

At last I have my own home

This first-time buyer has planned her new living room to perfection



The living room looked tired and uninspiring

Before

Existing shelves in the alcoves were painted to match the walls

WHAT IT COST
FURNITURE £3339
CURTAINS £2280
CUSHIONS £100
RUG £339
MIRROR £125
PAINT £59
LIGHTING £474
WALLPAPER £110
TOTAL £6826

Who lives here? Kirstie Boardwell, 36, a compliance officer, lives in a split-level two-bedroom first-floor Edwardian flat in Crouch End, north London.

How long have you lived here? For almost a year; it's the first home I've owned. The flat was structurally sound when I bought it, but in need of some TLC.

What look did you want in the living room? A retro feel with a cheerful colour scheme. I love the original fireplace so the decor had to fit in with the tiles.

How did you decide what to spend your money on? I wanted a large squashy sofa and matching chair, and good curtains, so I splashed out on these items. My spending then had to decrease dramatically so I could buy everything else!

Did you have any help? My friend Rebecca, an interior designer, had lots of ideas, including the glorious yellow accent colour and the stain for the floorboards, which has given the wood a rich tone.

Tell us how the scheme came together As I felt it was important for the upholstery to make an impact I chose a moss green velvet fabric. I painted three walls cream and wallpapered the other one. The yellow mimosa design has plenty of white background so even though the print is large, the effect is subtle. I then added a rug edged in green and yellow to match.

What about accessories? I picked out a yellow reading lamp to go with the armchair and found the coffee table on eBay. It's a copy of an Isamu Noguchi design classic but at a fraction of the price. My best bargain was the dining chairs, which were £19 each.

Did it all go to plan? Yes, mainly because I thought ahead about getting the sofa up the stairs into my flat. Several companies will check this for a fee, so I made sure access was possible before I bought mine.

• **Interior designer Rebecca Hayes helped Kirstie. Contact her on 0771 042 9352, see rebeccahayesinteriors.co.uk**

The dining chairs were a bargain at just £19 each

To break up the floor space, Kirstie had a cream rug made up with edging that matches the scheme



Dining area (above) As there's no dining space in the kitchen, Kirstie was keen to have a small table and chairs in the bay window and pulls up extra chairs when she has friends to dinner

Feature wall (right) The yellow mimosa flowers on the paper add to the sunny feel of the room and the lamp adds an extra splash of yellow



A design classic floor lamp picks up on the yellow accent. The corner is a relaxing spot to sit and read

Toning with the colours in the rest of the room, the floral cushion is reversible with plain yellow velvet on the other side

Fresh and fabulous buys

Add vibrant accessories to plain furnishings to give a scheme real lift



Greenwich Village 03 scatter cushion, £24, Multiyork



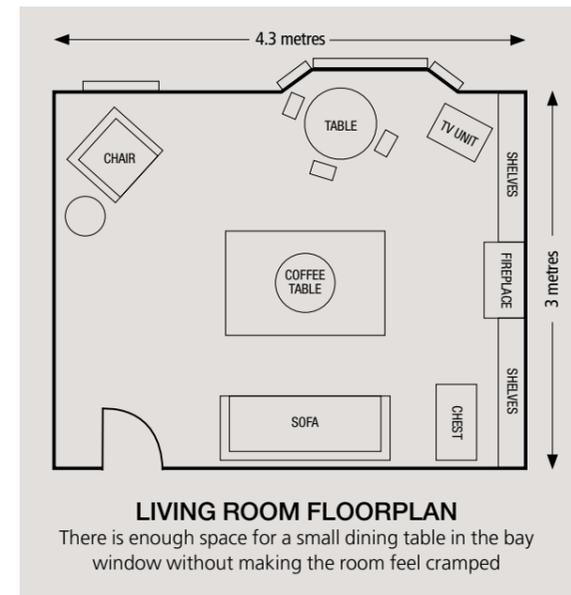
Sunita table lamp, £15, John Lewis



Shannon small micro-suede sofa in Mink, £204.99, Homebase



Edwardian fireplace (above) The lovely fireplace, with its patterned tiles, is the focal point of the room. Kirstie has shown that original features can work well with contemporary pieces of furniture



Shopping list

Walls painted in Chaste matt emulsion, £29.50 for 2.5L, Paint and Paper Library. Contemporary 11 Mimosa 69/8132 wallpaper, £55 a roll, Cole and Son. Zennor large sofa covered in Berwick light green by Ross Fabrics, £1824; Zennor armchair, £1045; both Sofas and Stuff. Coffee table, £114, eBay. Luba side table, £150, The Conran Shop. Value curve chairs in white, £19 each, John Lewis. Round glass dining table, £149, Dwell. Curtains, £2280, made to measure by G&H Soft Furnishings and Interiors. Wool rug, £339, Wovenground. Large bevelled edged mirror, £125; Kartell ceiling light, £149; both Graham and Green. Vintage white vase (on fireplace), £18, Kingston Antiques Market. Signal S1833 floor lamp in yellow, £325, The Conran Shop. Cushions made up in Varese F1190/02 velvet in Primrose, by Designers Guild; and Fairhaven in yellow J592F-04 by Jane Churchill; both £25 a metre, made to measure by G&H Soft Furnishings and Interiors

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE 'WHERE TO BUY' PAGE AT BACK OF ISSUE



Fabric and paper picks

Feeling inspired by Kirstie's living room? Get the look with these brilliant buys

1 Nalini 75105 wallpaper, £36 a roll, the Lalika collection, Harlequin **2** Vita J121W-03 wallpaper, £39 a roll, the Alba collection, Jane Churchill **3** Luella Spring W199/07 wallpaper, £26.25 a roll, the Anya Wallcoverings range, Villa Nova **4** Belgravia Parsley V1005/74 washable cotton and viscose linen fabric, £25 a metre, Villa Nova **5** Kentwell NCF4042-04 striped linen, £55 a metre, the Montacute Weaves range, Nina Campbell **6** Leaf J10F-03 cotton velvet, £39 a metre, the Calvo collection, Jane Churchill

