

## SITTING ROOM

Kate found an old photograph of geisha girls from the Twenties, used Photoshop to alter the colours to complement her scheme, and turned it into a print.

Bespoke Geisha canvas on frame, £50; cushions, £55 each; upcycled sheepskin stool, £60, all Kate Lovejoy Interiors. Takagi marble shelf, £115, Graham and Green. Natural Antique-effect oriental rug, £200, Next



## REPLANNED



## HOME TRUTHS

## THE PROPERTY

Detached Seventies house

LOCATION Kent

ROOMS Hall, formal sitting room, sitting room, kitchen-diner, studio, utility room, cloakroom, three bedrooms, bathroom, w.c. room

PURCHASED 2004

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here, I lived in a flat in London,' says Kate

## Changing rooms

Kate Lovejoy's colourful, chameleon-like home mirrors the vibrancy and constant ebb and flow of family life

FEATURE BEVERLEY BYRNE | PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE



## FORMAL SITTING ROOM

A wallpapered ceiling adds unexpected texture to this distinctive scheme. Lab circular mirror, £55, Alexander & Pearl, is similar. Floor runner, £85, Rockett St George



## FORMAL SITTING ROOM

This multipurpose space functions as a reception room and consultation area. Walls painted in Mosaic - wide multi-emulsion, £16 for 2.5L, Mylands. Rome Arco wallpaper, £76 a roll, Habitat

This wasn't intended to be a forever home,' says Kate Lovejoy. 'Having grown up in a gorgeous old Victorian schoolhouse with half an acre of garden, I imagined raising my own children somewhere similar. But with a toddler, and a baby on the way, a house on an estate with a small garden perfectly suited our needs at the time. The idea was to do it up and sell it on. Fourteen years later, we're still here.'

So why the change of heart? 'When my now ex-husband and I bought the house it was bland, tired and hadn't been decorated since the Eighties,' says Kate, 'but it was spacious, plus it had planning

permission for a forward extension. It was a financially achievable way of creating a larger family home in a great location.' Extending the south-facing kitchen not only introduced more space and light, but also provided an integrated dining area, wet room, extended hall and a new bath room and a larger bedroom upstairs. The timing was perfect. Having just completed a diploma in interior design, Kate knew her newly renovated home was the perfect blank canvas.

Describing her personal taste as 'autumnal shades with accents of stimulating colour', Kate scoured eBay and vintage shops to find pieces that would add personality to her home. 'Back then, when my



## DINING AREA

The new wallpaper featuring an Islamic tile motif proved an instant hit with Kate's children. Piccadilly wallpaper, £90 a roll, Cole & Son. Try the Talulah copper pendant, £150, John Lewis. G Plan table and dining chairs, £150, eBay. Bespoke cushions, £45 each, Kate Lovejoy Interiors



## KITCHEN-DINER

The calming pink of the units creates a calming feel in here. For similar units by The Retro Kitchen Company, price on request

