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CLEAN LIVING

David and Gail Ingram transformed their downtrodden semi into a smart and spacious, open-plan home

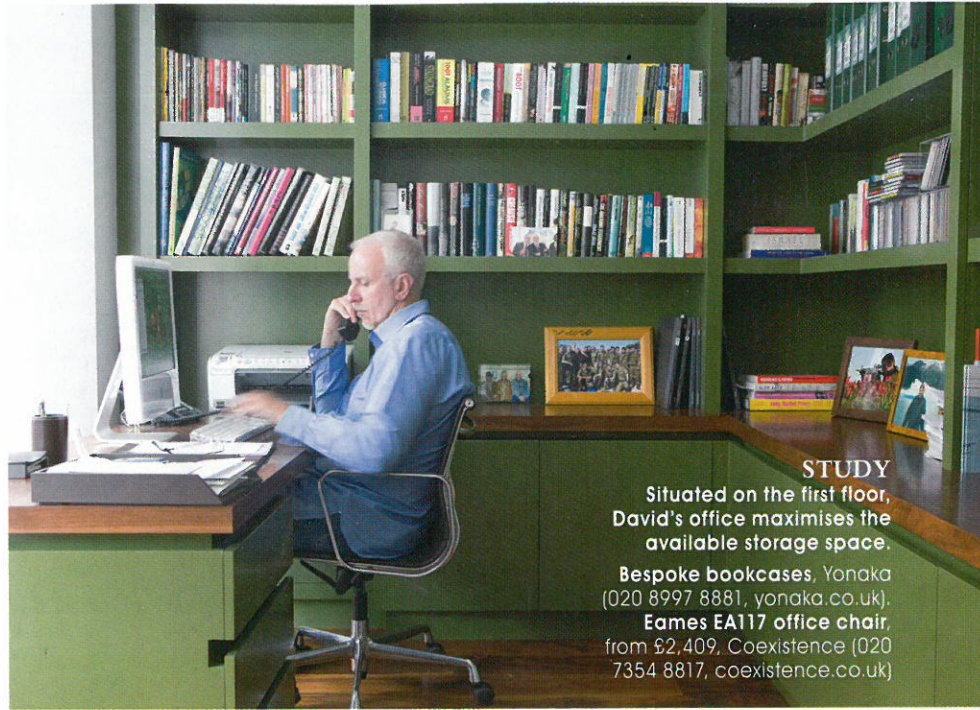
FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID HISCOCK



SITTING ROOM

The soft furnishings and an architectural painting add colour to the neutral scheme.

Comparable sofas, the Loft four-seater, from £3,515 each, The Conran Shop (0844 848 4000, conranshop.co.uk). Damask cushion fabric, Charm, £133.60 per metre, Zimmer + Rohde (020 7351 7115, zimmer-rohde.com). Barcelona painting by Miguel Angel Iglesias; The Gallery Jorge Alcolea (galeriajorgealcolea.com) showcases his work



STUDY

Situated on the first floor, David's office maximises the available storage space.

Bespoke bookcases, Yonaka (020 8997 8881, yonaka.co.uk). Eames EA117 office chair, from £2,409, Coexistence (020 7354 8817, coexistence.co.uk)

KITCHEN

Concealed sliding glass doors allow this area to be separated from the reception rooms when required.

Cabinetry, designed by Belsize Architects (020 7482 4420, belsizearchitects.com), with spray lacquer and stainless-steel units by Yonaka. Catifa 46 barstools, available from Twenty Twenty One (020 7837 1900, twentytwentyone.com), from £199 each



- **THE OWNERS** David Ingram, a property investor, and his wife Gail, a childrenswear fashion designer
- **THEIR HOME** A Victorian semi-detached house, with contemporary glass extension
- **LOCATION** Northwest London
- **ROOMS** Hall, sitting/dining room/kitchen, study, laundry room, four bedrooms (one en suite), dressing room, two bathrooms, roof terrace
- **PURCHASED** 2005
- **PREVIOUS PROPERTIES** This is our third home,' says David. 'Our last place was a large, detached six-bedroom Edwardian house, about 10 minutes' drive from here.'

