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BEST  
PROPERTIES  
REVEALED!

# 25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

NOVEMBER  
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## Inspiring homes you'll love

IDEAS, ADVICE AND SOLUTIONS FOR  
ALL YOUR INTERIOR RENOVATIONS

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- STUNNING KITCHENS
- VERSATILE LIVING SPACES
- COLOURFUL BEDROOMS
- SLEEK BATHROOMS

## Find your signature style

BRING WARMTH AND CHARACTER TO EVERY ROOM OF THE HOUSE

Georgian  
townhouse

Converted  
pub

Detached  
new build

Victorian  
villa

Period  
cottage

# Modern classic

*Taking her cue from mid-century modern style, designer Manuela Hamilford has curated distinctive interiors in this Victorian villa that will stand the test of time*

WORDS RUTH CORBETT | PHOTOGRAPHY DARREN CHUNG

no. 14

## HOME TRUTHS

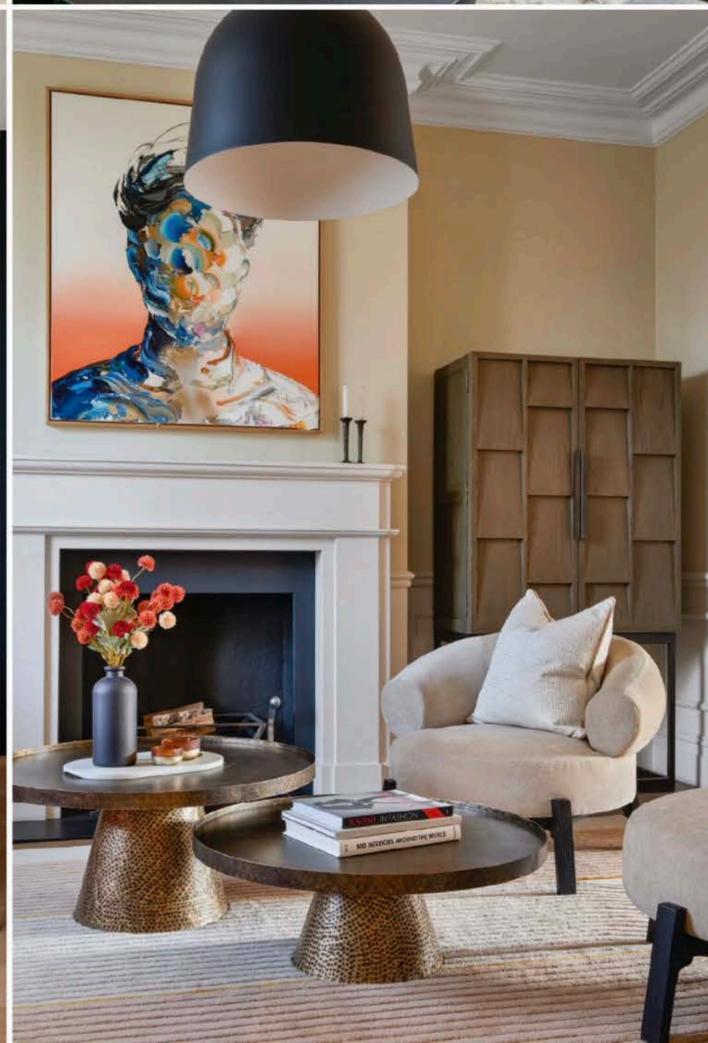
**THE PROPERTY**  
Victorian double-fronted villa

**ROOMS**  
Sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, snug, seven bedrooms, six bathrooms, two offices, playroom, gym

**LOCATION**  
Southwest London



**KITCHEN-DINER/LIVING AREA**  
Smart and modern black metal-framed glazed doors bring in abundant natural light - enhanced by pale-toned wood and flooring - and cleverly tie in with the dark cabinetry. Bespoke cabinetry, Hamilford Design. Artwork by Benjamin Warner



**KITCHEN-DINER**  
This favourite family space features a breakfast bar for casual eating and a substantial wooden dining table with a beautiful grain that brings subtle pattern interest to scheme. Both furnishings have curved shapes, which are stylish and child friendly. Knox Ecru bouclé dining chairs; Charlie oak extending dining table, both Andrew Martin. Artwork by Benjamin Warner

**LIVING AREA**  
Included in the open-plan kitchen-diner is this chic, comfortable seating zone (opposite, top right) which offers space to relax and watch TV with the children. Blazi table Lamp, Arteriors. Wood round coffee table, Antonio Facco for Mogg. Boho rug in Cream Mix, Nordic Knots. Sideboard, Hyde House. Artwork by Benjamin Warner

