

# LIGHTFANTASTIC

*Never have the servants quarters looked so magnificent, after interior designer Jane Uglow brought her special touch to her own apartment, Jenny Knight says*

Immediately Jane Uglow saw the apartment on the top floor of a gracious old building constructed as a home for a retired tea planter, she knew it could be something special.

"It is 1,850 square feet of lateral space, with a south-west and north orientation.

She saw that there was the potential to have light following the flat through 360 degrees from dawn to night fall – but something was wrong.

"Originally we came into a small, dark boxy hall."

The solution was to open up the reception hall and to increase the light by making the third bedroom open plan – then Jane turned that third bedroom into a snug with television and library, a place that rapidly became the most popular room in the house.

"It's our most used room in the evening. In the day the views and sunshine flood through the apartment. It is a peaceful spot to sit and look out."

She adds: "The apartment had been let out and was devoid of character. There was no cornicing and the skirting boards were four inches high. I had new ones made up to match the rest of the house, putting in Shaker panelling on the walls of the reception hall, and traditional sash windows. The plasterers copied the cornicing from the lower part of the house. A French limestone fireplace was installed to the drawing room and large mirrors to reflect back the views and light.

"I may be wrong but I think this top floor was probably the servants' quarters, but by adding the panelling and finer details the apartment is now elegant and graceful.

"I designed the kitchen to bring it up to date with traditional touches, using the cabinet makers who we use at Jane Uglow Interiors to make bespoke cupboards and also to reinstate the big larder. I put a stable door into the kitchen facing west and leading to the fire escape. When the door is open the smell of herbs from the landing is wonderful and the westerly evening light enjoyable."

Her carpenters also made the bespoke wardrobes. The rest of the furnishings are an eclectic mix of French antiques, matched with contemporary pieces.

Jane's choice of wall colours, was to use four shades of paint and paper, including library slate and Fallow & Ball Hardwick white to the study and kitchen.

"I kept the colours neutral because I didn't want to steal attention from the incredible light and the views."

By opening up the reception hall Jane made a dramatic space for special occasions and sometimes hosts a dinner for 20 people.

*The Mount, Cottenham Park Road, Wimbledon, SW20, £1.75m Robert Holmes 020 8947 9833*





# THE PROJECT

## Get the look

Extra large white bathroom tiles – imported from Italy

French antique bed – found in a French junk shop for a few pounds

Sisal carpets – Crucial Trading

Bespoke kitchen cabinets – Jane Uglow Interiors

