

SMART DESIGN



Interior architect
Thomas Griem's home
– a perfect example in
the art of saving space
without compromising
on style.

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The open plan reception room with restored original mantel and bespoke book shelves.

Interior architect Thomas Griem talks us through the art of saving space without compromising on style.



The family sit at the terraced seating area outside the kitchen.



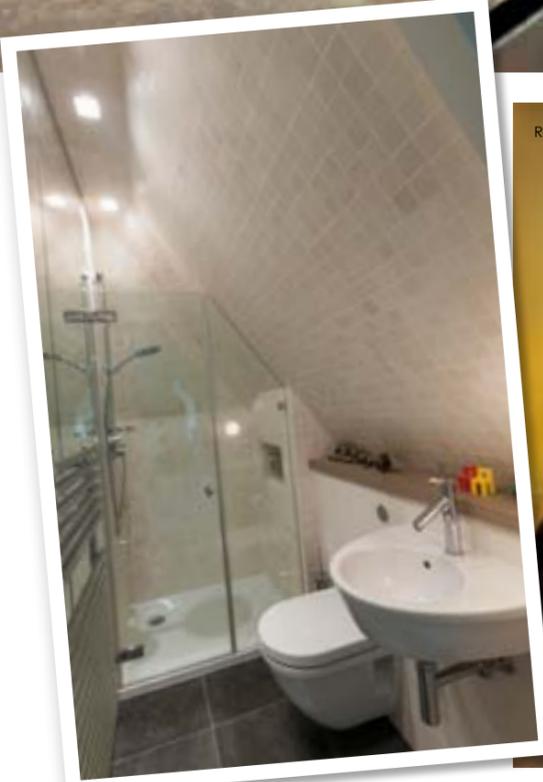
A projector TV and built in cupboards create space.



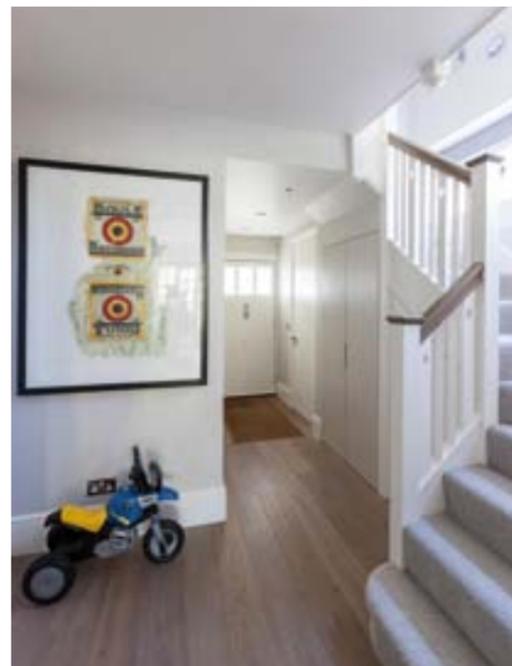
Thomas with his family



“The house was transformed from a cramped, dark and dingy house that hadn't been renovated in over 60 years, into a bright, airy, cleverly designed home.”



Rocco's 'hidey-hole'.



To look at Thomas Griem's house from the outside, it doesn't look much different from what it would have looked like in 1912 when it was first built. But the interior tells a whole different story. One that interior architect Thomas has penned himself, down to the very last detail.

Thomas bought his house in the Hampstead Garden Suburb in London with the intension of turning it into a practical family home for himself, his wife, Lily, and their three children Rocco, Ruby and Roman. But true to his art, the transformation was also to add space as well as value to his home. In just eighteen months, the house was transformed from a cramped, dark and dingy house that hadn't been renovated in over 60 years, into a bright, airy, cleverly designed home.

Cleverly utilising dead space, Thomas has built out where he can, but also made good use of what other people may consider dead space. A kitchen extension to the side and rear of the property has afforded him a state of the art kitchen housing everything from a supersize fridge freezer to a huge 10 seater dining table. Large French doors and

windows flood the room in natural light and make it an inviting space to spend time in. During the summer, these doors can be thrown open to make use of the terraced seating area outside.

The living space too underwent its fair share of refurbishment with the ceiling, floors and doors being ripped out. In its place, wide-plank oiled oak wood floors, larger full-sized doors with leather handles and cool, pavillion grey walls. Upstairs too is not left wanting. With some clever thinking, Thomas has created practical solutions to meet the entire family's needs. One of the three upstairs bedrooms has been converted into a large family bathroom which also doubles up as a linen cupboard and extra storage space. The master bedroom though compact, no longer feels so – by using the dead dormers and sloping roof space for shelving and storage, and installing a projector on the ceiling instead of a flat screen TV on the wall, other areas have now freed up, creating a feeling of space. His son Rocco's bedroom used to be a bathroom, but by moving an internal wall, Thomas has not

only created a room, but also managed to squeeze in an ensuite bathroom. But it's not all about practicality – for example the hidey hole he created for his son Rocco, from the dead roof space – it even comes complete with mattress and cushions!

Whilst Thomas has made several large changes to the house, it is important to remember that he has done it all without interfering with the history of the home. He has been careful to retain the original features like the mantle place and surround as well as windows throughout the house. If they have been changed, it has been done with the utmost care, recreating them in keeping with the originals. Another aspect that has taken top priority is the joinery – Thomas was clear that he wanted only the finest quality, as only this would afford him the space he required – deep drawers, large doors and bespoke wardrobes.

So, whilst this home might not look all that different from the outside, the proof of the pudding is as they say, in the eating. To live in this home is to realise how beautifully it has all come together.

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