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25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

Moroccan magic

A posh mansion flat, Anna Engebretsen's home now evokes an exotic feel thanks to a mix of rich colours and eastern artefacts





1, 2 & 3 The sitting room fireplace was designed by Anna, then made in Morocco through Habibi (020 8960 9203). The new oak floorboards were supplied by Moss & Co (020 8748 8251), while

the pillars flanking the entrance to the hall and kitchen came from Opium (020 7795 0700). Florist Chris Price (020 8986 4946) arranged the flowers

4 Anna is delighted with her apartment

After living in rented flats, decorating them and then moving, Norwegian-born Anna Engebretsen finally decided to buy a place to call home. 'It has taken me 13 years of living here to come round to the idea of owning a property in England,' she says.

After qualifying as an interior designer, her Victorian mansion flat in west London is the first major project Anna has worked on. 'Buying this apartment inspired me to put all my energy into renovating it, and I've really enjoyed the process,' she says.

The flat was originally poky and dark with lots of small rooms off a long corridor. 'It had three bedrooms and a bathroom, but all the proportions were mean with narrow doors everywhere,' she says. 'I've opened it out and completely changed the layout.'

Anna created a new shell by removing as many internal walls as possible and rewiring, replumbing and replastering throughout. All the window frames, doors and room dividers in the sitting room were stripped back to bare wood and sealed, and the brick chimney breast in the kitchen was left exposed, making it an ideal spot for her cooker.

New floorboards in English oak were laid throughout and Anna stained them in a matt walnut shade to darken them and bring out the grain. 'Using new boards was easier and cheaper than fitting old wood, and it gives ▶



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'The decor has hippy, Moroccan and eastern influences'

25 GOOD IDEAS

If you would like to use similar paint colours to the ones Ann chose, try Gourdy, Crush and Tan Tan (shown), £16.49 for 2.5 litres, from The Little Green Paint Company (0161 203 2400).



Gourdy