



# ELEMENTS OF surprise

In this Victorian home in London, designer Peter Mikic has weaved through playful shapes, standout colours and sumptuous touches that delight and intrigue

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#### KITCHEN

A reeded walnut island is grounded to the wooden floor, 'to make it feel like one unit', says Peter. The vertical lines are carried through to the breakfast area with its striking orange banquette seat. Carmela pendant light, Danke Galerie. Bespoke banquette, Peter Mikic Interiors. Ocean Eyes artwork by Jay Heikes





**SITTING ROOM**

The curves of the sofa are echoed in the coffee table and armchairs, softening the straight lines of the generous windows. Bespoke green sofa; chairs; coffee table; stools in Eden Syrah, Métaphores, all Peter Mikic Interiors. Murano chandelier, Renaissance London. Native Son artwork (over fireplace) by Oliver Arms



**SITTING ROOM**

A capacious white sofa balances the expressive artwork. 'White is quite a statement colour on its own,' says Peter. 'It's about using colour sparingly and ensuring there isn't too much of one colour.'

Bespoke sofa in Melissani in White, Holland & Sherry; rug, Peter Mikic Interiors. *Perspirare Fábulas* artwork by Janaina Tschäpe. Ode wallpaper, Omexco



**DINING ROOM**

The oversized mirror, made from an old brass frame found in Prague, was added to provide reflection in the room, while the pink chandelier casts a soft ambient glow for entertaining.

Bespoke table; chairs; wall lights; rug, all Peter Mikic Interiors. Ode wallpaper, Omexco. Pale Pink Murano chandelier, Renaissance London



**HALLWAY**

White walls maximise the bright, airy feel, with the Murano glass pendant adding a glamorous note.

Pendant light, 1stDibs. Mirror, On-Reflection Mirrors. Radiator, Bisque

A playful and colourful scheme was top of the client's wish list when they engaged interior designer Peter Mikic to refresh this Grade II-listed five-bedroom Victorian home in west London, but beyond that, Peter virtually had carte blanche. 'The client was open to any ideas,' he says.

The house's exquisite architectural features – including the stone staircase, ceiling roses, cornicing, skirting, panelling and large sash and stained-glass windows – provided an elegant backdrop against which Peter, who is renowned for blending historical and contemporary influences, was able to weave his magic. 'The original features bring lots of charm to this house,' he says. 'What was important for me was to keep as many of these details as possible because they give the house so much character. Anything else that we did was to enhance this.'

The animated design is notable for its pops of colour and use of beautifully shaped furniture. Peter worked in fashion before transitioning to interior design, so his appreciation of colour and form is a given. 'I love colour,' he says. 'For me, colour brings out emotions. It's about making you feel a particular way, and I think colour does that, and the styles of furniture do, too.' He has a soft spot for mid-century pieces. 'We have some antique coffee tables and Gio Ponti sideboards here. A nice mix of antiques and contemporary pieces brings in old world charm as well as something that is of the moment.'

Paving the way for colour and carefully considered furniture is the arresting sitting room on the first floor. This was the first space in the house to be tackled 'because it's the grandest room', Peter says. The client loved the emerald green curved sofa, which was the starting point for the scheme, along with the shades in the rug. Warm white textural wallpaper was chosen to provide a soothing backdrop and evoke an airy aura. 'The neutral walls helped the palette, building up the colours. It really is a good idea to start with a base and once that base is correct, it's easy to add or remove colours and textures for each room. We made sure that all the wall shades were painted the same as the cornices and the ceiling, too.'

The other punchy hues in the sitting room were meticulously judged. 'We played with the greens,

yellows and reds all together,' says Peter. An inviting array of seating, including the green sofa and a generous white sofa, mustard-toned armchairs and beautiful multi-hued stools, ensures the space is a magnet for guests. 'The client was keen for each room to be usable, as she has three children. She often finds her teenagers in there, reading books and chatting to their friends, so it's been very successful because it's not a shut-off space. It isn't too formal and it's suitable for any age group – for kids' parties and cocktail evenings.'

The breakfast room adjoining the kitchen is conspicuous, too, for its functionality as well as its joyful touches. A large orange leather banquette sits under a statement artwork and is teamed with eye-catching wavy chairs and a neat wooden table. 'There's a very playful element to this space and it's bright and uplifting, so it's perfect for breakfast time and lunch,' Peter says.

The designer went against the grain in the dining room, where an intimate ambience is created with smoky green textured wallpaper. 'This room comes off the sitting room and has the same style of wallpaper, just in a different colour, but at night it creates a completely different mood and is much cosier,' he says. The statement rug is a strong defining feature that serves to lift the scheme.

Peter was keen for the interior to please all the senses, so he wove in layers of texture, too. 'This house does have a lot of texture, and I think it's interesting because everything is rather tactile. You want to be able to run your fingers along pieces of furniture,' he says. 'I think there's something warm about your senses. You want to be able to touch things. You want to be stimulated visually, but you also want to be able to feel different in each room. And this house really does appeal to all of those senses.' 📷

■ [petermikic.com](http://petermikic.com)

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## Q&A Peter Mikic

**The designer shares his style inspiration**

**GREATEST SUCCESS** Painting the skirtings, walls, cornices and ceiling all in the same colour. It gives the rooms a seamless look.

**GO-TO COLOUR** For this project: green, red, yellow.

**YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS** Playful, sensual, luxurious.

**FAVOURITE DETAIL** A fabulous pendant. It always draws attention and can make any room wonderful.

**DESIGN INSPIRATION** Alexander Calder's incredible tapestries for the rug in the sitting room – circles have a particular energy for me. And I played with Henry Moore sketches for the design of the rug in the dining room.

**SECRET ADDRESS** Alfies Antique Market is my go-to place to find great pieces to dress rooms.

**HOME MAKES ME FEEL** Relaxed. A place to myself and a place to breathe quietly.

**BATHROOM**  
Peter has created a luxurious scheme with marble and a mix of brushed gold and brushed brass.

Bespoke **vanity**, Peter Mikic Interiors. **Taps**, Vola. **Towel warmer**, West One Bathrooms

### MAIN BEDROOM

'Each room has its own mood and this space is successful for its evening atmosphere,' says Peter. **Soft blush pink wallpaper provides a soothing backdrop while the rug showcases an antelope print the client loved.** Bespoke **bed; table; stool; rug**, all Peter Mikic Interiors. Lafayette **wallpaper**, Stereo Interiors. **Curtains in Makeba in Carob**, George Spencer Designs. **Artwork** by Shen Chen