

HALL
Colourful carpet adds warmth and creates a relaxed atmosphere in this grand entrance. Crucial Trading Audrey Sunrise striped carpet, £110sq m, John Lewis. Mirror, £800, Jeffreys Interiors



INSPIRING

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Georgian townhouse
LOCATION Edinburgh
ROOMS Hall, drawing room, sitting room, kitchen, snug, library, utility room, cloakroom, five bedrooms (two en suite), two bathrooms, gym, spa
PURCHASED 2013
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'Before this place, we lived in a townhouse nearby, which we also fully refurbished,' says Anna.

Onwards & UPWARDS

Anna and Haj Atwals' home is a fabulous fusion of colour, comfort and excitement

FEATURE ALISON GIBB | PHOTOGRAPHY DOUGLAS GIBB



SITTING ROOM
A subtle scheme of greys and blues adds to the elegance here. Floor lamp, £300; patchwork rug, £800, both Jeffreys. Wolsley sofas, £2,500 each, John Sankey. Walls painted in Hardwick White and Shaded White (above picture rail), estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, both Farrow & Ball

SEE THE REST OF ANNA AND HAJ ATWAL'S HOME



KITCHEN
Custom-made cabinetry makes the best use of this cavernous space. Bespoke units; bar stools, £850 each, all Sculleries of Stockbridge. Chandelier, £1,745, The Crystal Chandelier Company



MASTER BEDROOM
Exotic hardwood mixed with silky fabrics create an Asian flavour. Karaton four-poster bed, £1,995, Lombok. Santa & Cole Tripode lamp, £200, Catalog



Anna and Haj Atwal love the village atmosphere of Edinburgh's New Town. 'It's full of lovely shops and cafés, and the Georgian buildings are beautiful,' says Anna. 'This house has an amazing history. Its first owner was a politician, the MP for Linlithgowshire in the 1860s. He's the one who put in the unique oval stairwell, which Haj and I fell in love with when we first viewed the property.'

Originally, the couple owned only the top half of the house, as it had been split up into flats. But while they were renovating the upper floors, the bottom floors went up for sale and after putting in a successful bid, Anna and Haj began plans to transform all four floors. The basement would be a gym and spa, with the ground floor reserved for relaxing, while the levels above would be for living and sleeping. Returning the house to its former glory was an exciting experience for the pair as they uncovered original staircases hidden in cupboards and beautiful doors buried under partitions. 'We stayed here with our son Leo (now 3) during the work,' says Anna. 'It was useful to be on site every day, but

DECORATING TIP

'Texture is as important as colour, and mixing wood, metal and fabric with a carefully thought-out palette gives a rich layered effect'

my advice for anyone carrying out such a major project would be to move out for a while at least, as it gets very hectic.'

The style of the house is more traditional than the Atwals' previous home, so Anna chose an assortment of unexpected fabrics and textures set against plain neutral walls and floors to give it some personality. She has also experimented with different styles and influences, mixing urban industrial furniture and modern artwork with glamorous crystal chandeliers. 'Lighting is very important and can transform a space,' says Anna. 'We put a lot of thought into designing a scheme that creates a lovely ambience in the evenings.' Indonesian accessories from her online shop, PAD, and an abundance of white orchids add a gentle Asian hint, influenced by Haj's roots and the pair's travels.

Despite the immense size of the property, Anna was determined to make it as homely and cosy as possible. 'I included some form of carpeting on every floor, including the entrance hall, as it makes the house feel warm and lived in,' she explains. 'And there's room for strong colours and textures in a large period house because they won't overtake.'

The successful transformation of the couple's home left Anna hungry for another project, and she has since undertaken renovations for other people, who have admired her organisational skills and sense of style. 'I've managed a series of developments so far and I now have my own shop, furniture range and design studio,' says Anna. 'I'm delighted that my experience, which all began with redesigning my own home, has taken such a surprising turn.' 📌



DRAWING ROOM
Subtle wallpaper accentuates the fireplace. Silvergate wallpaper, £110 per roll, Farrow & Ball. Bellagio Cloud curtain fabric, £66.30m, Andrew Martin



SPA
The couple kitted out their home with lots of luxury touches. Sauna cabin, £2,495, Oceanic



BATHROOM
A gilt mirror injects colour into the chic monochrome scheme. Manhattan basin and washstand, £1,175; Georgica Pond marble floor tiles, £89.75sq m, both Fired Earth



LEO'S BEDROOM
Large colourful beanbags provide fun seating. Giant Piggy Bag beanbags, £79, Made. Try the Elvin single bed, £199, price on request, The Children's Bedroom Company



LANDING
The decorators had to erect scaffolding to reach the lofty domed ceiling. Walls painted in Hardwick white estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball