

INSIDER KNOWLEDGE

Interior designer and Wandsworth resident Annie Stevens shares her style secrets with VICKY SMITH



HOW DID YOU START OUT IN INTERIOR DESIGN?

I left a job in PR at the *Financial Times* to work with Nina Campbell, where I did everything from buying for her shop to helping design wallpaper. After five years, she said that she couldn't teach me any more, which is when I set up on my own.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?

In terms of design for other people, there

isn't a firm mark, as no two people are the same. My personal style is minimalist. I like things that are simple and practical, although I run riot in the garden.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOME IN WANDSWORTH...

I bought the property 10 years ago. It's a 1970s home and, at that time, featured a Spanish bbq, brown corner bath and gold dolphin taps. After a year of waiting for planning permission, we renovated the property, and doubled the size of it. It's a flexible home, and we've been able to adapt it to suit our lives as the kids have grown older.

WHAT LEAD TO YOUR DECISION TO PUT THE PROPERTY ON THE MARKET?

We have loved living here, but with the kids leaving school, it's time to move on. As for where we will go, I'm not sure. Perhaps Pimlico, or I have looked on the Putney/Earlsfield border, too. I've never lived in a house that I haven't transformed, so wherever it is, that will happen!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE AREA?

It is a fantastic place for bringing up children. It has become much more metropolitan – Northcote Road really is a pretty cool place to be.

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP TIPS FOR SPRUCING UP A HOME ON A BUDGET?

Get the windows cleaned! People underestimate what a difference cleaning can make, but it really can transform somewhere. Redistributing furniture can also make a difference, as can a good clear out – if in doubt, chuck it out! I also find that people tend to get mesmerised by things having to be modern. The art is mixing... don't be scared! It's also advisable to get advice from a professional – that way, you can avoid expensive mistakes. ●

www.anniestevens.co.uk

Annie Stevens' home on Multon Road SW18 is on the market for £1,350,000 through Rampton Baseley. Call 020 7228 5111 for further details