

Past perfect



Peter Smith, left and Ian Battersby in their Windermere home. The striking wallpaper is Palm Leaves by Cole & Son

Mid-20th century, contemporary and Victorian styles are combined at a Windermere town house where designer Amelia Wilson helped bring the owners' vision to life

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When Peter Smith and Ian Battersby bought a three-bedroom house in Windermere they knew they would need professional

help to transform it and give it the look they wanted.

And after viewing her work at other properties, they decided interior designer Amelia Wilson was the right person to help them.

Peter says: "We weren't sure initially whether we needed a designer or project manager or site manager. Amy actually does a little bit of all of them."

He adds: "Amy was just so enthusiastic, she wanted to come out early on to take a look at the location and get our ideas."

Peter and Ian are both fans of mid-20th century design, dating from the 1950s, Sixties and Seventies. Amelia, who runs her business from her home at Asby near Workington, interpreted their ideas and combined them with original Victorian features and contemporary fixtures and fittings.

The neutral palette of blues and greys is enlivened with accents of green and mustard added by Peter and Ian throughout – something of which Amelia heartily approves.

"It's nice to see some colour in houses when people are so into playing it safe a lot of the time."

Peter, 37, who is a web designer, and Ian, 36, who works as a lawyer, bought the property in the summer of 2017.

They had been living in London for about five years but their jobs enable them to work remotely, with regular trips back to the capital. They wanted to make their main home somewhere where they could get outdoors for hiking and mountain biking. The Lake District, which they had visited before, fitted the bill and is in a good location for Peter's family in the North East and Ian's family in Lancashire.

The town house dates from about 1900 and has an extension, built in 1968, to accommodate the kitchen. The house was in a sound condition and didn't require



The living room curtains cover both the door to the conservatory and the window

structural work but rather a full refurbishment to give it the look that Ian and Peter wanted. The work, which was started in autumn 2017 and took about five months, included a new kitchen, bathroom, cloakroom, doors, boiler and radiators, fireplaces and redecoration.

Their ideas and Amelia's styling nous came together to produce a comfortable home that has mid-20th century features, a contemporary kitchen, bathroom and lighting and a nod to the property's late Victorian origins through the choice of cast iron radiators and reclaimed period fireplaces.

"It was inspired by the mid-century but I think we've not stuck to that religiously," says Peter. "We've tried to put together a combination of things that we like – starting from the mid-century but it's also contemporary and a bit more modern."

The dining room is arguably where the mid-century look is at its strongest.

Ian says: "It's a mixture of a few bits and pieces we had and mid-century stuff that we've found online or Amy's found from lots of different independent retailers, eBay and Etsy and a few charity shops."

A G Plan unit was a charity shop find and Amelia added hairpin legs to give it a more contemporary look.

Ian says they were fortunate to source G Plan pieces – they also have a G Plan

bookcase – from a charity shop: "We were very lucky with these two pieces because they do find themselves ending up with vintage retailers online."

Ian says that a vintage Ercol sideboard, bought online, exemplifies the type of quality found in such pieces: "For me it's the wood and the build quality. For example, this Ercol unit is so beautifully made compared to modern furniture and has beautiful dovetail joints."

The dining table is a contemporary choice from Habitat and the chairs, which Peter and Ian already owned, are from Dwell. An easy chair and side table from Ikea and a yellow easy chair from Made are all modern interpretations or reproductions of the mid-century look.

Amelia sourced the light over the dining table, which is a repro of a famous design by French designer Serge Mouille.

Ian says that lighting was an area in which Amelia made a big difference: "It's one of the things for which having a good designer on board really helps."

Peter adds: "I would have no idea how many spotlights to put in. Having Amy here to make all those more technical decisions left us more free to make more interesting decisions about furniture or wallpaper."

Finishing touches are the period style cast iron radiators, the reclaimed fireplace which Amelia found at Cumbria



Mid-century touches in the sitting room include a G Plan bookcase and a Sputnik light from Marks & Spencer



Cast iron radiators reflect the house's Victorian history; below: Amelia added hairpin legs to a G Plan unit, giving it a more contemporary look



Architectural Salvage near Carlisle and a feature wall with Palm Leaves wallpaper by Cole & Son.

Flooring throughout the ground floor is a laminate herringbone design, blinds throughout the house are by Blinds to Go and doors from Building Supplies Online.

The kitchen – which is open to the dining room – is by Häcker and was supplied by Marshall Mason in Penrith with work surfaces by Lakeland Granite, also in Penrith. Peter and Ian opted to take down the wall cupboards and remove an existing island to allow as much light as possible into the kitchen and adjacent dining room.

The handle-free unit design is simple and has plenty of storage.

"It has really nice clean lines and a lot of stuff hidden away," says Peter.

Ian adds: "It's all part of making sure the whole house looks modern and up-to-date. If you go too far down the



The dining room has a strong mid-century look and features a beautifully made vintage Ercol sideboard bought online



The Häcker kitchen was supplied by Marshall Mason in Penrith

‘We’ve put together a combination of things we like – starting from mid-century but it’s also contemporary and a bit more modern’

mid-century route you can end up with it looking dated.”

The metro or subway-style teal tiles from Topps Tiles add a pop of colour.

The living room has a glass door – leading to the conservatory – adjacent to a window. To dress the window and the door together, Amelia suggested floor-to-ceiling curtains in a precise colour match to the Farrow & Ball Oval Room Blue colour which is used on the walls.

The curtain heading is hidden in a recess and when the curtains are drawn, it creates a uniform look and a cosy atmosphere.

The room is furnished with a G Plan bookcase, corner sofa from Habitat, chair from Ikea, rug from Maison du Monde, TV unit from Dwell and a round, oversize mirror from Ikea. The Sputnik light was from Marks & Spencer.

Peter and Ian bought vintage maps of the Windermere area from eBay and have displayed them in three matching frames. A print of a bear is from East End Prints in London. ➤



A feature wall in Valspar's Wading in Venice matches the throw on the bed; below: the second bedroom is used as a home office

'Amelia's help was invaluable. We're really pleased with how it looks and how it is to live in too'

The downstairs cloakroom has a sink unit made from a converted vintage record cabinet which Amelia sourced from Carol No 6 in Cockermouth.

"This is one of the first things Amy put together for us," says Peter. "We realised then there were going to be some really good ideas."

The geometric wallpaper is Zara Shimmer by I Love Wallpaper and the flooring from Walls and Floors.

The main bedroom is decorated in Dulux Polished Pebble with a feature wall in Valspar's Wading in Venice which matches the colour of the throw on the bed. The bedside lockers are from Maison du Monde.

The second bedroom, which is used as an office, is decorated in Dulux Chic Shadow with a shot of colour from the yellow anglepoise lamp bought from Cult Furniture. The spare room is decorated in Farrow & Ball's Blue Gray shade and has been furnished to make the most of the space.



The bathroom was supplied by Victorian Plumbing and the distinctive starburst flooring tiles were from Period Property Store in London.

Peter and Ian are delighted with how the house has turned out and that they have sufficient room to accommodate friends and family who love to visit.

Peter says it's the first time they've



tackled such a large-scale project and both agree that having Amelia's help was invaluable.

Ian adds: "We're really pleased with how it looks and how it is to live in too."

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