



INSPIRING

HOME TRUTHS
THE PROPERTY
 Victorian worker's cottage
LOCATION West London
ROOMS Sitting room,
 kitchen-diner, two bedrooms,
 bathroom
PURCHASED 2013
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
 'Before we moved here, I had a
 flat in Notting Hill and Chris had
 a flat in Brixton,' says Anna.



SITTING ROOM
 Classic pieces upholstered in grey and pink velvets
 tone beautifully with the ice-cream pink walls.
 Three-seat Bluebell sofa, from £1,240; Valentin
 footstool, from £295, both Sofa.com. Vintage German
 medicine cabinet, price on request, Junk Deluxe. Chimney
 breast painted in Middleton Pink and Great White Estate
 emulsion, both £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

KITCHEN-DINER
 The island unit incorporates an old plan chest,
 as storage for both kitchen and work paraphernalia.
 For old plan chests, from £450, try Antique-Atlas.com.
 Moon Beam Penny Round white wall tiles,
 £54.95sq m, Original Style. Kitchen units, price
 on request, Howdens. Tolix bar stools, £180 each,
 Made in Design. For a vintage Eames DSW
 dining chair, from £385, try Lovely & Co

PRECISION PLANNED

Anna Burles' beautiful revamp just goes to prove that it's all in the detail

FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH

Former radio journalist Anna Burles used to file seven features an hour. 'It meant producing creative, accurate copy on time,' she recalls. 'I think I've carried that meticulousness over to my work as an interior designer.'

Consequently, when Anna and her partner Chris were choosing where to buy their first home together, nothing was left to chance. 'I'd been living in London's Notting Hill and I wanted to stay in the area as its shops and boutiques were useful for

my work,' says Anna. 'Chris and I share a design studio there and we spent weekends cycling around and were drawn to an enclave of worker's cottages.' So when a two-bed cottage came on the market, they instantly made an offer, which was successful.

Although the previous owners had knocked the two downstairs living spaces together, the footprint was tiny, with the doors to the garden starting where the kitchen now begins. 'We'd done our research and knew that there were precedents for



MASTER BEDROOM
An off-white wall makes the perfect backdrop for a set of antlers.

Stag antler on skull, £245, Abbeyhorn.
Walls painted in Dove Tale estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



LAST WORD *'The best-dressed people mix high end with high street and I believe the same rule can be applied to interiors'*

ground-floor extensions, but it still took six months to get planning permission,' recalls Anna.

'Once the extension was done, we thought long and hard about the way we live,' says Anna. 'I designed the island while the rest of the kitchen units were sourced from a high-street supplier and customised with handles made from beautiful fossilised wood. Chris nearly fell off his chair when I told him how much they were, but they do transform the units.'

As a graphic artist and designer, Chris was supportive of Anna's decisions, including the more left-field idea to paint the ground floor in pastel tones. 'It was important to create zones within this open space,' Anna says of the strawberry ice-cream hues in the living area, which change to pale chocolate in the dining space and vanilla in the kitchen. These soft shades are the ideal backdrop to the couple's possessions, which are

predominantly vintage finds picked up at flea markets and antiques shops.

Upstairs, the couple's bedroom is painted a purplish grey, which, teamed with a feathery, cloud-like lampshade, Anna likens to a 'summer storm brewing'. The ceiling is painted the same colour as the walls. 'Ceilings are a crucial part of the design, and I think it's a misconception that they should always be white,' notes Anna, who has proved her point again in the bathroom by painting the ceiling a vivid 1960s yellow.

The recent arrival of baby Margot has seen the second bedroom transformed from a dressing room into a nursery. Further down the line, the couple may choose to extend the cottage again by developing the loft but for the moment, the family are happy to enjoy this beautifully planned home. 'The finishing details make a world of difference,' affirms Anna. 'That's why it's such a pleasure to live here.' 25

BATHROOM

The industrial lights and neat hexagonal tiles create a sharp look.

White honeycomb ceramic mosaic tiles, £67.95sq m, Original Style. Karl round wash bowl, £149, Bathstore

