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# 25 BEAUTIFUL HOMIES

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£2.70



**COVER STORY 'We turned a derelict outbuilding into this cosy cottage' see p100**

## Particulars

### LOCATION

Southwest London

### AGE

1847

### BUILDING

Detached house

### ROOMS

Entrance hall, dining room/drawing room, kitchen/breakfast room, 4 bedrooms (2 en suite), study, bathroom, laundry room, cloakroom

### MOVED IN

1985



**1** Silk curtains surround the drawing room French windows which open out onto a large group of kiwi fruit trees

**2** A portrait of the Maskells' home, drawn by their son Nick who specialises in portraits of town and country houses. Contact him on 020 7498 0671 for commissions

**3** Floor length sash windows provide the dining area with plenty of light

**4** The inspiration for the kitchen came from the Victorian kitchen at the Brighton Pavilion which Louisa visited as a child, and absolutely loved. Many of her kitchen utensils, including antique pots and dried herbs, hang from the ceiling rack



A keen cook who sells her own produce, Louisa Maskell was first drawn to her lovely 19th-century house by its abundant greenery

# Fruits of their labour

**L**ouisa and Tim Maskell's Victorian house in a quiet square in southwest London is a huge, detached property – something not often found in London. Tim, a retired estate agent, was well aware of how rare a find the house was, but Louisa, who was initially interested in the house that was for sale next door, was more drawn by the property's luscious setting. 'It was surrounded by greenery with a marvellous kiwi fruit tree in the front and

a long leafy garden at the back with a walnut tree. It just had a lovely feeling about it.'

It took two years for the couple to renovate their home. 'Our previous house was built in 1845, so we knew the period well and what we were in for,' explains Tim. 'Louisa was the forewoman, and employed all the trades!'

The work included moving bathrooms and bedrooms, replacing the fireplaces with authentic ones, re-designing the kitchen, ▷



Louisa has chosen pale yellow walls and faded lilac chintz fabrics for her bedroom. The cast iron bed is Victorian



**25** Good ideas

Stylish drapes are a feature of the Maskells' home. Curtain tiebacks can provide the perfect finishing touch and VV Rouleaux (020 7730 3125) sell a wide range. Prices start at £15.95.



**2** Like her bedroom, Louisa's en suite bathroom has a very feminine feel to it

**3** Cornflower blue walls and mahogany furniture make this bathroom a very masculine room. The brass shaving mirror is an antique



renovating the floorboards and stripping all the wood, including the window frames. The original shutters were still intact and give the house a country feel as evening draws in and they are pulled and barred.

Tim and Louisa then decided to paint the house in white and pretty pastels, which perfectly sets off their treasured collection of paintings and unusual objects, neutral upholstery and vibrantly-coloured curtains.

The couple have also built a wooden deck just outside the kitchen which serves as an extra room in summer. Here, Louisa prepares the produce that she uses to make pastes, cheeses and sauces that she sells at farmers' markets and at Neals Yard in Covent Garden.

Fifteen years on, Tim and Louisa love their gorgeous home as much as the first day they set eyes on it – especially when they look out onto the lush green vegetation that seems just like a tropical garden. **bb**

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