

GLORIOUS AGAIN

An elegant villa in the Telford Park conservation area that had been chopped up into two flats, has been restored to its former glory as one fantastic family home, explains Jenny Knight

Patrick and Laura Butler-Madden bought the house as both a project and as the home they planned to live in for the next five to 10 years.

Laura is an interior designer and property developer who blogs as Laura Butler-Madden, sharing her tips for creating the house beautiful.

She says: "We bought the house when it was divided into two flats. It wasn't awful but it was tired. These houses are special and it was sad to see it chopped up into flats. We rewired and re-plumbed and fortunately most of the lovely features, like the proportions of the hall, were still there, although in places we had to replace corninging.

"The metal fireplace in the front drawing room was disguised under layers of paint."

It took about eight months before the Butler-Maddens could move into the house that had been restored to its original form with four bedrooms on the top two floors and a front reception room and a kitchen/dining room downstairs.

The master bedroom now has an en suite bathroom and there are two other family bathrooms.

Laura says: "Previously we lived in while renovating but all the dust and mess is hideous. The most irritating bit of renovating this house was changing two into one, for example getting the electricity board to remove all the meters."

The rooms were reconfigured so they were exactly the size and shape of the original house, except for adding an extension at the back to make a larger kitchen.

A decked area was added to the redesigned, 61ft garden.

Laura says: "I love period property and putting features back. I don't like the term property developer because it suggests doing things the quickest and cheapest way. I look at a house and what it deserves. This is the most beautiful house and we planned to stay, but instead we are moving to Dorset where I grew up."

Laura's design tips include using neutral shades for the walls of most rooms and introducing colour with pictures and accessories.

"That way you keep everything light and bright and you can make changes and update things in an easy and affordable way."

One of the special architectural details of homes in Kirkstall Road are the balconies opening out from the third floor bedroom. The couple removed an unattractive PVC door leading to the balcony and replaced it with a replica of the original window.

Kirkstall Road, Telford Park Estate, SW2, £2.35m, Savills 020 8673 4111





THE PROJECT



Get the look

- Drop chairs – Arne Jacobsen
- Bathroom tiles – Fired Earth
- Tulip table – Saarinen
- Drinks cabinet – Jonathan Adler
- Bath and double Victorian-style sink – Heritage