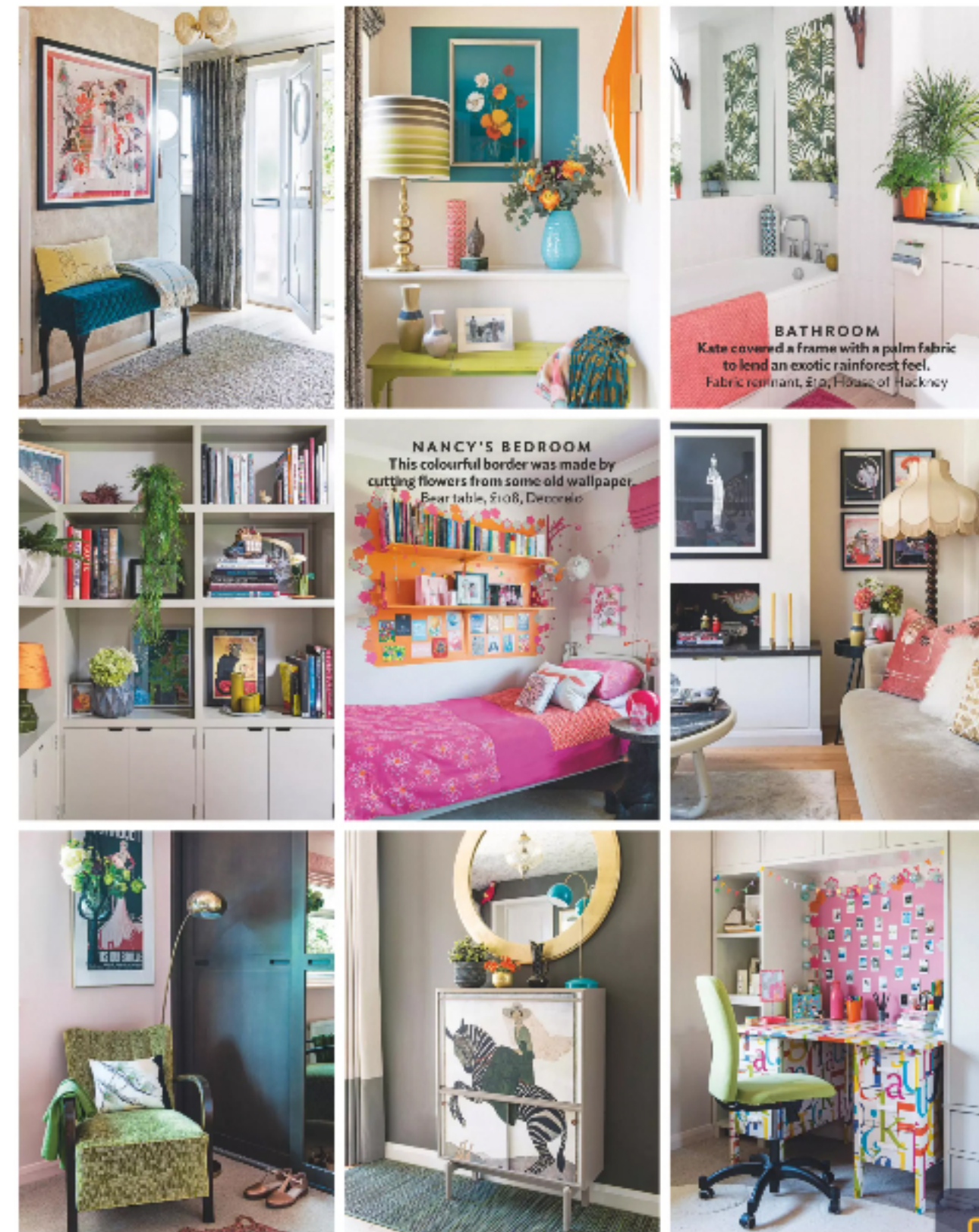
## MAIN BEDROOM

The feature headboard in a mountain fabric is a perfect foil for the moss green walls. Walls painted in moss matt Dulux trade paint 70YY 09/175; and pink 10YR 67/100, both £37.95 for 2.5L, Dulux

children were small, I established a mid-century retro style which gave the house a distinctive, light-hearted feel that suited a young family.' A decade later, it was all change. 'In 2014, with my interior design business taking off, we embarked on another extension, this time using the garage and side return to create a studio,' says Kate. She also restructured the downstairs living space that contained an open-plan office and sitting room. Now that Nancy is 14 and James, 11, dividing this expansive space into two separate reception rooms offered more versatility. 'We use one as a sitting room and the other as a reception room for clients and a guest room, and also

offers lots of storage space,' explains Kate. This new configuration also allowed Kate opportunities to make a timely decorative statement. Out went much of the retro clutter and in came a mature colour scheme and a more sophisticated, streamlined style. 'You only need wallpaper and paint to create a fresh look in your home,' says Kate. 'Over the years, I've learnt this house has a chameleon-like versatility that welcomes change and regeneration, while reflecting where we're at as a family. Initially, it may not have been intended as our house for life, but now it's a home for working and living, and that's what matters the most.'

## TAKE A LOOK AROUND THE REST OF KATE'S HOME



## BATHROOM

Kate covered a frame with a palm fabric to lend an exotic rainforest feel. Fabric remnant, £10, House of Hackney

## NANCY'S BEDROOM

This colourful border was made by cutting flowers from some old wallpaper. Bear fabric, £108, Debenhams