



COME TOGETHER

Collaboration was key to giving Peter Holmes' house a space-enhancing update

FEATURE SEÁN O'CONNELL | PHOTOGRAPHY TONY MURRAY



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY A 1950s house remodelled in the 1980s
LOCATION North London
ROOMS Sitting room, dining area, kitchen, study, mezzanine floor, reading area, spa/gym, six bedrooms (four en suite)
PURCHASED 2015
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'I lived in a modern apartment in Stockholm,' says Peter.





SITTING ROOM
 Characterful steel beams indicate where walls were removed. Rocal Barbara 90 fireplace, £4,074, Fireplace Products. Kilim rug, price on request, Liberty. Long Island sofa, price on request, Roche Bobois



1 & 3 PATIO
 Orange detailing on the garden furniture is a playful touch. Try the Kettler dining set, £519, Garden Furniture World. Fermob 1900 wrought-iron benches, £525 each, The Worm that Turned

2 ENTRANCE HALL
 Walls and ceilings were removed to create a bright, open-plan space. Chesterfield sofa, from a selection, Alfies Antique Market. For safari-themed cushions, try Safari Grey, £65 each, Andrew Martin





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1 KITCHEN
Wine storage was built into the island.
 Drifted bar stools, £333 each, Finnish Design Shop. Bespoke units, Plain English

2 DINING AREA
Spindle-back chairs and a farmhouse-style table create a rustic feel.
 Hay dining chairs, from £155 each, Made In Design. Try the Chester dining table, £799, The Cotswold Company

3 READING AREA
A hanging chair is a good spot to relax.
 Globo hanging chair, €499, Amazonas. Windows, price on request, Westbury Windows & Joinery

4 BATHROOM
The plant softens the bolder pieces.
 Babylon bath, from £5,508; Quarry floor tiles, £47.04sq m; Toledo wall tiles, £74.76sq m, all Fired Earth



MAIN BEDROOM

A circular window makes a spectacular feature. King-size bed, price on request, Living Space. Chest, from a selection at Alfies Antique Market. Spotlight floor lamp, £69.99, Breeze Home Furnishings, is similar

When Peter Holmes moved into his mid-century house in north London, it soon became clear that the property would benefit from a facelift. ‘The aim was to create an interior that made the home a more practical and pleasant place to live,’ says Peter. ‘I knew that renovating it would also add to its value.’

Subsequently, plans were drawn up for structural changes that included widening the hallway and removing walls and ceilings to create a more open-plan living space. Reconfiguring the interior was a major task as virtually no area in the home remained untouched. Oner Avara of All Done Design points out there were challenges along the way. ‘We replaced all the doors and windows – installing the huge panes of glass

at the top of the house was particularly tricky because of the sloping roof,’ he says. After completion of the building work, which also included laying new flooring and adding a main en suite and cloakroom, plus a spiral staircase, attention turned to the interior. ‘The brief was to create a homely house that was modern with rustic elements,’ says designer Emine Muslu of IG Design Studio. ‘Peter wanted a home that felt like he’d always lived there and to achieve that, pieces were sourced from antiques markets and reclaimed-furniture shops.’

Decor-wise, white walls accentuate the open spaces and natural light, with swathes of colour supplied courtesy of fabrics, such as curtains and rugs, as well as accents of differing hues, as seen in the furniture and bed linen. In the kitchen, red bar stools

provide a vibrant contrast to the blue cabinetry. Pattern also plays its part in this house’s sense of style and it comes into its own with the geometric selection of tiling in the spa room and bathrooms.

But most of all, this is a home designed to reflect the owner’s tastes and sociable lifestyle and this can be seen everywhere, from the cosy sitting room with a woodburner at its heart to the bespoke wine cellar and the mezzanine floor, which Peter tellingly refers to as the ‘party hall’.

The overall success of this project is down to good teamwork, according to Oner Avara of All Done Design. ‘Having an effective relationship with the owner and the designers is an essential part of the job,’ he says. ‘That collaboration is key to delivering a perfect end result.’