

Seventh heaven

Anna Wakeham explains how this seventh-floor flat designed for her mother proves that smaller spaces can deliver both charm and practicality

FEATURE JULIET BENNING | PHOTOGRAPHY ANNA STATHAKI



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

City flat

ROOMS

Living room with dining area, kitchen, two bedrooms, one bathroom

LOCATION

Southwest London

KITCHEN

A scalloped edge butler's sink and pretty blind soften the squareness of the window.

Sink; work surfaces supplied by Dual Designs. Jute rug, Layered. Ceiling lights, John Cullen. Artwork supplied by Etalage. Blind in Lee Jofa fabric. Lampshades, Fermoie. Taps, Perrin & Rowe

DINING AREA

A regular host, Anna's mother can fit six guests around this compact table. The patterned ottoman acts as a focal point.

Walls in Shaded White, Farrow & Ball. Dining chairs Oka with bespoke cushions in Alison Gee fabric. Wall light, Vaughan. Table, Oka



CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE PROJECT AND HOW YOU GOT INVOLVED?

It's my mother's flat and a nice example of a client downsizing. We'd had a big family house in Fulham for about 25 years but in lockdown my mother decided it was time to sell. She felt it was time that it went to somebody younger as it needed a lot of work. Because of Covid, I came to view this flat for her. It's on the seventh floor and had the best views I'd ever seen, so we made a deal that she would buy it as long as I did the redecoration for her.

WHAT CONDITION WAS THE FLAT IN?

It was very tired with cheap

joinery. It's a 1960s block and not especially attractive from the exterior but very convenient for everything my mother required. The flat needed gutting but because of the concrete floor and ceiling we couldn't move any walls or put new lights in.

WHAT WAS YOUR BRIEF FOR THE PROJECT?

I work with a lot of older females looking to downsize and they're often my favourite clients. We share a similar taste: florals and prints by Jean Monro, Penny Morrison and Colefax and Fowler. My mother fitted this profile. She wanted the flat to be made sumptuous and pretty and like a smaller version of our old house, and to bring as much



SITTING ROOM

Rattan panels soften the cabinetry whilst concealing the TV. Cabinetry in Drop Cloth, Farrow & Ball, made by Dual Designs. Westport wall light, Vaughan. Curtains in Scrolling Fern Silhouette Emerald, Soane Britain. Sofa, Oka. Cushions selection from Jean Monro, Fermoie, Nicky Haslam and Claremont



HALLWAY

Incorporating smaller pieces from the former family home helped Anna give her mother a comforting sense of continuity.

Walls in Shaded White, Farrow & Ball. Carpet, Unnatural Flooring. Ceiling lights, Jim Lawrence. Wall lights and shades, Vaughan. Rug, Late Afternoon

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of her own furniture and treasures as she could. It's about creating something that's just as lovely as their family home that they're sad to leave, but making it more practical and manageable.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE? There's only one lift in the building and we had to block it to get everything up to the seventh floor. Also, because the project was happening during Covid, I had to do everything without site visits from my mother.

WHICH ROOM WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOUR MOTHER?

The bathroom, which to begin with she absolutely hated. There was nothing we could

do about the layout but she insisted we kept the bath rather than swap it to a walk-in shower.

The space isn't huge and we couldn't afford to be fussy but the sheet marble and the towel rail really elevated the space.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE COLOUR PALETTE? We didn't use any wallpapers and kept the walls very neutral as we anticipate that at some point in the future, we may want the flat to be rented.

We kept the colours very soft, feminine and pretty. The kitchen is painted in Green Blue by Farrow & Ball which works because it's such an incredibly light and bright space. 25

annawakeham.com



BEDROOM

Twin beds are well suited to grandchildren visiting. Floral bedding and upholstery soften the boxy architecture. Walls in Shaded White, Farrow & Ball. Headboards upholstered in Dahlia Pink fabric by Vanrenen Hanbury. Valances in Penny Morrison fabric. Cushions in Green Squiggle, Sibyl Colefax



BATHROOM

Brass accents and reeded panelling give this compact bathroom a timelessly elegant feel. Cabinetry in Light Blue, Farrow & Ball, supplied by Dual Designs. Towel rail and taps, West One Bathrooms. Octagonal bathroom wall light, Vaughan. Shades, Fermoie. Tiles, Fired Earth

MAIN BEDROOM
Neutral flooring and walls offer a foil for the colourful rug and bedding. Headboard designed by Anna Wakeham in Killi fabric by Penny Morrison. Walls in Shadow White, Farrow & Ball. Mini Harrison bedside table, Studio Hám, is similar

