

CONTEMPORARY COOL

Ellie and Steve Hodgson extended their period semi to create a spacious family home with sleek, modern interiors

FEATURE SUZANNE WEBSTER
PHOTOGRAPHY CARL HODGSON



Ellie Hodgson and her husband Steve had both grown up near Leeds, so after a few years in London, they decided to return to their roots with their two daughters, Hannah, seven, and Abigail, five. The couple found a property in the

town where they spent their childhoods, close to good schools and with a bustling high street. They put in an offer, which was accepted and the family moved in. However, with a growing collection of toys, the house was soon at bursting point.

'We had two choices: move or extend,' explains Ellie. 'We loved the area and our west-facing ▶



LIVING AREA
Accents of mustard yellow provide colour in the otherwise monochrome scheme.
Two-seater sofa, £2,400; three-seater sofa, £2,650; ottoman, £650, all from Habitat's Newman range.
Floor lamp base, £65, B&Q.
Lampshade covered in Räsymatto fabric by Marimekko, £38m, Scandinavian Design Center



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
1920s semi-detached house
LOCATION West Yorkshire
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, utility room, cloakroom, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 2004
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'After a few years in London, we moved to a Victorian terrace on the outskirts of Leeds, but were drawn back to the area we both grew up in,' says Ellie.



HALL
Bold wall art and striped carpet are eye-catching details.
 Carpet, £64sq m, Crucial Trading. Ellie made the picture at the top of the stairs using Siirtolapuutarha fabric by Marimekko, £42m, Scandinavian Design Center, stretched over a canvas

DECORATING TIP
 'Getting the colour on the walls right is essential as this is the foundation for everything else you do in your home. I tried 13 paint samples for the hall, stairs and landing before finding the perfect shade'

garden so we decided to make the house bigger.' The idea was to add a bedroom in the loft and a large room at rear of the property with plenty of glass to make the most of the sunny aspect. 'Downstairs we wanted an open-plan design with a kitchen and dining area and utility room,' recalls Ellie. The planning and build took six months, during which time the family moved into a rented house nearby. Once the build was completed, Ellie started on the interior decoration. 'We found a great

kitchen designer who created a fabulous dark-gloss scheme for us,' says Ellie. 'I really admire Scandinavian style and Steve loves the monochrome look – we've come to a happy compromise with the dark grey sofas and oak table in the dining area. I wanted to bring it all together with accents of colour, so I've introduced mustard yellow accessories, which work really well.' The couple originally designed the top floor extension as a master bedroom with en-suite ▶



SITTING ROOM
Moody tones and warm textures make this a cosy and relaxing space.
 Leather sofa, £3,000, Sofa Workshop. Highlander 5 woodburning stove, £650, Dunsley Heat

DINING AREA
Exposed brickwork creates a tactile backdrop for chunky oak furniture.
 Table, £900; large bench, £250; small bench, £200; chairs £165 each, all from Habitat's Radius range



KITCHEN
A super-sleek design with dark-grey gloss cabinetry is simple yet stylish.
 Hi-gloss polished Cambia units; Antartica Corian worktops; Siemens hob, prices on application, all Rational Kitchens

DESIGN ADVICE
 'Use grey to create an elegant and calming feel that's perfect for a bedroom – it's one of my favourite colours'

bathroom. However, the girls wanted to share a room, so it felt like the obvious solution to give them the second floor. Ellie painted a feature wall in a bold orange that matches the tone in the bedlinen. 'It elicits a real wow from all their friends,' she says.

Meanwhile, a sophisticated master bedroom has been created on the first floor with opulent wallpaper mixed with walnut furniture and a luxurious silk

throw. Ellie has cleverly introduced a grey palette throughout most of the rooms to achieve a sense of cohesion, and the family bathroom echoes the master bedroom with a modern suite and glass mosaic tiles.

The Hodgsons love the improvements they have made to the house and are so glad they didn't move. 'We enjoy being close to family and friends,' says Ellie. 'This is definitely our forever home.' 25

MASTER BEDROOM
 Luxurious furnishings make this a glamorous haven.

Deco Fabulous wallpaper by Nono, £65 per roll, from Wallpaper Direct, is a similarly elegant design. Habitat's Louie large white glass table lamps, £18 each, are a good match

HANNAH AND ABIGAIL'S ROOM
 Ellie kept the colours bright and added quirky accessories for a playful atmosphere.

Wall painted in Moroccan Flame matt emulsion, £24.29 for 2.5 litres, Dulux. Duvets, £65 each; pillowcases, £28 per pair, all Orla Kiely. Fillsta table lamp, £11; PS Lömsk Swivel armchair, £45, both Ikea



BATHROOM
 Hi-gloss glass mosaic tiles make this contemporary monochrome scheme shine. Purity Bathroom suite, £555, B&Q. Glass mosaic Silver Leaf tiles, £16 per sheet; Concept black floor tiles, £21sq m, both Yorkshire Tile Company