



LESSON LEARNT 'Period properties are always full of surprises, so you definitely need to consider your contingency budget very carefully'



LIBRARY
 'I believe reading rooms should be dark and cosy,' says Joy. 'I chose a petrol blue shade for the shelving for its restful quality.'
 Shelves painted in Stiffkey Blue estate eggshell, £55 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Ark Wallpaper, £67.90 per roll, Andrew Martin



MASTER BEDROOM
 The exotic flavour in here is enhanced by animal print and a variety of foliage. Walls painted in Middleton Pink estate emulsion £39.50 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Seba teak bed, £1,595 for a king-size, Lombok



LANDING
 A light sprinkling of statement pieces decorate this area. Try sisal small boucle rug, price on application, The Rug Store



After working as a commissioning editor in financial publishing for five years, Joy Archer made a big decision to retrain as an interior designer. 'I'm very creative and also passionate about business, so it made sense to combine those two elements,' she explains.

Soon after completing her training at KLC School of Design, Joy and her partner Gareth Colin stumbled across a renovation project in Surrey. 'The property had great potential, but it hadn't been touched in 50 years and needed a lot of work,' says Joy. 'It was perfect, as this gave me a wonderful outlet and opportunity for developing my new skills and putting what I had been taught into practice.'

As the property was Edwardian, Joy researched that era and planned a layout and decor scheme. 'My aim was to ramp up the charm and character, while creating a modern space,' she says. 'I also wanted to achieve a sense of grandeur with an ethnic twist.' Her chosen room schemes combine soft pastels, bold artwork and striking

handcrafted furniture. 'I think that contrast is what creates the energy throughout the house,' says Joy. 'Also, because of my Caribbean roots, there are plenty of vivid splashes of colour, which lend a dynamic feel.'

Joy completely reconfigured the floorplan to suit contemporary living. The basement was excavated and underpinned to make way for a gym, cinema and wine cellar. On the level above, the sitting room became the kitchen and dining area, leading out to the garden beyond, and the old kitchen, with a wide servants' corridor running alongside, became a library.

Upstairs, two bedrooms were knocked through to form the master suite complete with bathroom, sitting area and walk-in wardrobe. The pair then converted the loft, adding two more bedrooms and a bathroom.

By reinstating wood panelling and fitting replica coving moulded by a local craftsman, Joy has tried to be faithful to the property's history, where possible. In each room, colour and texture sets the scene, and she has created a backdrop of period pastel