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GOLDEN YEARS

The interior designer Jo Berryman's north London home is all about bold colours, rich materials and vintage furniture. *Claudia Baillie* reports



'I love gold,' says the interior designer Jo Berryman. 'My inspiration for the downstairs living/kitchen area came from Carmela Soprano – it started with the Dominic Schuster gold tiles as a splashback.' The floorboards are fumed oak and the island unit is wrapped in amber onyx. The *boucherie* sign came from the Saint-Ouen flea market in Paris, the pendant lights are by Michael Anastassiades and the vintage sofa is by William C Andrus



Above The bathroom/dressing area is painted in Farrow & Ball, with Green Blue walls and Off-Black woodwork. The seat, from Circus Antiques, has been reupholstered in chocolate suede. The rug is from the Rug Company, the bath from Albion Bath Company and the console from Devon & Devon. **Below** The Anaglypta wallpaper below the dado rail is painted in Farrow & Ball St Giles Blue. The stair runner is a restored Turkish kilim held in place with upholstery studs. The portrait of the Queen is by Chris Levine

stepped in and it felt like home,” says Jo Berryman of the red-brick Victorian townhouse in Hampstead, north London, that she bought in 2008. “I had a visceral reaction.” Since then, she has transformed the five-storey space using bold colours, rich materials and an impressive collection of vintage and antique furniture and art. “Another reason I love it is that it’s not overlooked,” says Berryman, 37, the owner and creative director of Jo Berryman Studio, who shares the house with her husband, Philip Bergqvist, CEO of a digital animation studio, her two daughters – Nico, 9, from her first marriage, to the Coldplay bassist Guy Berryman, and Romy, eight months – and Dolly, the dachshund/shih-tzu mix. “At the back of the house, there are views over a little church hall and across the treetops – and there is such incredible light that streams all the way through.”

Although the house didn’t require any structural work, it did need an extensive redesign. As well as decorating from top to bottom, Berryman also added a lowered garden room, an impressive double-height glass extension, complete with mezzanine library, to the rear, and a loft extension accessed by staggered stairs. “I wanted to play around with levels,” she says. “I worked with Takero Shimazaki, a great Japanese architect, who encouraged me to create different platforms, which is a really interesting way of living.

“I have done a lot,” she continues, “partly because, as a growing family, we need the space, but I’m also an avid collector with an expanding art habit. I do love Victorian properties and the higgledy-piggledyness that comes with them – the chips in the cornicing, the cracked floors. I’m really into the imperfections as well as the decorative flourishes.” ●

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