



# DYNAMIC REINVENTION

*The owner of this late Victorian semi in Belfast has taken on a substantial renovation project, retaining original period features & injecting unique style with retro touches shown alongside bespoke timeless design*

*Photography INFINITY MEDIA*



A dramatic colour scheme has been achieved in the library with walls painted in Farrow & Ball Railings giving bold contrast to the cornicing, ceiling rose and fireplace. Parquet floor tiles from Porcellana Tile Studio. Antique chandelier sourced by J'Adore Décor. Bespoke bookcase designed by Jemima of J'Adore Décor, also painted in Farrow & Ball Railings.



An internal dividing wall between the original small lobby and adjacent dining room was opened up to create a spacious and welcoming entrance hall. Floor tiles from Porcellana Tile Studio.



The kitchen has been extended to incorporate an open plan living and dining area. Tiling from Porcellana Tile Studio. The dining table is an antique refectory table, teamed with bespoke bench seating and chairs from J'Adore Décor. Sofa also from J'Adore Décor.



Having previously lived in a spacious ground floor apartment just a few streets away, the owner of this beautiful Victorian three-storey had been looking for a house in this area for quite some time. 'I'd been searching for a number of years and had viewed several properties in the local area but none were suitable. This was my ideal location so when the house came on the market, I knew it would be perfect, given its size and opportunity to craft it into a home to suit me. My apartment was completely opposite in style; it was all very contemporary but I'd wanted a project like this for so long.'

Although maintained by the previous owners, who'd been living here for some 60 years, the house was in need of modernizing and upgrading. Employing JNP Architects in Belfast, the owner got the ball rolling with ideas and design concepts to transform the old house into a luxurious and bespoke home. Although adding an extension to the rear and knocking internal walls to create a much larger and more grand entrance hall, the owner has achieved a wonderful balance of style within the interior. Fusing existing architectural details with a contemporary new extension at the back, the house has been planned with great attention to detail.

Taking the house back to a shell and restoring it internally, the results show essentially a new house in an authentic façade. 'The original house had no heating, just open fires and an old range cooker in the kitchen. I removed the garage and replaced it with a new extension to accommodate the entertaining room and utility room, next to the kitchen, which has also been extended to make room for an open plan living and dining space. What was a small lobby with separate dining room has been knocked through to create a large open entrance hall.' Upstairs has also been reconfigured to make more practical use of space. 'Originally there were six bedrooms – four main bedrooms and two nursery rooms – so I've changed the two nurseries into en suites.'

Keeping the interior classic by restoring many of the original period features – cornicing, fireplaces and deep skirting boards – the owner has mixed these finishes with contemporary elements in the form of a diverse art collection, vintage furniture and a modern colour scheme to open up what was naturally a quite dark, western facing house. With the structural restoration and extension in place, thoughts soon turned to the specifics of the interior design. 'Up until this point, I hadn't thought much about the next step of tying everything together.' Interior designer, Jemima Eastwood of J'Adore Décor collaborated with the owner to create a unique interior, combining his own collections with carefully curated pieces, sourced and selected by J'Adore Décor to co-ordinate each space. 'My art has been collected over the years but most of the furniture was sourced more recently. Jemima was fantastic at sourcing vintage pieces to work with my existing antiques and she also took care of colour choices, lighting and soft furnishings to pull everything together. The entire project was thoroughly enjoyable and I get a great sense of achievement every time I walk through the door!'



Old and new come together with corning in the kitchen meeting a contemporary extension with glazed concertina doors. Bespoke 50th Anniversary kitchen by Wrights Design House. TV unit and Halo bar stools are from J'Adore Décor. Pendant lighting is from Jim Lawrence

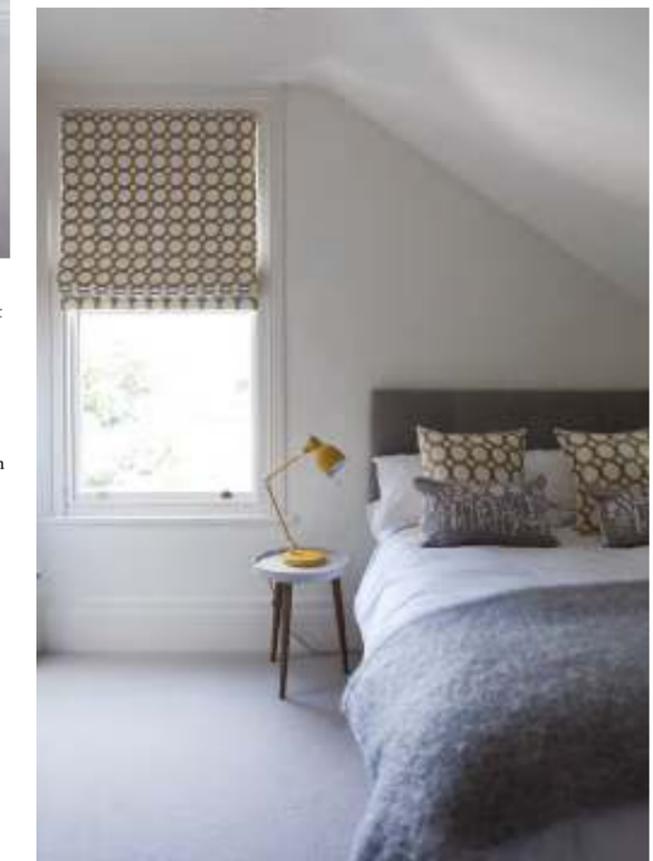


Dark accent colour on the island, tall cabinetry and walls brings depth and contrast to the bespoke kitchen scheme. Kitchen by Wrights Design House. Floor tiles from Porcellana Tile Studio. Bench seating, chairs and sofa from J'Adore Décor.



Statement wallpaper from Harlequin adds a quirky touch in the contemporary entertaining space and downstairs w.c. Buttoned leather sofa and distressed rug from J'Adore Décor. Also sourced by J'Adore Décor is the Italian retro sideboard and Michel cocktail table; The master bedroom is an eclectic mix of pieces from Ross's Auction. Bedside tables and lamps from J'Adore Décor. Walls painted in Grey Moss by Little Greene.





## INSIGHT

*Homeowner*

***My style would be described as modern gent.*** My family live in an old country estate, so there's quite a bit of traditional influence, while maintaining a contemporary edge from living in the city.

***My favourite space has to be the library.*** My interior designer, Jemima of J'Adore Décor picked the colour; I was slightly dubious at first but when I saw it against the intricacies of the cornicing and fireplace, it just brought the room to life. I also love the flooring in here. It gives the room a real warmth and reminds me of an old gentleman's smoking parlour.

***One piece of advice*** when dealing with a period property is, take your time. When you're dealing with a house that's been there for 120 years, you want to create something that will be there in another 120 year. Don't rush into decisions.

A luxurious monochromatic scheme sets the tone in the guest bedroom. Table lamp, ostrich feather pendant, cushions and fabrics from J'Adore Décor. The bespoke wardrobes are by Wrights Design House; Another guest bedroom has been designed with luxurious texture and contrast in mind. Soft furnishings, lighting and colour scheme all by J'Adore Décor.



Mixing it up, the bathroom combines timeless design with on trend copper and quirky wall art. Floor tiles from Porcellana Tile Studio. Replica Marie Therese chandelier from J'Adore Décor.