**SITTING ROOM**  
Frequently used for entertaining, this sophisticated space is dominated by soft contours. A rust sofa, inspired by the statement artwork, is complemented by tubby low-level armchairs, while the textured oak bar cabinet is one of many free-standing pieces that bring elegance to the scheme. Candelaria bar cabinet, Oka. Bespoke Burnt Orange bouclé curved sofa by Chandler Upholstery in fabric by Kirkby Design. Raize set of two nesting coffee tables, Sweetpea & Willow. Le Claire Gold floor lamp with natural linen shade, Porta Romana. Cream and Orange Ribbon rug, Teppich Homes at Etsy. Artwork by Aron Kroes

This imposing home on Clapham Common, London, showcases the bespoke pieces, rich textures, warm tones and sculptural forms that go hand in hand with an interior put together by designer Manuela Hamilford. The owners of the property, a Dutch couple and their children, were relocating from abroad and hired Manuela following a friend's recommendation.

Although never meeting in person, Manuela and her clients had regular catch-ups over Zoom to pin down the look for their new home. 'That's not as scary as it might sound,' says Manuela. 'We did a virtual walk-through of the house they were living in, in Amsterdam, which gave us a strong idea of their style, colour and furniture preferences. Then we put together some concept designs, to ensure we were headed in the right direction and we were off!'

The house, a large, double-fronted Victorian villa, had good bones and needed

no structural work. 'It was in great shape – an empty space with high ceilings and big rooms and it was up to us to identify the use for every one. Where will the children play, where best to have the office, what mood should the spaces evoke?' Manuela explains.

The clients favoured a fairly muted palette, with some blocks of colour, to give their many landscape works of art room to breathe. In the large, open-plan kitchen-diner/living area, dark cabinetry, pale timber flooring and a wall entirely of glass make a serene backdrop to the mid-century inspired furniture. 'This is our favourite room and where we spend most of our time,' says the homeowner. 'It feels very inviting, with great light. It needed to be a little bit dressy, but not so intimidating that you couldn't eat your cornflakes there. It had to tick lots of boxes!'

More formality was introduced in the formal sitting room, which is an adults-only



**MAIN BEDROOM**  
This neat arrangement of a dressing table with a round-back velvet covered chair is both sleek and glamorous. Eydis mirror in Antique bronze, Oka. Caius blown glass lamp, Heathfield & Co. Kalaspel dining chair, Made

**MAIN EN SUITE**  
A restrained palette contrasts black metal and subtly veined marble with gleaming metallic highlights in this luxurious scheme. Leaf basin two-hole wall mixer tap in Satin Copper finish, Arte Form, would work here

**CHILD'S BEDROOM**  
This bespoke bunk-cum-play den built above the bed is a favourite spot when friends sleep over. Bespoke joinery, Hamilford Design. Cabin sheepskin dining chair, Timothy Oulton at Andrew Martin. Masrva hand-tufted wool rug, DominicFloor at Etsy

**STUDY**  
A natural jute rug with black trim echoes the colour scheme in the abstract wallpaper. Desk, Soho Home. Ditte jute rug, Rugvista

**MAIN BEDROOM**  
Textured wallpaper and silvered bronze side lamps bring a luxurious ambience to the main bedroom while the distinctive headboard adds a contemporary geometric focal point. Bespoke headboard, Hamilford Design. Romy table lamps, Arteriors. Bespoke rug, Floor Maison



space used mainly for entertaining. Here a free-standing drinks cabinet, comfortable, curvy seating and an outsized contemporary pendant light set the tone. 'The brief was for no fitted furniture or joinery in this space, so we've opted for some lovely stand-alone pieces that bring a calm, welcoming, sophisticated feel,' says Manuela.

The nod to mid-century design continues upstairs. Many pieces in the house have been created bespoke, with this era front of mind as inspiration. The main bedroom demonstrates beautifully how Manuela has interpreted her clients' brief by designing a low wooden headboard with square panels and lots of

curved pieces of furniture, all typical of the period but with a contemporary edge.

While she crafted individual bedrooms to reflect each child's style, the playroom is a very special space. 'It was a big, square, empty room with three-metre high ceilings,' says Manuela. 'The client sent us images she loved and we turned them into reality, with monkey bars, a little ball pit and a padded reading area. The children are absolutely thrilled with it.'

As are their parents with the rest of the house. 'We're really happy. It feels like ours now – comfortable, thoughtful and really well put together. It captures "us" perfectly.' [hamilforddesign.com](https://hamilforddesign.com)

**'THE MID-CENTURY MODERN LOOK WAS ACHIEVED WITH THE USE OF LOTS OF NATURAL WOOD AND CURVED AND GEOMETRIC SHAPES'**