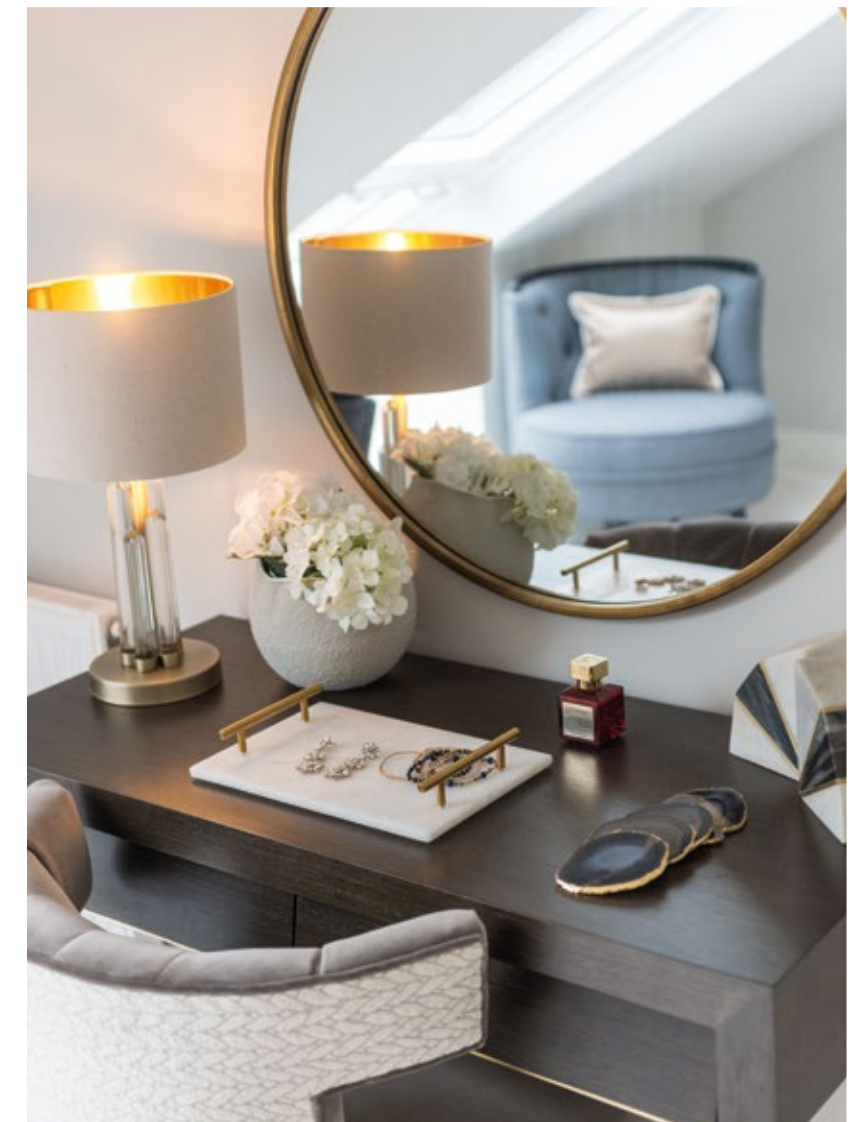
“WE LIVED IN THE PROPERTY AS A SURGERY UNTIL WE GOT PLANNING PERMISSION. IT WAS GRIM BUT THE ONLY WAY WE COULD AFFORD TO DO IT”

Armac Martin, Jim Lawrence pendants and black Gaggenau appliances. “The kitchen had to look good but I really wanted it to be practical. The brass and the smoked-glass splashback make it low maintenance, and we opted for an induction hob because it can be wiped down in seconds. The Lutron lighting system gives you complete control over the light, so it’s easy to change to suit the mood.”

She opted for Shaker doors with walnut interiors and glass display cabinetry which softens the design and prevents it from feeling too monolithic. “I also chose a sintered stone for the island which has very prominent veining – I wanted it to have real impact when you look from the living room into the kitchen.”

Perhaps most striking of all, though, is the colour of the cabinetry: taking its cue from the dark greyish-blue marble fireplace in the living room, it has been hand-painted in Farrow & Ball’s Railings for an exquisite finish.

That stunning grey Chesneys marble fireplace in the living room (the surgery’s former waiting room) played a key role in the overall scheme. Mary-Anne designed the entire open-plan layout around it, using warm accents of brass and bronze to offset the white woodwork and cornicing. Rich velvets, silk, linen, fringing and layers of texture add warmth and depth. Herringbone oak covers the entire ground floor. It was given ▶





[Above] Mandarin Stone marble tiles complement the Crosswater and Villeroy & Boch bathroom fittings, sourced from Victor Paris

five coats of natural hard wax oil with a metallic shimmer. A large mirror (in the same bronze tone as the kitchen's) was made by local glass supplier Trinity Glazing, and artwork by Ben Lowe sits on either side of the fireplace. "I had my eye on a few beautiful chandeliers, but when I spotted this Bella Figura one with 90 percent off, I snapped it up."

'Practical luxury' is in evidence here: a robust velvet by Wemyss upholsters the sofas, and the Jacaranda rug is much more family-friendly than it looks – it's a hardwearing faux silk. The mahogany sideboards came with the family from their old house: "They were a splurge at the time from Justin Van Breda, so they were definitely staying."

Also one for keeps was the antique sofa rescued from Mary-Anne's parents' house. Removing the cushions to reveal the lovely fretwork at the back, she had it covered in a Romo herringbone fabric and it now sits in the hallway. A local firm, RM Upholstery, was entrusted with most of the stools, headboards and armchairs.

As the family had been renting for some time, she really wanted the kids to love their bedrooms. Her daughter's room has pink and bronze accents, and Birdcage Walk wallpaper by Nina

Campbell. Mary-Anne turned her hand to furniture design, sketching up wardrobes for clothes and toys, with dedicated compartments for accessories, and a desk for homework. The four-poster bed is from Argos, draped in swathes of linen made to measure by local curtain supplier Sinclairs Soft Furnishings. A rich pink cotton velvet by Romo covers an accent chair, while lamps from Not On the High Street add a touch of cool. "She's thrilled with the result. It's fun but can be dressed to become more sophisticated and elegant as she grows up."

Understatement prevails in the first-floor master bedroom. "I wanted a clean, contemporary and calming bedroom using lilac and taupe tones," she explains. James Hare silks, Romo velvet cushions and bespoke chairs covered in a Romo chenille are sumptuous and decadent, while low-key artwork by Ben Lowe adds an abstract touch. Mandarin Stone marble tiles and bespoke cabinetry made by Mary-Anne's in-house joiner keep the en-suite looking good.

A very definite sense of calm wellbeing permeates this home. Whether or not that's a legacy of its years as a place of healing, we can't say, but there's no denying just what a tranquil, elegant haven it now is. ■