

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Mediterranean blues and greens pop against a calming, natural palette in this timeless family home

HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE
Yoko and Andrew Kloeden and their three young children

THE PROPERTY
A three-storey, four-bedroom Victorian terrace in south-west London

KITCHEN/DINER

Handmade kitchen units, designed by Yoko, have been painted in Oval Room Blue by Farrow & Ball. 'I wanted clean lines with no handles and chose the Silestone worktop from Stone System of London to echo the marble dining table,' explains Yoko →



WORDS AND STYLING KAY PRESTNEY | PHOTOGRAPHY BRENT DARBY

LOUNGE AREA

Inspired by her collection of Bitossi turquoise ceramics, and by the blues and greens of the Mediterranean, Yoko has created a statement wall using iridescent zellige tiles from Emery & Cie. 'I love sitting here, surrounded by the colours I remember from holidays in Turkey and Greece,' she says



With eight moves in five years, Yoko and Andrew Kloeden are no strangers to a removal van. The path to this home was a short one – they had been living a few streets away but, with the arrival of their third child, they were outgrowing the space. 'I often walked along this road with the children and loved its tree-lined pavements and proximity to the primary school, so when this house came on the market, we jumped to put in an offer,' says Yoko.

Running her own interior design consultancy, Yoko Kloeden Design, with a nature-inspired, muted-palette trademark, Yoko found her new home was a far cry from her moodboards. 'The layout was cramped and dark with a dividing wall in the middle of what is now the kitchen and a small bathroom in the dining room,' she says. 'The whole house was carpeted in purple and pink. The kitchen had a plastic roof – we used to eat breakfast and watch the neighbour's cat pad above our heads.'

Working with local firm AMP Architecture, Yoko designed a large-scale renovation that saw the removal of the entire rear of the

house across two-storeys, replacing the warren of small rooms with one large, light-filled family space. With herringbone oak parquet flooring running throughout, the room works hard as a multipurpose space that has been cleverly zoned into living room, kitchen, dining room and office areas, packing a design punch with exposed brick walls, shimmering zellige tiles and iconic pieces of furniture such as the Karl Hanssen CH20 dining chairs.

The secret to having so many functions in one space is great storage where everything has its place. 'Japanese interiors tend to be minimalist with only objects of function or beauty on display,' says Yoko. 'So I try to use that principle in my design, but as a family home it is realistic minimalism. I remember attending a talk by one of my design heroes, John Poulson, who admitted to having to tidy up before a photo shoot!'

Always looking to reuse materials where possible, Yoko asked the builders to save the original bricks. These were then used to make a walled garden at the rear, where trailing greenery provides a natural backdrop, transporting the family away from city life. The large Crittall doors blur the lines between indoor and outdoor living, helping the →

DINING AREA

Above left The classic Eero Saarinen marble table doubles up as an office table for Yoko (above) and her team during the day. A replica of Jason Miller's Modo chandelier for Roll & Hill creates a striking feature

KITCHEN

With parquet flooring running throughout, the open-plan room works hard as a multipurpose space that has been cleverly zoned





OFFICE CORNER

A wooden shelf between two built-in storage units has been divided into a homework space and an office area for Yoko. A fabric noticeboard allows her to create project moodboards

courtyard feel a part of the home in warmer months. 'In Japan, we live very much in tune with the seasons and have many traditions that reflect the benefits of being surrounded by nature, such as shinrin-yoku (forest bathing). I wanted to fill our home with greenery and to see plants and nature when I look out of the windows, despite our urban location,' says Yoko. Family mealtime nature viewing has now evolved from cat's paws overhead to robins nesting in the courtyard ivy.

A third storey was created during the renovation works, giving the couple a large master bedroom in the loft, complete with a glass ensuite. Painted in Farrow & Ball's Stiffkey Blue, the room is a cosy eyrie to relax in at the end of a busy day juggling work and family life.

House plants are found in every room. Yoko's favourite item is not one of the covetable design classics, but rather her large monstera plant, which basks in the sunlight. 'I grew up surrounded by plants,' she says. 'My mum loved rattan and greenery and filled our family home with plants. We don't have many photos of my childhood, so this is a daily visual reminder of happy memories.'

With room for all the family, a thoughtful place for everything, nature in abundance and pops of blues and greens transporting them to faraway shores, this home reflects the Eastern culture of Yoko's childhood and the Western suburb where she and Andrew have chosen to raise their family – they won't be booking another removal van any time soon. →

'I wanted to see NATURE despite our URBAN location'



HALLWAY

A trio of Lee Broom crystal bulbs in gold fittings adds a touch of glamour. Monochrome tiles from Mandarin Stone have been cut into the wooden parquet to delineate the hallway from the lounge



MAIN BEDROOM

Deep blue walls continue the Mediterranean theme in the loft extension. A brass flowerpot light from &Tradition hangs above a granite-topped bedside table from AYTM



ENSUITE

Unconventionally, only a clear glass screen separates the shower from the bedroom. The marble tiles from Mandarin Stone reflect daylight into the room

CHILDREN'S BEDROOM

Hua Trees wallpaper by Sian Zeng is a restful backdrop. 'I wanted to create tranquillity at bedtime when children can find it hard to switch off,' says Yoko **HB**

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