



**DRAWING ROOM**  
Clever use of light-reflecting lacquer on the ceiling gives this room an illusion of height. Another dimension is added by a floor-to-ceiling screen of mirrored panels inset with a striking fireplace (above right), which was bought from an antiques shop in Atlantic Avenue, New York, and is filled with rock crystals.

**Curtains and cushions** in Cathay Parade, £195m, Nina Campbell, 020 7225 1011, ninacampbell.com. **Similar curtain pole**, Perspex curtain pole set with glass finial, 35mm, £345.60, McKinney Direct, 020 7627 5077, mckinneydirect.co.uk. **White Ferns rug**, £984sq m, 020 7730 6070, lukeirwin.com. **Floral artwork**, Sophie Coryndon, sophiecoryndon.co.uk.



LONDON HOUSE  
*An eye for*  
**DESIGN**

*Renowned interior designer Nina Campbell has completely transformed a once-neglected property into an exquisite home that showcases her inimitable style*

WORDS JENNIFER GOULDING PHOTOGRAPHS PAUL RAESIDE



**DINING ROOM**  
For a cosy feel, engraved glass doors can be closed to separate this space from the drawing room. The chairs, which Nina has had for years, are often updated with new covers.

Loose covers in Toile Mayanne Rose, £94m, Claremont, 020 7581 9575, [claremontfurnishing.com](http://claremontfurnishing.com). Bespoke Mirrored Campbell cabinet, around £19,400, William Yeoward, 020 7349 7828, [williamyeoward.com](http://williamyeoward.com).



**F**ive years ago, Nina Campbell saw the potential of what was then an unloved house tucked away in south-west London. Today, it is unrecognisable; an airy, open-plan drawing room and dining room make the perfect entertaining space, while downstairs there is a basement with lofty ceilings that provides space for a guest bedroom, bathroom and a room where her visiting grandchildren can stay. Nina tells us more.

**Why did you nickname this house The Hut?** When I went for a viewing, I walked along the street and then rang the estate agent and said: "It's not here". He answered from the overgrown garden just a few feet away. The building was almost completely hidden and it had a low wall littered with empty beer cans. Really, it was a miracle I even went in.

**What was it about the property that changed your mind?** It was built in about 1890, as a studio for the sculptor who owned the house that it backs on to, and it was converted into a house in the 1970s. There was very little light and it was extremely pokey but, when I walked upstairs, I looked through the window and saw this magnificent magnolia tree in full bloom and thought, "I've just got to make this work".

**What was your most important alteration?** I added a basement to house the guest bedroom and bathroom, television room and laundry room, which freed up the ground floor so it could be used purely as a living space. It was important the basement be deeper than usual, as I didn't want it to feel small and dark.

**Did you make many other structural changes?** Architect Jon Lees and I knocked everything out. With this sort of undertaking, it's better to scrap the whole thing. Trying to save the odd bit of bathroom or window just makes it more complicated. We also enclosed the garden and moved the front door.

**Were you equally ruthless with the furniture from your last apartment?** I have lots of things from previous houses and apartments, including many pictures. In the dining room, the 1920s French wall sconces, which I originally bought from

#### DRAWING ROOM

As the room has wooden floors, Nina (above left) chose to line the walls with linen rather than paint them, as she felt it would improve the acoustics. The chairs, in a rich shade of coral, were bought at the Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair in Battersea. Artwork, Bianca Smith Art. 020 7738 8831, biancasmithart.com.

#### KITCHEN

This pared-back scheme (left) is enlivened with pretty glassware, including ice buckets, which Nina has collected over the years, and a drawing by her friend, the artist Henry Koehler. For a similar kitchen, try Poliform. 020 7368 7600, poliformuk.com.

#### ENTRANCE

Ever the consummate hostess, Nina has a well-stocked drinks trolley in the entrance hall so she can offer refreshments to guests as soon as they arrive. Chairs in Donuts in Chocolate, £242m, Galbraith & Paul at Tissus d'Hélène. 020 7352 9977, tissushelene.co.uk.





Guinevere Antiques, have come with me everywhere, while the large mirrored cupboard, made for me by William Yeoward, was another piece I was determined to keep.

