



CAPE DUTCH STYLE

**EASY** *elegance*

*Built by Queen Victoria's physician, this early 20th-century country house has been carefully renovated to create a sociable family home*

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**EXTERIOR**  
Distinctive rounded gables are a feature of the Cape Dutch architectural style, which was pioneered by Dutch settlers in South Africa's Western Cape.

**SITTING ROOM**  
"It took quite a lot of work to make the original bookcase symmetrical, but it was worth persevering as it is a wonderful

feature," says Jasmine of the family's well-stocked library. **Similar sofa**, The Snowdrop sofa, from £930, Sofa.com, 0345 400 2222, sofa.com. **Alexander Aubergine cushion**, £82; **Alexander Sky cushion**, £72; both Inky Velvet, 0800 028 5559, inkyvelvet.com. **Garcon square coffee table**, £2,143.20, Julian Chichester, 020 7622 2928, julianchichester.com.





**SITTING ROOM**

"When we bought the house, we couldn't understand why the doorway into this room didn't align with the beautiful garden view, so we decided to move it. You can now see straight through to the garden as you come in the front door," says Jasmine.

**Mells table**, £1,671.60, Julian Chichester, 020 7622 2928, julianchichester.com. **Cabochon lamp** in Olive, £1,524; **silk shade**, from £200; both Porta Romana, 020 7352 0440, portaromana.co.uk. **For artwork by Morag Ballard**, try Josie Eastwood Fine Art, 01962 776677, josieeastwood.com. **Aksu**

**Graphite rug**, £1,495, Designers Guild, 020 7351 5775, designersguild.com. **Similar lantern**, Riberac lantern, £716.40, Vaughan, 020 7349 4600, vaughandesigns.com. **Interior design**, Stephanie Dunning Interior Design, 01722 710 608, stephaniedunninginteriordesign.com.



**ENTRANCE HALL**

This space is furnished with a masterful blend of antique finds, such as the mirror and daybed, and contemporary artwork by Shirin Tabeshfar for a relaxed, welcoming feel. For a similar antique daybed and table, try Lantiques, 01798 344020, lantiques.com. **The Marble Regency Bullseye mantel**, £1,074, Chesney's, 020 7627 1410, chesneys.co.uk. **Cheyne lantern**, £2,538, Vaughan, 020 7349 4600, vaughandesigns.com. **Walls** in French Grey Pale, Absolute Matt Emulsion, £37 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene, 020 7935 8844, littlegreene.com. **Flowers throughout**, The Real Flower Company, 01730 818300, realflowers.co.uk.

Behind its serene façade, Jasmine Thompson's Hampshire home is a constant hive of activity, with the comings and goings of her five children, aged between six and 18, and the frequent soirées that she and her husband Leo like to host here. "Leo and I have demanding jobs, and the children are in and out of the house, so life is a little hectic at times," says Jasmine. "But we love socialising – spending time with family and friends is what weekends were made for."

A bountiful garden and magnificent views of the surrounding countryside enticed Jasmine and Leo to buy the house as a "fixer-upper" in 2007. "Though our first priority was for a space large enough to accommodate everyone, when I stood on the terrace, I just thought 'Wow,'" remembers Jasmine. "I said to Leo, 'This is it'"

The Cape Dutch-style house, built by Queen Victoria's physician in 1908, had been divided into wings and

partially rented out by the previous owners. "They were an elderly couple who had brought up their family here. There was so much love in this house, it felt like we were taking on a wonderful legacy," says Jasmine. "The challenge was first to restore the property so it was whole again, then to make it our own."

