

DINING AREA
Favourite treasures and photos on a wall of shelving give this space an intimate style.

Flat C shelving, made to order, B&B Italia. For a similar dining table, try Oddvald/Linnmon, £45, Ikea. Carl Hansen CH24 Wishbone chairs, £647 each, The Conran Shop

GEOMETRY RULES

Clayton Coburn and Sarah Andrews refurbished every inch of their house and its awkward corner plot to create a sleek family home

FEATURE KATE JACOBS | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Detached 1920s house
LOCATION North London
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, TV room, four bedrooms (two en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 2014
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We used to live in an Edwardian mansion flat,' says Clayton.



KITCHEN
A timber 'barcode' sculpture on the back wall echoes the style of the courtyard fencing.
 Flask Ball smoke round pendant system, £1,570, Tom Dixon. Get the look with Cement Primo porcelain floor tiles, £27.90sq m, Stone Store



Every house has its own special qualities, but many come with their own set of problems, too. The unusual triangular plot of this handsome 1920s property turned out to be both the biggest challenge and the source of its unique character. As soon as Clayton Coburn and his partner Sarah Andrews spotted the place in 2014, its bargain price told them that it must be dilapidated. But, they were well-prepared for a renovation job and quickly decided to take it on. The pair moved in with their young son Henry, now 5, and began making plans for a total overhaul. They hired Martyn Clarke, who was recommended for his many residential renovations and extensions. 'We met up and just clicked,'

explains Clayton. 'We felt that he really understood where we were coming from.' The renovation was no small task – Martyn has created a vast rear extension housing a new kitchen and dining area and, in the former loft, a good-sized master suite. But more than that, every inch of the house has been updated and given a sleek, modern look. The rear of the plot was originally divided in two by a crumbling garage, creating a courtyard to one side as well as a small garden that runs from the side to the front of the house on the other side. On the former footprint of the garage now stands a generous kitchen, while the original rear wall has been extended to increase the dining area. The shape of the kitchen was dictated by the



SITTING ROOM
A low-key leather sofa mixed with contemporary lounge chairs and simple side tables create an informal style for relaxed family living.
 Scruffy Sectional Sofa system, from £1,450, Timothy Oulton. Jenny armchair, from £3,350, Flexform, is similar. Chanterelle side tables, £209 each; Eclipse coffee table (from a nest of three), £605, all Ligne Roset



BATHROOM
 This modern pale grey scheme is luxuriously minimalist.
 Grey matt wall tiles, £55.47sq m; Rhett floor tiles, £64.82sq m, both Bibliotheque.
 Bolton bath, £1,349, Royce Morgan



MASTER BEDROOM
 The eye-catching black clothes hanger and picture frames provide a strong graphic element in this room.
 Swedese Tree coat stand, from £362;
 Le Klint 172 pendant lamp, from £304, both Skandium

FAVOURITE FEATURE *'We can control the underfloor heating, the fire, the lighting schemes and the music in each room – all at the touch of a button'*



HENRY'S BEDROOM
 The couple have created a cool hangout for their son with treehouse bunk bed and swinging cocoon.
 Mathy by Bols treehouse bunk bed, £2,250, Cuckooland.
 Cocoon hanging armchair, from £260, Made In Design

corner plot, but this has been turned into a dynamic space full of interesting angles and views.

As the house sits on the slope of a hill, the courtyard was originally terraced. Martyn urged the couple to have the whole rear of the property dug down to one floor level in order to boost ceiling heights and bring a more impressive scale to the project. Such extensive excavations proved a challenge on many levels, from replacing the Victorian soakaways and drains, to managing the passing traffic and pedestrians.

Thankfully, the family were renting elsewhere, but Clayton tried to be on site most days. While his career is in business development, he has experience in carpentry and general building and became heavily involved as the project moved

on, even laying the sitting room's engineered wood floors.

The couple opted for a restrained palette of greys throughout the house while the furniture is a mix of modern classics and more contemporary designs, all with a relaxed feel.

In the new kitchen, grey lacquered cabinetry is mixed with white Corian worktops and walnut-stained oak plinths. Walls of slide-back glass increase the sense of flow between house and garden, while polished concrete floors inside and out add to the seamless feel.

After nine months of intense work, the contractors finally left the house just before Christmas 2015. Now the family are reaping the rewards. 'It's a lovely space with beautiful vistas,' says Clayton. 'We are so fortunate to live here.' 25