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KITCHEN

Everything is robust but beautiful, including the Caesarstone on the island that has the look of polished concrete.

A similar Bulthaup B3 kitchen costs from £60,000, Kitchen Architecture. York pendants, £395 each, Original BTC. Form bar stools by Normann Copenhagen, £290 each, Skandium



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY A 1920s semi-detached house

LOCATION London

ROOMS Kitchen-diner/family room, sitting room, office, utility/boot room, five bedrooms, (two en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2017

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in Notting Hill then rented in Barnes for three years before moving here,' says Sophia.



THE FAMILY JEWEL

Having four children didn't stop Sophia and Patrick Johansson attaining the stunning – and practical – home of their dreams

FEATURE KAREN WILSON | PHOTOGRAPHY NICK SMITH



DINING AREA

Bespoke cabinetry includes toy storage and display space. Dakota table base, from £3,400, Julian Chichester. Bespoke walnut table top with oak inlay, Fraser & Fraser Design



SEATING AREA

There is a projector screen in the ceiling that drops down for family movie nights. Olympic artwork by Pure Evil, £300 unframed, Enter Gallery



MAIN BEDROOM
 A huge bed where the children like to snuggle on a Sunday morning is the focal point. For a similar wall colour, try Borrowed Light estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

LAST WORD *'With young children of course you want a beautiful home but you also*



After Sophia and Patrick Johansson had their second child, renting in the southwest London suburb of Barnes seemed a sensible option while weighing up their next move. 'We'd had enough of central London and had friends in Barnes,' says Sophia. 'It feels like you're in the middle of nowhere but there's a train station on the doorstep, so after three years we decided to buy.'

In contrast to their previous narrow house in Notting Hill, the pair chose a wider 1920s property with a large west-facing garden that could be extended. 'It had a red hallway carpet, Japanese-style kitchen and overgrown garden with a pond,' remembers Sophia, who now has four children – Casper, eight, Thea, six, Molly, four, and Iris, one. 'Although it wasn't to our taste, it was fine to live in. However, as we were planning a big refurbishment, we only spent

one night there before going to our second home in Sweden, then rented a flat in Barnes during the initial nine-month project.'

The first phase included a 40sq m ground floor extension to create a large kitchen-diner and family room. Versatile pocket doors were added to the front sitting room, and the large loft was split into two bedrooms and a bathroom. More recently the entrance hall was remodelled and the garage divided into a boot room, office and downstairs WC.

Interior designer Chloe Cooke (fraserandfraserdesign.com) was recommended by Richmond Bell Architects to make the most of the new interior space. She incorporated many bespoke oversized elements to give the design impact, including lighting, flooring, joinery and a new front door. 'The maximum standard sizes never seemed to be big enough,' she says. 'For instance the herringbone flooring we used is 80cm wide.'

HALLWAY
 Khaki walls and an off-black ceiling were chosen to showcase the impactful chandelier. Meurice rectangle chandelier, £1,595, Jonathan Adler



GIRLS' BEDROOM
Bold wallpaper was the starting point for Molly and Thea's room.
 Forêt wallpaper in Noir by Nathalie Lété (372x300cm), £412, Made in Design. OYOY art prints, from £26 each, Amara

want it to be very practical and that means having plenty of drawers and cabinets'

Built-in cabinetry throughout keeps the space uncluttered. 'The boot room has the hardest working joinery in the house as we eeked out every centimetre for coats, shoes and bags,' says Sophia. 'It looks really cool but is also super practical.'

Decor-wise, a backdrop of pure white and off-black punctuated with small pops of colour sits alongside industrial-style lighting and classic mid-century furniture brought back from Sweden. 'Chloe was so enthusiastic and quite quickly got our style,' says Sophia. 'We like a mix of Scandinavian clean lines but also bringing in some warmth with darker colours, which aren't Scandinavian at all.'

To avoid a show home look, much time was spent choosing bespoke pieces rather than rushing to buy everything at once. 'It took a year-and-a-half to finally decide on the dining table - a bronze base with bespoke oval top,' says Chloe. 'Sophia even

came down to the sawmill and chose the walnut.'

Forming the hub of family life is the open-plan kitchen. 'I was worried the units might be too dark, but there's so much light from the Crittall doors it doesn't feel that way,' says Sophia. 'It's so functional - four kids have been banging their toys on it and there's not a single scratch.'

Now due to Brexit, the family are moving to France for Patrick's job in finance. 'It's bittersweet as we've spent so much time and money, but haven't had a chance to enjoy the house fully,' she says.

Despite the distance, they are eager to utilise Chloe's skills again for their next project. 'I've loved designing the house but the decisions are endless and it can be overwhelming with so much to choose from,' says Sophia. 'Rather than me seeing hundreds of things, Chloe would narrow it down to under ten and managed the timing of everything. We would definitely use her again.' 25



EN SUITE SHOWER ROOM
Concrete, brass and black metal have given the couple the industrial look they love.
 Sienna double basin trough, from £2,080, Kast Concrete Basins