**CREATING A VERSATILE FAMILY HOME**

Shortly after moving, however, Jasmine fell pregnant with youngest daughter Amelia, so to begin with it was a case of slapping paint on walls and hastily removing interior partitions in a bid to unify the space. Then, a couple of years ago, more extensive decoration took place, with help from interior designer Stephanie Dunning. "Leo was reluctant at first," Jasmine says, "but with work and the children, we just didn't have time to finish it ourselves. I knew what I wanted, but I needed help from someone I trusted to pull it together. Structural



adjustments and restoration of the original flooring had already been completed, so the decorating brief was refreshingly simple. “It had to be light and airy,” recalls Stephanie. “There was a lot of brown in the house, yet Jasmine is drawn to blues and greys, so we stripped it back and created a muted palette shot through with colour in artwork and accessories, such as the rich velvet cushions in aubergine and sky blue.”

#### ADOPTING A GENTLE APPROACH

The tasteful redecoration is a masterclass in easy elegance, combined with a dash of refined, yet relaxed, country-house style. Deep, roomy sofas in the sitting room add a contemporary feel to the interior, which is sparingly furnished with carefully chosen antiques that have timeless appeal. “It is a subtle blend of styles. I don’t like too much furniture, but the balance and flow here are just right,” says Jasmine. “Most importantly, as well as

looking great, it is a very welcoming, comfortable home.”

A burgeoning collection of contemporary artwork is another nod to Stephanie’s creative input. “We have always enjoyed pop art, but we are a bit hotchpotch about what we collect,” says Jasmine. “Stephanie has taught me how to buy pieces that complement the space, but also to have the confidence to say if I don’t agree with her.”

Gatherings of friends and family at the Thompson home invariably spill out into the garden during summertime, yet Jasmine refused to sacrifice the formal dining room. “In terms of the property’s style, it would not have been appropriate,” she says. “Removing the door enhanced the flow through to the kitchen but, as we are passionate foodies, it felt right to have a dedicated space to showcase our culinary creations.”

As Jasmine admits, “It can feel like a wonderfully chaotic house at times, but every time I walk through the front door it never fails to make me smile.” □

#### KITCHEN

Muted tones offer a fitting counterpoint to brightly coloured pop art in the kitchen’s dining area (far left), while upholstered chairs (left) provide relaxed bar seating. **Simone bar chairs** in Grey, £199 each, John Lewis, 0345 604 9049, johnlewis.com. **Walls** in Gauze, Absolute Matt Emulsion, £37 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene, 020 7935 8844, littlegreene.com.

#### DINING ROOM

The plump, velvety armchairs in this refined scheme have been known to lull the occasional guest into a post-dinner snooze. **Heathmore chandelier**, £1,150, India Jane, 020 8799 7166, indiajane.co.uk. **Similar chairs**, Emma chair, £609, The Dining Chair Company, 020 7259 0422, diningchair.co.uk. **Walls** in French Grey Dark, Absolute Matt Emulsion, £37 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene, 020 7935 8844, littlegreene.com.



**BATHROOM**

Metro tiles in the shower add texture and a hint of retro style to a room that also includes traditional elements in the form of a roll-top bath and toilet with a high-level cistern.

Retro Metro Swiss Cottage tiles, 85p each; Geo round basins, £395 each; both Fired Earth, 01295 814396, firedearth.com. Millbrook double-ended cast-iron roll-top bath,

£675. The Cast Iron Bath Company, 01723 585896, castironbath.co.uk.

Walls in Mizzle, Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com.

**MAIN BEDROOM**

Jasmine fell in love with the wallpaper design a few years ago, so Stephanie worked this restful scheme around it.

Gustavian long bench, £809; Gustavian bureau, £1,289; both Chelsea Textiles, 020 7584 5544, chelseatextiles.com.

Genevieve wallpaper, £58 a roll, Colefax and Fowler at John Lewis, 0345 604 9049, johnlewis.com. Tatum lamp bases, £149 each; silk drum shades, 14in, £39 each; both India Jane, 020 8799 7166, indijane.co.uk. Belton wall light, £482.40; shade in silk, 7in, £50.40, Vaughan, 020 7349 4600, vaughandesigns.com.

