

# SWINGING LONDON

A 1960S TERRACE IS GIVEN A  
NEW LEASE OF LIFE BY PASCOE INTERIORS

WORDS  
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**E**VERY DECADE HAS ITS OWN 'BLACK HOLE' TAG, AND for the 1960s that is definitely architecture. Concrete was the material of the day, and as result the renovation of 1960s properties has become a popular request for interior designers such as Clare Pascoe.



Through her company, Pascoe Interiors, Clare offers a bespoke style, which combines an eclectic blend of mid-century furnishings with handcrafted contemporary elements. Clare also promotes a Sustainable Design Policy, sourcing from a network of UK and European vintage dealers, British designers and makers, and skilled British suppliers.

One property that Clare was asked to redesign was a 148sqm 1960s terrace on Quickswood Avenue, a short walk from Primrose Hill in London. It had been owned by a Ukrainian diplomat and his family for several years, and was now in need of serious refurbishment and modernisation to increase the feeling of light and space throughout. The original plan was for the family to move back into the property after refurbishment, however due to on-going work commitments in Kiev the post-refurbishment plan was for the property to be rented out in the mid term. This changed the specification of the project and saw the removal of some of the more personal and lavish design elements, and reined in the style and budget to suit the rental market.

Prior to Clare Pascoe becoming involved in the project, some structural redesign was needed to improve the flow of the interior and to allow light into the previously dark north facing rear of the property, through the removal of internal walls, which opened up the split-level design. The architects were AR Architecture, a London-based firm, founded by architect Alexander Rakita. Originally from Moscow, Alexander became



The owners can sit on the roof terrace and while away the hours with stunning views towards Primrose Hill and central London..”

Associate Director of Irish based practice Murray O’Laoire, and then established AR Architecture in 2010. AR Architecture cleverly designed an origami style sloping Sedum roof for the rear living room, angled to capture the last rays of evening sun. The natural realm of the house was preserved and significantly extended through the addition of a green roof and creation of a private roof garden.

The main changes to the property were to reveal and enhance the house’s main existing features, most notably the split level transparent design - by fitting new open plan stairs and adding new openings between the levels to allow light from the bright south-facing front elevation to flood into the previously dark north-facing rear.

Zoning within the property was improved by relocating the kitchen and breakfast area. Light now flows into the formerly dark space through the large fish tank that separates the raised kitchen from the living area. The master bedroom received an additional slot window and the staircase got new openings on both sides.

When it came time to look for an interior design partner who would compliment the space he had created, Alexander called upon Clare Pascoe. Clare was tasked with supplying the kitchen, flooring, window treatments, bespoke joinery and furnishing. Pascoe Interiors’ teams of tried and tested tradesmen were brought in to install the interior elements, to meet the client’s high standards.

The vintage, sometimes eclectic, pieces of furniture and décor perfectly matched AR Architecture’s minimalist spaces by sticking to a simple palette of ash surfaces on the floors, stairs, doors and built-in furniture with white walls and ceilings. The selected vintage furniture was specifically sourced from the 60s era to match the time when the house was originally built. These were interspersed with contemporary elements, as is typical with Clare’s signature mid-century contemporary style, to prevent the scheme from looking staged or slavishly vintage.

The living area features a

contemporary Jones sofa in the luxurious-sounding truffle leather by Couch Potato Company; a vintage Bovenkamp leather sofa in original beige leather; and the large vintage-inspired three-seater Herbert sofa designed and made in the UK by Pascoe Interiors, upholstered in a mixture of Bute and Moon wool. These are grouped around a Laccio coffee table, part of a nest by Marcel Breuer designed for Knoll in 1924, and a tulip side table by Eero Saarinen for Knoll, both from Couch Potato. A Kaiser Idell Luxus floor lamp by Christian Dell for Fritz Hansen at the Couch Potato Company; and the vandalised Portrait of a Lady from Mineheart add height to the design. The faces cushions are by Mineheart, and the remaining cushions are by Missoni Home. The wall of storage consists of open shelving and closed cupboards, behind which is a concealed desk with space for a large wall-mounted TV and AV system.

