

SITTING ROOM

Striking artwork brought from the client Erica's last home works perfectly with the new scheme.

Custom sofa made with Pindler fabric. *The Road* artwork, Markham Johnson. Ottoman, Shoppe Amber Interiors. Large grey Lydford table lamp, Next, is an alternative

**HOME TRUTHS****THE PROPERTY**

A three-storey Victorian home

ROOMS Sitting room, family room, kitchen, dining area, office, laundry room, exercise room, boot room, four bedrooms, three bathrooms

LOCATION San Francisco, USA

Past meets present

Designer Caitlin Flemming has given this Victorian home a fresh, modern new look while retaining the charm of times gone by

FEATURE KAREN WILSON | PHOTOGRAPHY STEPHANIE RUSSO



KITCHEN
 Frosted glass to the upper wall cabinets adds interest and makes the most of the ceiling height.
 Kitchen in Balboa Mist, Benjamin Moore. Stools, McGee and Co. Bowl, Jenni Kayne



HALLWAY
 The couple were keen to keep original features, like the stained glass window and staircase. Rug, Heir Looms Rugs. Round table, McGee & Co



WHY DID YOUR CLIENTS BUY THIS HOUSE? When our client Erica DeSouza and her partner Todd Wanerman viewed the home, it had just been cleared out but they felt it could be transformed for the next phase of their lives. After they bought it in 2019, I toured the home with Stephen Verner of Verner Architects and there was a certain charm



and positive energy buried beneath the decades of neglect.
WHAT WAS THE HOMEOWNER'S BRIEF? Erica and Todd wanted to retain the spirit of the existing home but create a more modern floor plan that worked for them and Erica's two daughters. Their style evolved into a modern, clean interpretation of a classic

FAMILY ROOM
 'A window seat with bookcases on either side creates a library feel. Chair, Design Within Reach. Roman blinds in Mark Alexander fabric

BOOT ROOM
 The lower level has a boot room for coats, bags and shoes, keeping the rest of the house uncluttered. Custom seat cushion in Walter G fabric



DINING AREA
Dark accents differentiate the dining zone and give it a more grown-up evening feel. Custom dining table, Caitlin Flemming Design. Chairs, Stowed Home. Ceiling light, West Elm. Sideboard, Croft House. Wood sculpture, Jeremy Holmes. Fallen Oak artwork, Markham Johnson

‘USING AN EXTRA LARGE RUG HELPS TO ZONE THE DINING SPACE FROM THE KITCHEN’

San Francisco Victorian home. My firm, Caitlin Flemming Design, worked with the architects to keep elements of the past – using a stained glass window in the entry and old windows in the living room cabinetry. Working around the existing central staircase did present challenges but was also the central inspiration for this unique project.

WHAT WERE THEIR BIGGEST PRIORITIES? Natural light, preserving desired aspects of the original home such as the staircase balustrade, maximising views and access to the rear yard. They also wanted to create a new lower level guest suite/TV room from the existing crawl space. The majority of the main level was reconfigured, except for the stairs and

living room, while the upper level had minor tweaks for the bathrooms and laundry. **WHICH ROOMS WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT TO THE HOMEOWNERS?** The kitchen/dining/family area and main bedroom. Erica loves to cook and wanted a central entertaining space to enjoy with her family, as well as a restful place to relax away from the chaos.

MAIN BEDROOM
Clever niches that double up as bedside tables have been built into the wardrobes.

Fern wallpaper, Erica Tanov. Bed, Room & Board. Lights, Rejuvenation Hardware



BATHROOM
Ample storage is provided within the custom cabinetry. Mullan Cloghan brass and opal wall light, Made to Last, is similar

OFFICE
Light wood flooring and a large wall hanging break up the dark walls. Try SuperEasyLife on Etsy for a wall hanging like this



HOW DID YOU CREATE FLOW AND COHESION THROUGHOUT? The trim and detailing is consistent throughout the home. In addition we introduced natural light where possible. Stephen had the wonderful idea of incorporating a skylight at the top of the staircase that brought light into the entry from above.



BEDROOM
An all-white scheme keeps this small space looking fresh and light. Walls in Chantilly Lace, Benjamin Moore, Lucande wall light, Lights.co.uk, has this style

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME? Personal connections and trust are key. Surprises are inevitable despite best efforts, so having a strong team to work through them together is critical. caitlinflemming.com; vernerarch.com Sense of Place by Caitlin Flemming and Julie Goebel is available now via abramsbooks.com