

HOMES & GARDENS®

MAKE THE CHANGE

OUR A-Z OF THE
BEST ECO BRANDS

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– ALL THE TECHNICAL
JARGON EXPLAINED

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MORE MINDFUL ROUTINE

BUYING SUSTAINABLE
FURNITURE

REUSE,
RECLAIM
& RESTORE
KITCHENS AND
BATHROOMS
THAT TRIUMPH
CONSCIOUS
DESIGN

The future is green

HOW TO CREATE A BEAUTIFUL SUSTAINABLE HOME

IT'S CHIC
TO BE ECO
STUNNING HOUSES
WHERE STYLE MEETS
SUBSTANCE

WHAT'S NEW
IN GARDENS
THE EXPERT AT
THE RAYMOND BLANC
GARDENING SCHOOL
TELLS ALL



AUGUST 2022



SITTING ROOM
A bespoke divider with shelving and antique sliding doors was built to smartly separate the living and dining areas. Shelving in Light Bronze Green by Little Greene; made by Flannan James. Try 1stDibs for a similar antique chair

PAST & PRESENT

Passionate about bringing houses back to life by using the modern and the salvaged, interior architect Anthi Grapsa turned her hand to this terrace

WORDS AND STYLING MARY WEAVER PHOTOGRAPHY ANNA STATHAKI



SITTING ROOM

Even the modern pieces Anthi sourced, like the chandelier and coffee table, have a vintage mood to them.

Vintage doors, UK Architectural Heritage. Sofa, Loaf. Coffee table, Heal's. Elysee chandelier, Pooky. Curtains and sheers, Stitched

DINING AREA

Light enters on all sides thanks to a glazed door, a porthole window and a skylight. Walls in Stone II, Paint & Paper Library. Prismatic glass pendant, Spark & Bell. Calacatta cement-based terrazzo floor tiles, Inopera Group. Try 1stDibs for a similar table and chair





HOUSES

Interior architect Anthi Grapsa's design ethos is about honouring a building and its history and bringing out its quirks. 'My *raison d'être* is working with what is existing, then adding a mixture of reclaimed materials or salvaged items, while still creating a home that works for modern living,' Anthi says.

When she was recommended to the owners of this three-storey Victorian terraced property in northwest London by a previous client, it was a match made in heaven. 'The owners weren't interested in ripping out the interior or extending the property, they simply wanted an eco-friendly home that reflected their personalities,' she says.

Although a dream project for Anthi, it had its challenges as the house was in a dilapidated state and needed a full refurbishment including new electrics and plumbing. And there was a tight window of just six months for the completion of the work. 'The owners bought the house partly because of its proximity to a nearby school and they wanted it finished by August 2021, in time for the new school term for their daughter,' she says.

Anthi set about the enormous yet exciting task of sourcing reclaimed materials while restoring the bones of the house. 'We used maple flooring in the kitchen – as a backrest for the banquette and for cladding cabinets,' she says. 'This maple is slightly wider than standard and in lovely faded colours so we were very happy with it.' Reclaimed iroko, sourced from old school science labs, was used as a kitchen worktop and bath surround. 'It's a hardwood so resilient for high traffic areas,' she says, 'and, because of its history, is full of graffiti and character.' Original pine floorboards were restored – or replaced

where necessary when woodworm was discovered in a few joists. On the plus side, a badly painted fire surround in the sitting room was revealed, after days of meticulous scraping, as gorgeous slate. 'Its cool grey tone was the ideal contrast for our first choice of a bronze-green paint colour for the room divider shelving, skirting and picture rail there,' says Anthi, 'so we couldn't have been happier.'

The layout was kept largely the same, with a couple of modifications like 'dividing' the living room with bespoke joinery to create separate sitting and dining areas. The entrance from the hall to the sitting room was enlarged with a pair of sliding doors finished with antique handles and, on the top floor, three small rooms were rejigged to create a study and a guest bedroom with an en-suite shower room.

A warm, natural palette was employed as a foil for the owners' art, antique furniture and collection of richly coloured rugs. But Anthi was able to push them slightly out of their comfort zone with a bold red front door and green-painted staircase that runs all the way to the top of the house.

They are a young, growing family so Anthi was conscious of utilising every nook and cranny for storage. 'We added a new large wardrobe in the main bedroom, made from leftover maple boards from the kitchen, and refurbished or added cupboards in the other bedrooms and study,' she says. The project was completed within the tight time frame largely thanks to the skilled craftspeople involved,' says Anthi. 'Our builders, Ikos Construction, and joiners, Flannan James, did a first class job.' As did she. 📸

■ anthigrapsa.com; ikosconstruction.co.uk; flannanjames.co.uk

“THE OWNERS WEREN'T INTERESTED IN RIPPING OUT THE INTERIORS – THEY SIMPLY ASKED FOR AN ECO-FRIENDLY HOME THAT REFLECTED THEIR PERSONALITIES”

VIEW TO HALL

The opening from the sitting room to the hall was enlarged and new sliding doors added.

Doors in Stone III, Paint & Paper Library. Brass handles, English Salvage. **Bench**, John Lewis & Partners. **Art**, Badri Narayan



HOUSES



MAIN BEDROOM

Reclaimed maple cladding and iroko, as used in the kitchen and bathroom, flows into bedroom storage for cohesion, with rattan added for softness. Wardrobes and chest of drawers designed by Anthi Grapsa and made by Flannan James. Find leather handles on Etsy. 60s teak mirror, Vinterior

CLOAKROOM

This small space is full of character with its classic sink and gallery wall. Walls in The Botanist, Paint & Paper Library. Vintage school science lab butler sink, eBay. Belgravia taps in chrome, Crosswater. Silver carriage mirror, Graham and Green

BATHROOM

The pale blue zellige tiles have a beautiful lightness that contrasts wonderfully with the reclaimed iroko wood bath surround. Bath, Bette; surround in reclaimed iroko, via Anthi Grapsa and made by Ikos Construction. Canova Royal basin, Catalano. Taps in unlacquered brass, Crosswater. Turquoise zellige tiles, Habibi Interiors. Calacatta honed marble tiles, Mandarin Stone. Pixley wall lights, Holloways of Ludlow

MEET THE DESIGNER

Anthi Grapsa shares her style inspiration

WHAT ARE YOUR HUNTING GROUNDS FOR ECO FINDS Any salvage yard or antiques shop to source unique materials and objects for each project – this is my starting point always.

YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS

Pre-loved, reclaimed, harmonious.

DESIGN HERO Architect Carlo Scarpa. His detailing and impeccable mix of materials takes you on a magical design journey.

WHERE DO YOU FIND INSPIRATION

Largely by taking walks around cities. On a recent trip to Athens, I caught myself taking snaps of how marble is randomly used everywhere and looking for details, shapes and connections with other materials.

AN INDULGENCE YOU WOULD NEVER FORGO Morning coffee. I can't function without one... or two.

OBJECT YOU WOULD NEVER PART WITH My mother's antique silver belt that I repurposed as a necklace.