**You have lived here eight years. It obviously suits you.** I thought I might not like open-plan living, but actually it means you use the whole space, rather than having rooms “for best” that you never go into. It feels pleasantly cut off because the house is not overlooked and, wherever you sit, there are views or reflections of the greenery in the garden. That makes me very happy.

**Can the living space be divided when necessary?** Engraved glass doors by Guillaume Saalburg separate the dining and drawing room. I tend to close them if I am having a dinner, as it's nice for guests not to see the table immediately, especially if food is being laid out. I also shut them if it is a wintery day, as it feels more cosy and the light still dances through the glass.

**What prompted you to redecorate?** While she was having an extension built, my daughter Rita had a baby. Life is tricky enough with a newborn, so I suggested we temporarily swap houses. When we swapped back, I looked at the house with fresh eyes and decided it was time for a change. I also wanted to use one of my new designs called Cathay Parade, which was adapted from a piece of antique fabric I bought at Christie's.

**Was it a dramatic rethink?** More of an update. The aqua colour scheme has been replaced with a palette of coral, whites and browns. I am rather taken with coral at the moment, as it is so much less of a commitment than red. There were several new pieces in my furniture collection that I was keen to try and I wanted to surround the mantelpiece in the drawing room with mirror, as it brings a totally new dimension to the space.

**But you have kept the aqua in the entrance hall.** I love the graduated effect of lacquer here – it's inspired by the interior of a pot by a ceramicist called Kate Malone, whose work I collect. Contemporary craft is something I have opened my eyes to fairly recently. I also have work by glass artist Rachael Woodman and Michael Eden, who specialises in 3D printing. □

**TELEVISION ROOM**

Along with the guest bedroom, bathroom and laundry room, this room (left), is in the basement added by Nina and is favoured by her grandchildren when they come to stay.

**Similar day bed.** Torino day bed, £190, Lookagain.co.uk.

**Gräshoppa floor lamp.** £579, Gubi at Nest, 0114 243 3000, nest.co.uk. **Walls in French Gray,** Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com.

**STAIRCASE**

Walls in steel grey (top right), from a paint range by Nina's niece Vanessa Galloway, make a dramatic backdrop for

artwork, one of which was a gift from a client in Hong Kong. **Walls in Coffee Pot,** flat emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Konig Colours, 01280 847166, konigcolours.co.uk. **Invisible lightswitch,** from £108.22, Forbes & Lomax, 020 7738 0202, forbesandlomax.com.

**GUEST BATHROOM**

“I call this the footballers' wives bathroom because it's all black and gold,” says Nina of the theatrical space, which features a sculptural bronze basin.

**Peony Place wallpaper.** £56 a roll, Nina Campbell, 020 7225 1011, ninacampbell.com.

**Papillon basin,** from £2,000, Bathrooms International, 020 7838 7788, bathroomsint.com.





“Wherever you sit,  
there are views  
or reflections  
of greenery in  
the garden.  
That makes me  
very happy.”

**BEDROOM**

Nina's bedroom has views of the magnolia tree that prompted her to buy the house. “It is so frustrating, I never seem to be here the week it is in bloom,” she says, but a fabric wallcovering featuring cut garden flowers offers year-round compensation. **Hudson double wall light**, £979.20, Best & Lloyd, 020 7610 1911, bestandlloyd.com. **Walls in Penrose**, £63m, Nina Campbell, 020 7225 1011, ninacampbell.com. **Similar bedlinen**, Forum Blanc cotton sateen bedding, from £89.95 for a pillowcase, The Monogrammed Linen Shop, 020 7589 4033, monogrammedlineshop.com.

**ADJOINING BATHROOM**

Push open the mirrored doors (above) and you enter Nina's bathroom (right), where the pale-rose lacquer-finish walls combined with mirrors and mirrored furniture create a light and spacious feel without compromising its sense of privacy. **For a similar lacquer finish**, try HQ Lacquer, 020 8397 3333, hqlacquer.com. **Doris stool**, from £1,902, Nina Campbell, 020 7225 1011, ninacampbell.com. **Similar roll-top bath**, The Clyde, from £3,570, Drummonds, 020 7376 4499, drummonds-uk.com.