HOME TRUTHS

DINING AREA

The stunning dining table and chairs make a style statement here.

Bespoke table, designed by Belsize Architects and made of LG Hi-Macs, Solid Surfaces (01772 250155, solidsurfaces-northwest.co.uk). Sala leather chairs by Pascal Mourgue, from £405 each, Ligne Roset (0870 777 7202, ligne-roset.co.uk)



David and Gail Ingram's London home is all about clean, uncluttered lines and beautiful materials – think glossy wood, polished granite, Corian and lots of glass. But the couple haven't always lived like this: 'Our last house was full of chintz,' laughs David. 'We got rid of pretty much everything before we moved here – I think we only kept our photographs and our clothes.'


The impetus for such a radical change came when the couple, whose three children had all left home, found themselves faced with serious maintenance bills for their former house. 'We'd reached the point where we needed to spend a lot of money on the place,' says David. 'So when a neighbour asked us if he could buy the place, we decided his timing was perfect.'

David and Gail moved into rented accommodation while they contemplated their next move. 'We wanted to stay in northwest London as our daughter and her family live nearby,' says Gail. When the couple viewed this property, a Victorian semi on a quiet street, it comprised a maisonette with a lean-to extension and a self-contained flat above. 'The ground floor was extremely dark and warren-like,' David recalls. 'But

the sale came with permission to reinstate the building as a single dwelling, which clinched the deal.'

Out of curiosity, David had visited a refurbishment project by Belsize Architects a few years before, and its minimalist feel, combined with an intelligent use of space, had struck a chord. 'I'd kept their name at the back of my mind,' says David. 'When we bought this place, we decided to give them the commission.'

Together, the Ingrams and their architect came up with plans for a bold extension. Huge glass doors slide back into the walls to open the house up to the garden, while structural glass in the ceiling allows light to filter into the living area. On the first floor, walls were removed to create a vast master suite and terrace. 'We were adamant that we wanted to live on just these two levels,' says Gail. 'The top floor is devoted to guest bedrooms, so we don't use it on a day-to-day basis.'

The couple readily concede that the restructured house has altered the way they live, as well as bringing about an update in their choice of decor. 'Getting rid of a lot of things has given us a more restful home,' says Gail. 'And this is also a great place for socialising – it really does draw everyone together.' 



MASTER EN SUITE

Stone, wood and glass complement each other beautifully in this space.

Limestone shower area, glass shower screen and vanity unit clad in Basaltina stone, all Yonaka (020 8997 8881, yonaka.co.uk). Rosco 500 wall-hung WC, £520.75, available from Inspired Bathrooms (01452 559121, inspired-bathrooms.co.uk)



WOODEN FLOORS

To enhance their home's first class finish, David and Gail installed solid-timber flooring everywhere from the kitchen to their bathroom. Here are our top tips when choosing wood.

- Wood floors can be fixed over almost any sub-floor and even on top of underfloor heating, as long as you follow the installation guidelines. They can be nailed, glued using specialist adhesives or floated, depending on which product you choose. Some floors need sanding and sealing in situ, others are available pre-sealed, which means they are ready to walk on the day they are fitted.



- Glamorous and dramatic, dark-wood floors are an ideal way of bringing period interiors up to date, or creating a striking balance against the paler schemes of more modern homes. A fine example is this Epoque 162 Plank in European Oak Cumin, from £60 per sq m, Tarkett (01622 854040, tarkett-floors.com).



- Its inherent character means, real wood flooring is uniquely warm and tactile: it also has timeless appeal and improves with age. All of which ensures that classic styles, such as this Wenge herringbone, from £270 per sq m, Top Floor (020 7795 3333, topfloors.com), will still look stylish for years to come.

MASTER BEDROOM

'We've kept this room free of clutter, so as not to detract from the wonderful light,' says Gail.

Magnolia, by Peruvian photographer Cecilia Paredes; for more details about her work, visit ceciliaparedes.com

