

KITCHEN

A wall of glazing brings light in from the entrance hall and also adds architectural interest.

Contemporary Classic, Classic and Metro units, from £35,000, Roundhouse. Units and walls in Slate III architect's eggshell, £30.50 for 750ml, Paint & Paper Library. Sliding doors, price on request, Maxlight. Pendant lights, price on request, CTO Lighting



WHOLE *again*

Michelle and Ben Shelton's Edwardian terrace was actually two flats when they bought it – now it's one large and light-filled house

FEATURE CHARLOTTE LUXFORD | PHOTOGRAPHY TONY MURRAY

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Double-fronted Edwardian terrace

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, snug, playroom, utility, cloakroom, gym, six bedrooms, dressing room, three bathrooms

LOCATION North London



Looking around this seamless home, it's almost impossible to believe it was once a dilapidated property split into two flats. The terrace's many original features had become faded or spoiled, but Michelle and Ben Shelton could see the potential beyond its crumbling walls. 'We'd been house hunting for a while, mainly looking at places that had already been done up but nothing was jumping out at us – there was always something that wasn't quite right,' says Michelle, owner of a fashion agency. 'We spotted this house and it excited us; we loved the bones of

it – it's a huge Edwardian double-fronted house with generous proportions so we knew we could create something amazing.'

It was over their budget, but the Sheltons took a punt and put in an offer that was fortunately accepted. However, the house needed completely gutting. The couple called upon Charlie Avara of All Done Design, who has built a reputation for managing both the architectural design and the construction process to provide a full turn-key service.

'The goal was to start afresh with the interiors and create a house where the couple could raise their family and live for



SITTING ROOM

Black details punctuate this neutral space giving it a contemporary feel.

For a similar rug, try Untitled 1, from £595, Nordic Knots. Luca chandelier, price on request, Fiona McDonald. Artwork, Kaws

DINING AREA

Opposite the kitchen and with access to the garden, this area is perfect for entertaining.

Piranhas When You're Sleeping print by KAWS. Similar Hobart solid chunky rustic oak dining table, £1,214, Oak Furniture Hut

'USING SIMILAR WALL COLOURS THROUGHOUT HAS GIVEN THE HOME A WONDERFUL SENSE OF FLOW - THE GLAZED PARTITIONS HAVE HELPED TOO'

many years to come,' says Charlie. The Sheltons had a second baby on the way and rent to pay while their former property was on the market, so Charlie had her work cut out to get the job done as quickly as possible. There was also the small matter of a global pandemic with unexpected delays and staffing issues.

All Done Design began the rip out in September 2020, taking the house back to brick. The basement was transformed into a self-contained guest suite that also includes a utility room, cloakroom and gym. The entire roof was also lifted off as part of the renovation works to create a generous main suite within the

loft, complete with a dressing room and en-suite bathroom. Luckily, the layout of the existing rooms on the ground floor and first floor, with four equal-sized bedrooms and large bathroom, catered to the needs of the family so no extension was required.

The house is now one cohesive whole, with free-flowing spaces and an abundance of light. A fixed roof light was installed to bring much-needed daylight into the heart of the home over the stairwell. Glazed partitions were also added to separate the hallway and kitchen, as well as ensure light continued to flood the hallway. 'The glass screens create an instant wow factor,

BATHROOM
A narrow walk-in shower (seen in mirror) was cleverly squeezed in, with the striking stone enclosure adding pattern and contrast.

Similar Roddy wall light in brass, £140, Pooky. For a similar freestanding tub (below), try the Mastello bath, £1,495, Lusso



BEDROOM

Skirting, coving and ceiling roses were reinstated while a calm grey scheme creates a contemporary feel.

Kremer wall light, £210; Rivas bed, from £2,965; Swift side table, £450, all Soho Home



giving you a glimpse into the beautiful kitchen and through to the garden from the moment you step inside,' says Charlie.

Due to the high ceilings, Charlie created tall, oversized doors to give the space a sense of grandeur. The doors also create the flexibility to close off rooms, including the snug, so that Michelle and Ben can relax at the end of the day in a cosy, adults-only space. 'Throughout the project, I wanted to retain the property's heritage with a modern twist,' adds Michelle. 'We worked hard to reinstate so many original elements, such as the front door, which was restored but with stained glass designed

by us to give it a more contemporary feel.' The ceiling roses and detailed coving were also replaced to suit the aesthetic of the home and add to the high-quality finish.

Finally moving in as a family of four in August 2021 with Sonny, four, and Sienna, now two, the Sheltons were ecstatic. 'We'd watched the home develop in front of our eyes over 18 months so seeing it all come to fruition was amazing. We've now got the family-friendly space we didn't previously have, including the playroom, as well as room to entertain. Everything has its place now, which is exactly what we needed.' 25