

Top of the Town

Rebekah Caudwell has injected this London townhouse with an array of colours and patterns, turning it into an unexpected jewel

Photography: RICHARD GOODING Styling: NICK LEE - NICHE PR



“The design brief was to give some youth, energy and a slightly more contemporary feel to a beautiful and well proportioned, but rather serious house” says Rebekah Caudwell of this London townhouse project. “As colour is always my starting point, I knew a very effective way of changing the feel of the house was to use some unexpected and fun colours. I love to have a unifying colour either subtly or boldly iterated through a house or project. And blues are one of my favourites! It creates a visual link through the property that people often unconsciously respond to. It makes the home hang together”

Arriving at the front door of the flat fronted, brick façade, there is a pre-conception of what will be inside. So Rebekah wanted to play with people’s expectations and subvert them totally. You enter into quite a grand and classic space, which is made rich and strange by the high impact geometric wallpaper on the left wall in jewel tones. There is also a fuchsia-pink lacquered cabinet ahead of you. These items in particular create the mood, and inform the viewer that this will not be a regular London townhouse.

In the drawing room, which only receives natural light for around an hour a day in the afternoon, Rebekah decided to make a sunnier statement with the use of yellow, and combined it with turquoise, one of her favourite colours. She explains; “I also decided to use some graphic and geometric patterns for additional impact and to give the room a more 21st century feel. And then I

Left: a yellow chair brightens up a grey and black scheme and is completed with a Niki Jones cushion. Above: the drawing room is a restful retreat with blue and yellow hues. The Jonathan Adler sofas are a modern take on a classic design and complement Rebekah’s design. Right: the striking entrance hall is a mix of colours.





This image: the dining room has shades of blue, which is the main colour used throughout. The mix of chairs give an eclectic look. Above: paler shades of blue are found in a living space. Below: the master bedroom is a contemporary haven with a nod to the traditional in the chair and storage accessories.

“Amidst all the colour, I iterated blues throughout the house as my constant. It creates a visual link from room to room that people subconsciously respond to. It makes the home hang together.”



brought in various textures and hard surfaces to give the room additional lift; such as velvet, wool, lacquer, brass and marble. I am a geek for architectural history and this house has historical detail in abundance, so it is lovely to play these games of combining our own time with the craftsmanship and detail of the past.”

On the lower ground floor the open plan kitchen dining and living areas are located. A spiral staircase links these spaces to the garden.

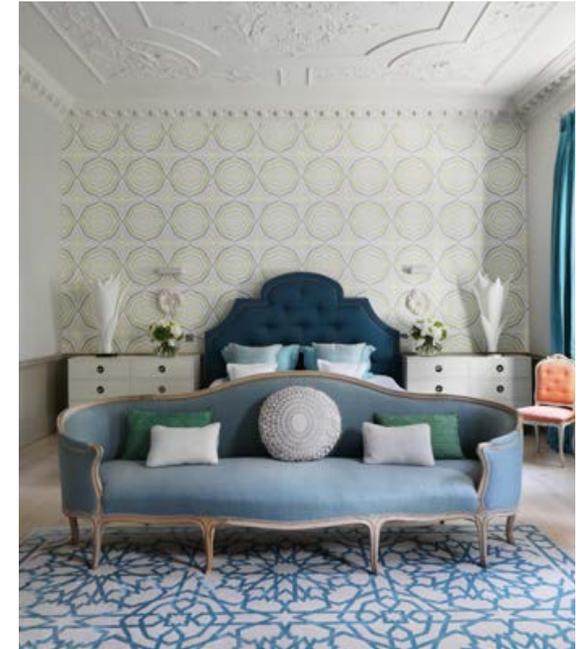
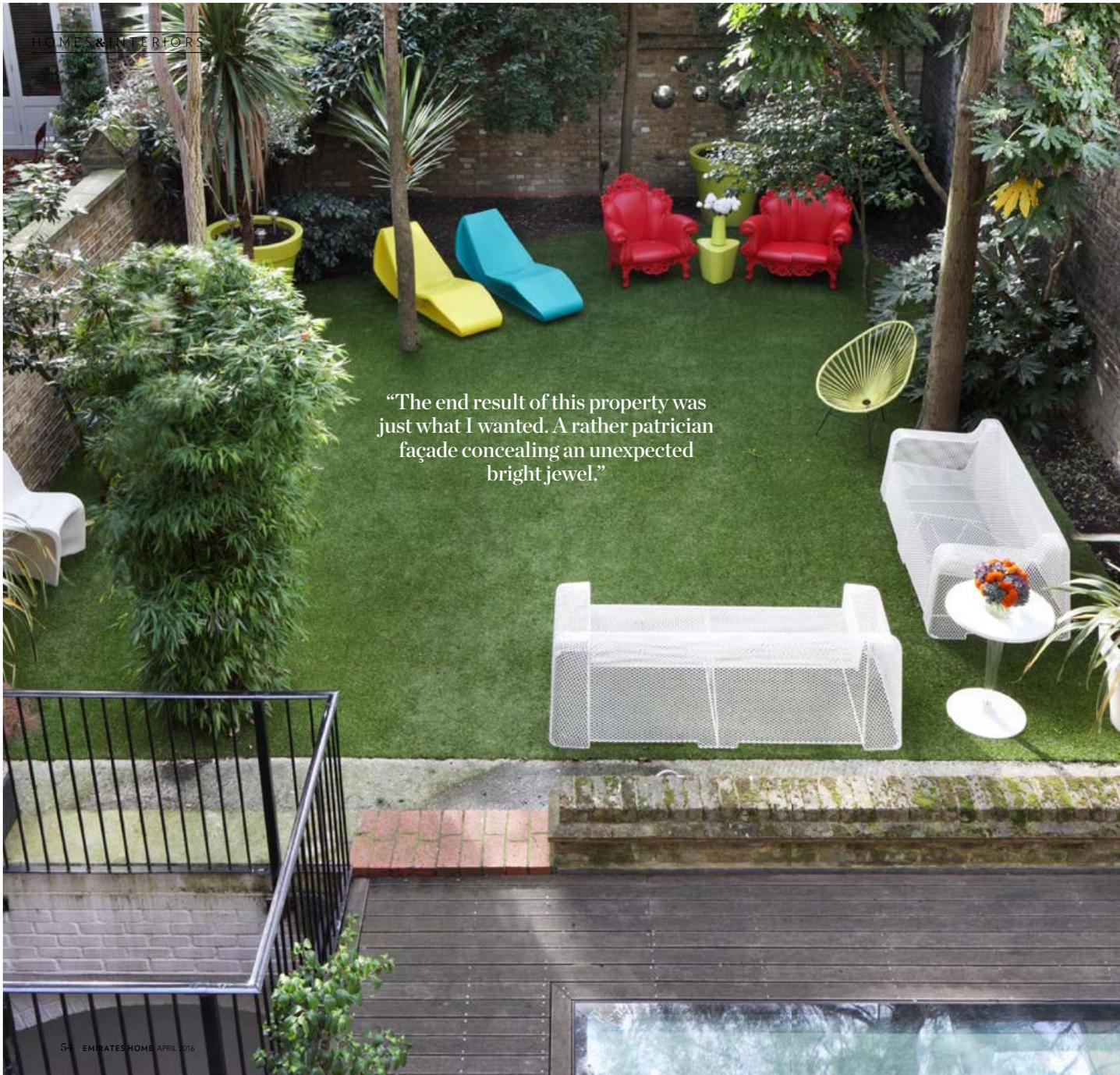
The aqua blue lacquered shelves, either side of the chimney and behind the dining table, house some collectables which Rebekah buys and collects from her travels.

