

RISINGSTAR

A property developer has used all his knowledge and experience to take a Victorian house in Clapham from dilapidated to deeply desirable

WORDS: JENNY KNIGHT

As the son of an estate agent and an interior designer, it was almost inevitable that James Verschoyle would end up working in the property world. And sure enough, after a period as an estate agent he turned his hand to property development.

His latest project is a beautifully presented, period, three-bedroom house in Clapham Old town, a short walk from the wide open spaces of Clapham Common.

He says: My father was chairman of Hamptons and I always had holiday jobs working for them. My sister became an interior designer and I shadowed my father to do a few deals and work together but now I am on my own with my company JSV Estates Ltd. It was a natural progression.

The Clapham Old town project took about six months and has resulted in a stunning home – dating back to 1860 – with three bedrooms, two bathrooms and two reception rooms. But when James first saw the house it was in a state of dereliction.

“There was a tree growing out of one bedroom wall. The electricity had been cut off and we had to use torches to look round. Everything was black. It was in a terrible state and the agent was pretty shocked. Knowing how valuable London property is it was bizarre that it had been left to get into that state. There was dust and chaos everywhere.”

It wasn't a house that a normal buyer would want but for a developer it offered huge attractions.

“It has a long garden which was overgrown but there was scope to extend the house and turn it into something very slick and modern, even though it was a bit of a challenge.”

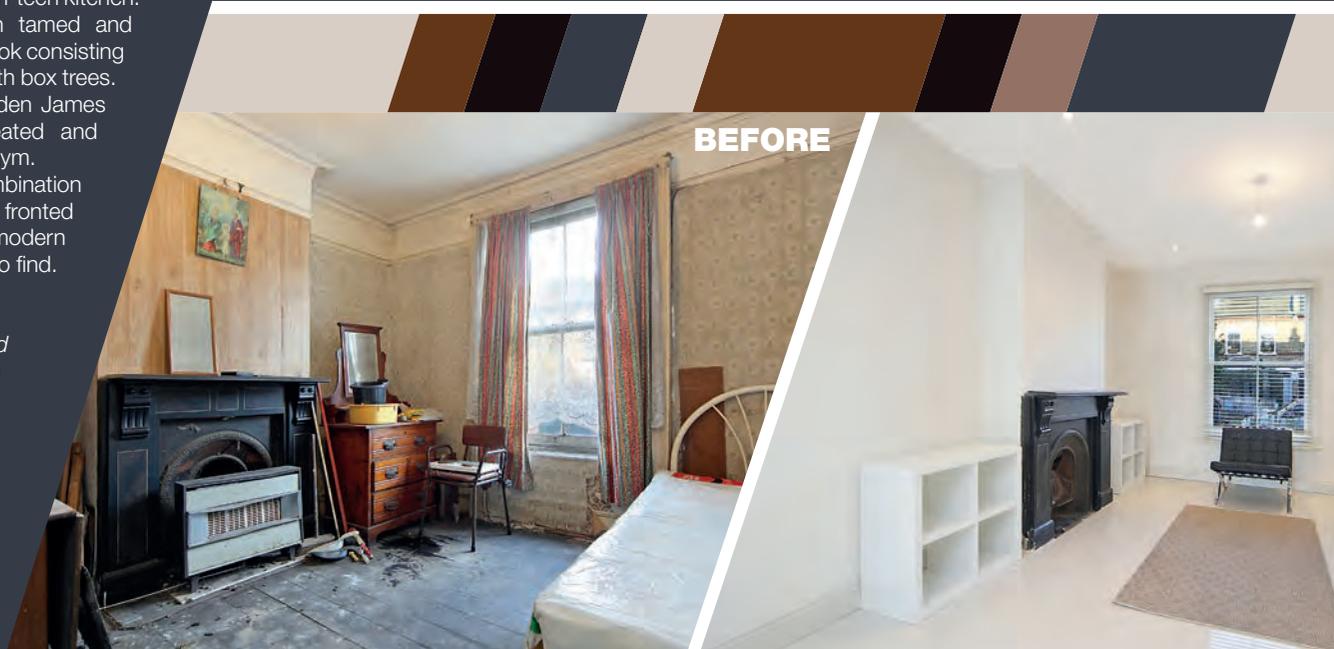
James had the house rewired and the joists strengthened. He extended out to the side to create a first class kitchen and opened up the downstairs to create a feeling of flow and space instead of keeping the collection of tiny rooms. He put in an en-suite bathroom for the master bedroom and reduced the size of the third bedroom slightly, to create a large family bathroom.

Downstairs benefits from under-floor heating to all the spacious open plan living space and to the high-tech kitchen.

The garden has been tamed and planted up with a formal look consisting mainly of lawn trimmed with box trees. At the bottom of the garden James has installed a fully heated and insulated home office or gym.

Now it is just the combination of classic Victorian flat fronted house with a stunning modern interior that buyers hope to find.

North Street, Clapham Old Town, £1,300,000, Marsh and Parsons 020 7501 3666





THE PROJECT



Get the look

Flooring and kitchen units – Howden

Bathroom – Bathstore

Ceiling lights – John Lewis