Continuing the theme, the dining table is a vast, beautiful oval Tulip Table in Arabescato marble surrounded by an eclectic collection of chairs including a pair of pink ‘Frost’ chairs designed by Stouby at Couch Potato Company; vintage Eames shell chairs and a pair of antique French pink and gold arm chairs from Pascoe Interiors.

This eclectic mix is typical of Clare’s design, and proves that you don’t have to buy a rigid set of six or eight matching chairs, but can simply buy a collection of chairs that you love. If you follow this style in your own home, make sure to choose pairs of chairs otherwise the overall effect can go from eclectic to chaotic very quickly.

Moving into the kitchen, which was imported by Clare directly from the factory in Italy, the design becomes more contemporary, with the simple design comprising of dark and light brown wood units with bespoke ash elements, off set with a composite work surface. Symmetrical and well planned, it offers a large working area and is packed with hidden appliances and a wealth of storage.

The room style is balanced by





a stunning Arabescato marble circular dining table by renowned mid-century designer Eero Saarinen from Couch Potato Company. The Kai Kristensen dining chairs have been re-covered in a subtle fabric from Romo. The simple colour palette is accented by the stunning copper reproduction Artichoke Pendant by vintage furniture supplier Made Good, while the pink graffiti-sprayed Madam Blush portrait adds a bold and daring shot of rebellious colour. The table is set using beautiful hand-made crockery from Melody Rose.

The sleeping area is made up of three rooms: the master bed, and rooms for the client's sons and daughter. The boys' bedroom features an original mid-century bunk bed by Dunlop. It's a rare piece, the likes of which Clare had not seen in her career to date. Throws, cushions and a zigzag ottoman by Missoni Home and duvet sets by John Lewis add splashes of colour to the room. Clare particularly loves the Frost chairs by Stouby, with smart grey wool and multi-coloured buttons, which she worked into the scheme.

The playroom is separated from the bedroom by a full width set of sliding folding doors. Simply set out with shelving for books and toys, the children will enjoy

many hours of imaginative play, while their parents will be glad to be able to easily shut away the colourful chaos of toys at the end of each day. Clare sourced the vintage pine play table from a lot being sold by a school in Wales, and the colourful Alma Chairs are from Couch Potato Company.

The daughter's bedroom features a bed from Loaf, with throws, cushions and the Passiflora rug by Missoni Home. The vintage school desk, by Molten Vintage at Pascoe Interiors, has been painted gold, and the bespoke hand-made Dragonfly chair (and dragonfly wall art) were commissioned from upholsterer Emma Meteslaar of boutique upholstery collective The Makers Yard.

The master bathroom features a Coco-upholstered bed by Loaf and Moroccan brass-topped side tables from Mineheart. The dressing area is zoned with a stunning leather Concord Chair by Thomas Pederson for Stouby, at Couch Potato Company, and a bespoke tan and cream cow hide footstool was commissioned from Jo Johnson of the Makers Yard.

The window treatments have been kept purposely simple throughout, with the use of light oak wood slat venetian blinds by Pascoe Interiors. Throughout the house, the

use of the same colour palette of ash and white gives the house an overwhelming air of calm and peace, and the way the light filters through the slot openings, split levels and open stairs gives it a serene and private air.

The rear garden is bijoux at best, fully opening glazed doors and windows on two aspects afford the property an attractive view over the small but attractively landscaped space. The property also boasts a roof top terrace garden, a rare luxury in London, as it offers private outdoor space with a wonderful view. This one boasts a terrace kitchenette for alfresco entertaining and dining, and it has ample space for a dining chair and sun loungers, and it's also equipped to take a future hot tub. For now the owners simply want to enjoy the peace and quiet above the traffic and prying eyes, so Clare has furnished it with a pair of Eames Shaggy rockers, which sport beautiful sheepskin covers designed and made by the Couch Potato Company to compliment the Eames RAR chair. Here, the owners can sit and while away the hours with stunning views towards Primrose Hill Park and central London beyond.

**DESIGNER:** [www.pascoeinteriors.com](http://www.pascoeinteriors.com)  
**ARCHITECT:** [www.ar-arch.co.uk](http://www.ar-arch.co.uk)