The garden is accessible from the lower ground floor and ground floor drawing room, and features artificial grass. The sun doesn't quite reach all corners of the garden as it is shaded by nearby buildings and large protected trees, so the grass was a fun as well as practical solution. The colourful plastic contemporary garden chairs and tables are also fun, as well as practical and can be left outside all year round.

“Blues are the most calming of colours so they a great choice for a bedroom where you want people's state to be relaxed. The only thing to guard against is making the room too cold, as blues are cool tones, so warm counterparts should be

used. In this first floor master bedroom, as the room is an unusually large for central London (27ft x 17ft), I added oversized white ceramic lamps with large-scale yellow lampshades.” Rebekah says. “These tie in with the vibrant yellow in the fireplace painting. Yellow and





Far left: The garden is full of stylish, outdoor furniture, making it a functional space. Above: the blue-themed bedroom. Left: the exterior.



Left: A pretty pink themed room with Cole and Son wallpaper. Below; topiary and a vintage painting reflect the home's history.

blue are a wonderful colour mix, reminiscent of sky and sun. Yellow warms the blue and provides a little burst of energy. It is an infectious happy colour. People often think that space needs to be filled, but negative space (if you have enough square footage for it!) can be very luxurious. The blue and cream rug by Martin Lawrence Bullard is so beautiful, I just wanted to allow it, to be one of the main focal point of the room. Not covering the rug in furniture also makes the sitting area of this bedroom feel expansive and spacious. The original ceiling is Listed and protected and therefore can be touched or altered in any way."

The master bathroom has also been loving restored by Rebekah, who has some advice. "One of the things to remember is that just because a bathroom is functional it does not mean it has to be devoid of character. Here a shabby chic Georgian chair gives this room an instant sense of comfort. But if you do not have any room for furniture, try a vase of flowers, some candles and a couple of pictures. Good lighting is crucial too, so always make sure you have well-lit mirrors, preferably lit from left and right, and sufficient ceiling lighting" advises Rebekah. "I also always like to include fabric or a wallpaper as it warms the whole room up and gives texture. There are some great water resistant examples of each now available"

The home is certainly unique thanks to Rebekah's design, but she did have a plan; "amidst all the colour, I iterated blues throughout the house as my constant. It creates a visual link from room to room. The end result of this property was just what I wanted, a rather patrician façade concealing an unexpected bright jewel."|||

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CONTRIBUTOR OF THE MONTH

REBEKAH CAUDWELL

FOUNDER OF REBEKAH CAUDWELL DESIGN



Rebekah Caudwell founded her design practice, Rebekah Caudwell Design, in 2009. She is based in London and NYC, with projects running simultaneously on both sides of the Atlantic. Her design work is mainly residential, a primary focus being Greenwich Village Townhouses in London, and she has also refurbished a super yacht and a Cap d'Antibes villa. Rebekah believes in creating a personal, warm and dramatic look, which is of great value to her clients. She has an inherent understanding of space and how to maximize its potential. No Rebekah Caudwell Design scheme is the same because no two clients are the same and Rebekah believes that everyone deserves something unique and tailor-made.

Unafraid of risks, she has a bold and exciting aesthetic which she achieves with graphic patterns and bold colours.

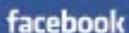
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