

REGENCY RECTORY

A VISION *restored*

New life and sumptuous style have been brought to this family home, thanks to a sensitive understanding of the building and a creative approach to interior design

WORDS NATALIE WAIN PHOTOGRAPHS MARK BOLTON

SITTING ROOM

Rich textures and a colour palette of deep purple, orange and sage green create a welcome sense of warmth in this north-facing room.

Interior design and bespoke

ottoman, Vicky Wormsley, Chester Row Interiors, 020 7730 6650, chesterrow.com.

Ottoman in Athina Stripe FD658 V147, £89m; armchair in London Check, £105m; both Mulberry Home at GP&J Baker, 020 7351 7760, gpandjbaker.com.

Howard Style Seater sofa (at back), from £2,810 plus fabric, David Seyfried, 020 7823 3848, davidseyfried.com. Full scroll-arm signature sofa with loose back cushions (on right), from £4,110 plus fabric, George Smith, 020 7384 1004, georgesmith.co.uk.



ENTRANCE HALL

Just inside the front door, richly patterned wood and marble, bold red curtains and elegant blue walls (above) create a sense of drama that echoes the elaborate Regency Gothic architecture of the Wormsleys' home.

Walls in Oval Room Blue, Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com. **Curtain in** Les Toiles de Tours, hand-woven to order, Le Manach at Claremont, 020 7581 9575, claremontfurnishing.com. **For a similar antique mirror**, try On-Reflection Mirrors, 01963 220723, antiquemirrors.co.uk.

BOOT ROOM

A country house such as this would always have had a boot room (left), so it was logical to incorporate what was originally outside storage into the back of the property for this purpose.

Industrial pendant light circa 1950, £288, Skinflint Design, 01326 565227, skinflintdesign.co.uk. **Grafton limestone flooring**, from £59.94sq m, Artisans of Devizes, 020 3302 9996, artisansofdevizes.com.

DINING ROOM

Vicky's use of the same colour palette in the dining and sitting rooms (above) enabled her to create two schemes that are very different in mood but co-ordinate perfectly when seen together like this.

For similar antique dining table and chairs, try S&S Timms, 01525 719300, timmsantiques.com. **Walls in** Walnut Tree SC298, matt emulsion, £37.50 for 2.5 litres, Papers and Paints, 020 7352 8626, papers-paints.co.uk. **Curtain in** Carnival in Kiwi, £115m, Christopher Farr Cloth, 020 7349 0888, christopherfarrcloth.com.

REAR HALL

Antique furnishings and classic-style decoration conceal 21st-century amenities. "You don't notice it, but as well as hi-tech lighting, there is also underfloor heating. It's a very comfortable house," says Vicky.

For a similar vintage bistro table, try English Salvage, 01568 616205, englishsalvage.co.uk. **Walls in** Light Gray, Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com. **Curtain in** Karoo Soft in Ochre KAR4, £202m, de Le Cuona, 01753 830301, delecuaona.co.uk.





CORRIDOR

An elaborately patterned wallpaper in earthy tones contrasts with the calming blue of the entrance hall to provide a dramatic frame for a bold artwork in the sitting room. Fern Park wallpaper in Sage, £76m, Veere Grenney at Tissus d'Hélène, 020 7352 9977, tissusdhelene.co.uk. For a similar sculpture by Emily Young, try The Fine Art Society, 020 7629 5116, faslondon.com.

KITCHEN

Vicky describes this elegant yet informal style as “grand rustic”. The generous dining table (opposite page) seats ten people, but she decided to keep the kitchen area fairly compact for ease of use. Bespoke kitchen, Martin Moore, 0845 180 0015, martinmoore.com. Oak Leaf chandelier, £10,620, Charles Saunders, 020 7351 5242, charlessaunders.co.





LANDING

This well-placed mirror (above) not only creates an ornate focal point, but cleverly plays with perspective.

Curtains in Opera in Garnet OPE3, £88.80m, de Le Cuona, 01753 830301, delecuaona.co.uk.

For a similar antique gilt mirror, try Williams Antique Mirrors, 01400 273688, williamsantiquemirrors.co.uk.

MAIN BEDROOM

Vicky used a skilful blend of textured linen wallpaper in neutral tones with layers of muted reds and blues to bring subtle interest to this soothing scheme (right).

Temple wallpaper in Pink, £76m, Veere Grenney at Tissus d'Hélène, 020 7352 9977, tissusdhelene.co.uk. **Headboard** in Merino in Ocean Blue, £108m; **bedspread** in Linen Taffeta in Paprika, £84m; both Lewis & Wood, 01453 878517, lewisandwood.co.uk. **For a similar artwork by Kate Corbett-Winder**, try Josie Eastwood Fine Art, 01962 776677, josieeastwood.com.

Warming log fires and festive gatherings are standard fare at Vicky Wormsley's Hampshire home at Christmas. "This is definitely a house for entertaining in," she says. "The dining room was used as a library by the previous owners, but a country house such as this can easily take a formal dining room so we decided to reinstate it."

