



GARDEN
The area has a holiday
vibe, reminiscent of
Lynlea's native Australia.
Doors, price on request,
Aliplast. Composite decking,
price on request, Ecodek.

UPWARDLY MOBILE

Lynlea and Gareth West saw the potential to turn an unloved Eighties house into the ideal home for their expanding family by adding a loft extension and building out into the garden

FEATURE AMY MAYNARD | PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD GADSBY



DINING AREA
Cool grey hues create
a serene feel.
Walls in Cornforth White
estate emulsion, £46.50
for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball.
Try Cox & Cox's flat
rattan dining chair, £200



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

An Eighties terraced house

LOCATION

Southeast London

ROOMS Sitting room,
kitchen-diner/living area, four
bedrooms (one en suite),
bathroom

PURCHASED 2011

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a three-bedroom
maisonette nearby,' says Lynlea.



LIVING AREA
A cosy corner of the
room has been turned
into a chill-out space.
Footstools, from
£180 each, Tuffet.co.
Made.com's Alana table
in copper, £99, is similar

KITCHEN-DINER

Pale wood combines perfectly with copper and grey tones.

Kitchen, prices on request, Rotpunkt. Roger stools, £110, French Connection Home



Australian-born interior designer Lynlea West was living in southeast London with husband Gareth and son Lucas, now 11, when the thorny issue of primary schools arose. 'We were surrounded by lots of outstanding primary schools but fell just outside their catchment areas,' she says. 'We came to a summer fair at a school a couple of miles away and I loved the vibe, so we began looking to buy in the area,' says Lynlea.

They had seen almost 50 houses when they came across an unloved Eighties 'infill' house, built where a bomb had landed during the Second World War. 'Despite its tired state we were sure we'd be

able to extend into the large garden,' says Lynlea. The purchase went through and the family moved in in late 2011. They planned to turn it from a three- to a four-bedroom home with a large kitchen, but circumstances dictated the work began sooner than anticipated.

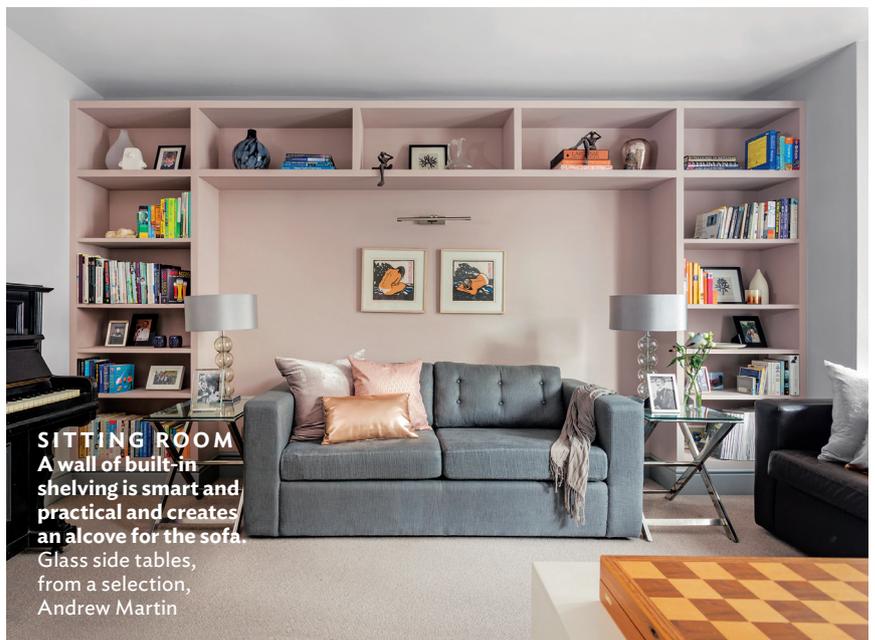
'Alec, who is now seven, was on the way, so extending into the loft became a priority,' says Lynlea. Despite her bump, Lynlea would climb a ladder to the loft to see how it was going. 'Alec arrived about a month before it was finished so it was all a bit chaotic,' she says.

A few years later, in 2015, work began on the extension. 'It took about four months,' says Lynlea. 'The builder set us up a temporary



HALLWAY
Herringbone flooring provides texture and a minimalist clock adds interest to a plain wall.

Clock, £55, Nomon at Amara. Tiles, from a selection, Fired Earth



SITTING ROOM
A wall of built-in shelving is smart and practical and creates an alcove for the sofa.

Glass side tables, from a selection, Andrew Martin



LUCAS'S ROOM
The couple discovered a void above the wardrobes and created a den bed for Lucas. Curtains, from a selection at John Lewis, taken up and dyed by Lynlea



BATHROOM
The Japanese-style soaking tub is a great space-saver. Bath, from £630, Omnitub. Modular wall and floor tiles, price on request, Solus Ceramics

kitchen in our sitting room. The kids really loved it because we convinced them to imagine they were on a camping holiday.'

The couple redecorated throughout in a neutral palette with modern luxe touches, and replaced the family bathroom. 'I like clean lines and simplicity, but it's also about the details and textures for me,' says Lynlea. 'For example, I like neutral linen fabrics but might add sequined cushions or a patterned velvet,' she explains.

Downstairs, the kitchen-diner has pale painted walls with units in both a white lacquer and natural timber finish. Distinctive copper pendant lights, navy leather bar stools and the glass-topped

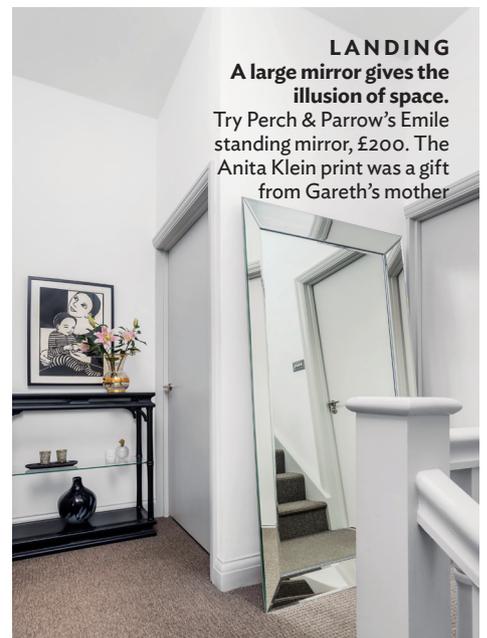
extending dining table all help bring the kitchen to life. Sliding doors lead to the patio garden, with pale walls and horizontal fencing. 'My garden is a little nod to Australia,' says Lynlea.

Upstairs, there are three bedrooms, one of which doubles as an office, plus a family bathroom, while on the top floor the loft extension houses the master bedroom and en suite.

Lynlea worked on large luxury hotel projects before opening her own residential interior design company, Lynlea West Studio, and relishes working with smaller budgets. 'It makes it all the more satisfying when you achieve something you feel proud of,' she says. 25



MASTER BEDROOM
Turquoise and navy accessories warm up the cool white scheme. John Lewis & Partner's velvet cushion in Teal, £20, is similar



LANDING
A large mirror gives the illusion of space. Try Perch & Parrow's Emile standing mirror, £200. The Anita Klein print was a gift from Gareth's mother