



SITTING ROOM

Sidika's artwork adds colour and vibrancy to the muted tones. *Madonna Enceinte* artwork, £2,200, Sidika Owen. Walls painted in Cornforth White estate emulsion £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Natural oak floor, from £35sq m, The Natural Wood Floor Company. Le Corbusier LC4 chaise longue in pony hide, £625, Delux Deco. Nest of Hay tray tables, £107-£151, Nest

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Mansion-block apartment

LOCATION West London

ROOMS Hall, sitting

room, kitchen-diner, three

bedrooms (one en suite),

bathroom, roof terrace

PURCHASED 2012

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a rented apartment nearby,' says Sidika.

EASY LIVING

Copious storage, a pared-back colour scheme and striking artwork have made a family home out of Sidika Owen d'Hauteville's compact apartment

FEATURE KAREN JENSEN-JONES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** NICK SMITH



SITTING ROOM
Open shelving lets light in as well as concealing the stairs from the living area. For a similar antique chest try Harrison Antique Furniture, from £150. Opposite Directions bronze sculpture, £4,500, Sidika Owen. Acova vertical two-column radiator, from £143, Screwfix. Bespoke shelving, Conley & Co



HALL
The stairs to the roof terrace are flanked by open shelving, which creates the impression of a hall. Blenheim Sisal Bouchal carpet in Anthracite, £375sq m, Alternative Flooring. Crital-style aluminium-and-glass door in black, price on application, Jennyfields



KITCHEN
A porthole window makes a striking feature. Round window, price on application, The Traditional Window Company. Conproj porcelain floor tiles, £43.02sq m, European Heritage Tiles

When Sidika Owen d'Hauteville viewed a somewhat dated second-floor apartment in a west London mansion block, she wasn't really expecting it to be the home of her dreams, despite the desirable location.

She and her husband Harold had lived in the vicinity for years. 'But we felt we ought to move before our children, Stella, five, and Alistair, two, became settled in at a school in a different catchment area,' says Sidika.

Though her expectations were initially limited, Sidika had no doubt that the

apartment had plenty of potential as soon as she saw it. 'We put in an offer straightaway because, despite its compact nature, we sensed that the place could be turned into a beautiful, bright family home,' she says. 'The flat is only 100 square metres, but I felt confident that a clever layout and practical storage solutions would make it a very comfortable home for us all.'

First and foremost, with the help of design specialists Conley & Co, the couple considered how the apartment's floorplan could be reconfigured to make the most of the natural light. They opted

to lower the floors and raise the ceilings, and add practical soundproofing, too. 'There was a lot to consider, but the kitchen and dining room were the starting point,' says Sidika. 'We took down the dividing wall that was between the two rooms and that had an immediate impact. The floor-to-ceiling slimline cupboards, a banquette and a mirrored splashback have all added to the overall sense of spaciousness.'

Sidika and Harold also installed a substantial utility area, ingeniously fitted into a cupboard and cleverly



KITCHEN
The banquette makes good use of space while natural linen cushions add an informal tone. Banquette, £800, Schröder Kitchens. Handmade large square cushions in natural linen, £65 each, The Linenworks, are similar

FAVOURITE SHOP 'Twentytwentyone is a fabulous shop for designer furniture and they stock all my favourite brands such as Hay and Asplund. I'd also recommend renting a van to drive to Lille in September, as it has the best flea market in Europe'

ALISTAIR'S ROOM

'Having a place for everything helps keep things tidy,' says Sidika.

Walls painted in Pointing estate emulsion, £36 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Volkswagen blind fabric, £9.99m, Curtain Factory Outlet Store



MASTER EN SUITE
Pretty Moroccan tiles add texture and tone to this otherwise simple design.

Marrakech Grey Mosaic floor tiles, £80sq m, Terrazzo Tiles. Sink unit painted in Urbane Grey intelligent eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene

concealed. 'The vacuum cleaner and ironing board sit so neatly alongside the washing machine and clothes dryer that there's actually space in the utility to hang and air our clothes, too,' reveals Sidika. 'If you can design a place for everything, then even a relatively compact apartment can be suitable for family living.'

Sidika was also keen to let lots of natural light into the kitchen, so renovating the existing porthole window was high

on the list of priorities. It now makes a striking feature in its own right.

A subscriber to the principles of Feng Shui, Sidika paid particular attention to the hall, originally a dark and unwelcoming space. 'The entrance is considered to be the mouth through which all life's opportunities make their way in, so I wanted to create an inspiring space,' she says.

This thoughtfully designed home now has an easy flow and a carefully planned

design, which is an essential part of Sidika's ethos. 'In a small space like this, it's a good idea to use complementary shades, cornicing, electric switches, doors and handles to create a sense of cohesion,' she advises. 'And of course, art is crucial, too, because it adds colour, meaning and vitality to a home.' And, with much of the striking artwork throughout the apartment created by Sidika herself, she's certainly in a position to know. 25



FINAL WORD 'I have found that bringing nature into your interior always makes a great impact'

MASTER BEDROOM

Strong pattern adds depth and texture to the neutral scheme without overpowering the compact space.

Walls painted in Dimpse estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Cocoa Beach Damson Curtains, £70m, Rapture & Wright