Interior designer Vicky and her husband, David, bought the Regency Gothic former rectory as a fixer-upper five years ago, after falling for its impressive architecture and lofty ceilings. A number of structural adjustments were required, but the spacious ground floor layout was instantly appealing. "The arrangement of the rooms here made a lot of sense," says Vicky, "but there was still plenty of work to do. When you're renovating your own house, it's incredibly special. We took our time, to get it exactly right for us."

The Wormsleys, who have three teenage children, decided to live in the property for a year before undertaking any changes. "I always recommend doing this, if possible," says Vicky. "It allowed me to understand how we use and connect with the space." The balance of the bedrooms, for instance, was not quite right. An extension to replace a bedroom that had tumbled down decades ago was one of many improvements made during the year-long renovation. As well as raising the ceiling in a dreary corridor, a versatile family room was created from two smaller spaces. Elsewhere, an external storeroom was absorbed into the property resulting in a smart, utilitarian boot room, while upstairs, the bathrooms were reconfigured to enhance the sense of flow.

Once the structural changes were complete, Vicky set about updating the interior, starting with layers of sophisticated lighting to offset the coolness of the north-west-facing rooms. "Behind the scenes, it's all rather hi-tech," she says. "We've installed a Lutron control system to manage the ambience without compromising the integrity of the space." The idea of marrying old and new and exploring the nature of contrast are recurring themes throughout, demonstrating a masterful respect for the 19th-century heritage with a 21st-century twist. "Everything has been meticulously considered," says Vicky. "This is far from being a predictable country house. We wanted to embrace the unexpected."

Nowhere is this more apparent than through Vicky's passion for juxtaposing grand antique furniture with 20th-century British and contemporary art. In the sitting room, an 18th-century card table sits harmoniously alongside an arresting sculpture by Emily Young; in the main bedroom, an antique chest of drawers is paired with dramatic artwork by Paul Feiler. This skilful interplay of styles is echoed again in the sitting room, where Vicky has experimented with texture and pattern through carefully chosen fabrics. "I enjoy putting traditional wool plaids next to rich velvets and introducing silks with embroidery," she says. "The effect is very subtle. I wanted this space to feel tranquil, in contrast to the bold dining room next door, which is designed to be a more stimulating environment for evening use."

It is in the dining room that Vicky has responded most noticeably to the elaborate Regency architecture of the house. The generous proportions and brightness lent themselves to richer, darker tones with standout fabrics and a glittering crystal chandelier. "I love the calmness of the sitting room, but this is a livelier space so it needed striking embellishment. The house would feel a bit blank otherwise." The same principle was applied, with a more restrained touch, in the main bedroom, where the light is naturally rather gloomy. Here, Vicky opted for textured wallpaper, complemented by a periwinkle blue headboard and berry-coloured bedding to inject warmth into the scheme.

"Ultimately, I wanted the house to feel comfortable, and for people to be at ease here," says Vicky. "The rooms may be large and filled with impressive furnishings, but the biggest challenge was to make it feel like home. Thankfully, I think we succeeded."





MAIN BATHROOM

Vicky eschewed contemporary bathroom style in favour of a more personal, classic look (left) with a vanity unit that she designed herself and family heirlooms, including the patterned rug and artwork. **Similar table**, Circular brass drinks trolley, £495, The Vintage Trader, 07738 353026, thevintagetrader.co.uk. **Regency wall scone with clear glass tube**, £456, Charles Edwards, 020 7736 8490, charlesedwards.com. **Similar mirrors**, Rectangle wood mirror, £125, John Lewis, 0345 604 9049, johnlewis.com.

GUEST BEDROOM

Matching accessories create a pleasing sense of symmetry in this room (above), accentuated by the saffron cushions that stand out against the otherwise muted scheme. **Headboard** in Stockholm Stitch in Greige/Off White, £84m, Lewis & Wood, 01453 878517, lewisandwood.co.uk. **Cushions** in Plain Weave Linen in Saffron, £35m, Volga Linen, 01728 635020 volgalinen.co.uk.

SON'S BEDROOM

Vicky decided to embrace the coolness of this north-facing room (above) with khaki-coloured walls. "It can be more interesting to paint in a dark shade before teaming with warm, bright hues that sing out." **Curtains** in Newlyn in Rose, £63m, William Yeoward at Designers Guild, 020 7351 5775 designersguild.com. **Newmarket wool throws**, £110 each, Scarlet & Argent, 0113 257 0391, scarletandargent.co.uk. **Postage Stamps cushion** in Red, £35, Grace & Favour Home, 07739 309933, graceandfavourhome.com.

DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM

A mix of French-style furniture and lively artwork (right) introduces a fresh, modern feel. **1000 Ships print** by Richard Peacock, £16, East End Prints, eastendprints.co.uk. **Headboard** in Brera Lino in Celadon F1723/17, £65m, Designers Guild, 020 7893 7400, designersguild.com. **Radnor wood bedside table**, £199, Oka, 0844 815 7380, okadirect.com. **Hector Dome table lamp**, £141, Original BTC at Design 55, 01422 375940, design55online.co.uk.

