

VILLABY THE PARK

Upton House is the sort of stylish period villa that looks as if it stood unchanged since it was first erected in 1926.

In fact it has been completely made over by its current owners who retained only the front façade and, of course, its superb location backing onto Richmond Park.

When the Denisons bought the house in 2014 it took 10 months for builders to reconfigure the home to their demands.

Rachel Denison says: "It was a labour of love. We took up the floors and put in underfloor heating. It has new wiring, temperature control in all rooms, CCTV outside, a new roof, new wooden windows in place of the plastic ones and the garden was landscaped to create a softer less formal look."

The front door now opens onto an elegant and spacious hallway – created from four small rooms. The dining room is now a classical square shape, but originally the garage butted into the room making a peculiar L shape. The kitchen was also enlarged making a large comfortable room with two Agas – ready for occasions like Christmas or parties.

Under Rachel's instructions the garage was moved and the dining room given the shape it deserved, while the extra space next to the hall was turned into a utility room, complete with a dog entrance for their black Labrador and a warm shower to tidy her up after a run in the park.

"Upstairs was a rabbit warren. There were a couple of rooms I couldn't bear to go into. One bedroom had a roof terrace attached that was difficult to access and anyway invaded our neighbours' privacy. We took it into the building making a bigger bedroom with lovely views over the park. I put a false wall in to make two dressing rooms and an en suite bathroom. There is also loads of storage space thanks to fitted wardrobes."

The views over the park make the house special, so Rachel chose a colour palate of three shades – including a soft green – using some fabric used to make blinds and curtains as a template.

She said: "Having just a few colours makes the house soothing and restful. It's a technique I always use."

Upton House now has four or five bedrooms, three reception rooms and a wonderful kitchen and great entertaining space with a large drawing/dining room at the rear of the house with French doors leading to the west-facing garden.

"We totally changed the back and front gardens, although I kept a double line of lime trees. I put in lots of little paths and irrigation and softened the design. It is lit at night and we have a trompe l'oeil door that looks as if it is a secret entrance to Richmond Park."

*Upton House, Warboys Road,
Richmond Park, £2,495,000,
Coombe Residential 0208 947
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WORDS:
JENNY KNIGHT





THE PROJECT



Get the look

- Stone dogs outside the front door
– Morden Hall garden centre
- Four bronze deer in the back garden
– Hamish Mackie
- Bespoke kitchen/breakfast room – Martin Moore
- Curtains and blinds – Jackie Brand Interiors
- Paintings – Charles Neal

