

An expert guide to creating stately style on a budget

Creating a space you'll feel comfortable in doesn't have to mean spending a fortune, as interior designer Rosanna Bossom proves

By Hannah Newton

4 April 2020 · 7:00am

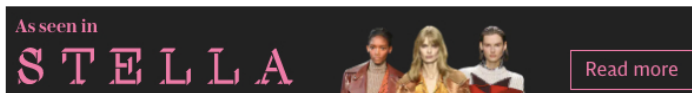
Related Topics

Stella Magazine, Interiors

🐦 📘 📧 📧 2



Interior designer Rosanna Bossom invites Stella magazine around her home



Rosanna Bossom might be one of the youngest interior designers working in London, but her styling is less *Sex in the City*, and more *Downton Abbey*. Walking into the 30-something urbanite's one-bedroom flat in Ladbroke Grove, what is striking is not simply the sheer height of the rooms, but the grown-up feel of the space.

There is a very English charm to her look – large comfortable sofas, luxurious cushions and shelves filled with antique books – yet this traditional foundation is injected with a glorious youthful vision.



A plain sofa is the canvas for Rosanna's love of layering. She uses prints, posters, a sketch by her grandmother and pieces of textiles as the foundation of her gallery wall. In the large frame on the left is a blanket from A New Tribe; it sits above her grandmother's cocktail cabinet. The black and white rug is an Ikea find while the 1960s chair is from an auction and has been reupholstered in Veere Grenney fabric

More stories



What are the phases to ease lockdown, and when will schools, garden centres and shops reopen?



World's largest solar farm could cause explosion on scale of small nuclear bomb, residents complain



'It's chaos': How the country reacted to Boris Johnson's lockdown speech



Job retention scheme set to be extended to September

Growing up in rural Oxford - shire, Rosanna was introduced to interior decorating from a young age by her grandmother, who was passionate about styling and educated her on antique furniture, Murano glassware and the wallpapers and fabrics of Colefax and Fowler.

Rosanna puts this inherited knowledge to good use, retaining a respect for the tradition of workmanship and craft, but finely tuned to the advantages of 21st-century online shopping.



Rosanna had the ottoman at the end of the bed made and then upholstered in Veere Grenney fabric. The dressing table was free on Gumtree and was sprayed at a car shop in a cherry red lacquer | CREDIT: Claire Worthy

A regular browser of auction sites such as The Hoarde, eBay, Etsy and Vinterior, as well as auction houses and the antique markets at Kempton in Surrey and Ardingly in Sussex, she has uncovered some absolute bargains.

‘I’ve made my home what it is by layering things, mixing antiques and vintage with high-street buys,’ she says. ‘Plus, I love trawling the internet for all sorts of wonderful treasures, especially “brown” furniture.’



The walnut writing desk came from eBay. The glass-topped table was inherited from her grandmother and the fabric is an archived print from Colefax and Fowler. Rosanna found the chest of drawers in a junk shop and the stool is from Oka | CREDIT: Claire Worthy

She picked up her bedroom dressing table for free on Gumtree, took it to a local carspray shop and had it lacquered in a cherry-red paint for £150. A beautiful walnut writing desk cost her £90 and a mid-century metal side

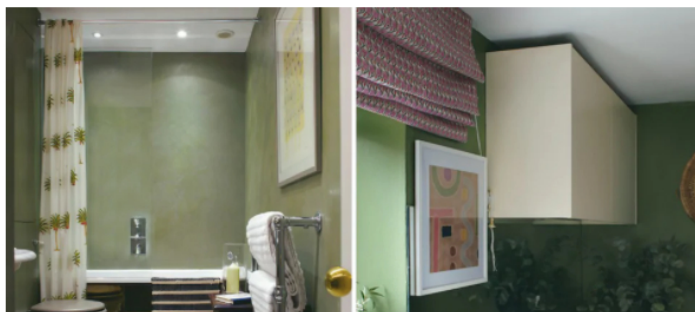
beautiful walnut writing desk cost her £20, and a mid-century petal side table just £15; both were spotted on eBay.



Rosanna found this suzani in Istanbul and used it to decorate a wall in the dining area, painted in Farrow & Ball's Setting Plaster pink. The table is from Argos and the place mats and tablecloth are from Penny Morrison. The purple glassware is H&M Home | CREDIT: Claire Worthy

In the sitting room, her Argos dining table set her back £50, but for Rosanna, it is what is on top that counts: an elegant, long tablecloth from Penny Morrison hides the table, while crockery and glassware from H&M Home and By Alice ensure a pulled-together look.

An antique cocktail cabinet handed down by her grand - mother adds to the venerable feel, while a comfortable George Smith armchair was another eBay purchase, which she then had reupholstered in a smart Fermoie fabric. Her rule of thumb is to buy a few large pieces, such as a mirror, sofa or light fitting, ensuring the colour and design are simple, then add tone and character to the space by layering up accessories, fabrics and wallpaper.





As the bathroom is quite small, Rosanna decided against wall tiles and painted the space with a plaster paint by Moroccan brand Tadelakt. The floor tiles are Victorian art deco from Super Floors. The kitchen is painted an olive green; try Bancha from Farrow & Ball. Crockery is from Solimene and By Alice. The fabric blind is Deep Rose Tulip Vine from Susan Deliss | CREDIT: Claire Worthy

In the sitting room, for example, she started with the stripy Ikea rug, plain curtains and a plain sofa, then added texture with fabrics and cushions. 'This look is not created overnight, it happens over a period of time,' she says. 'I believe that creating your own collection of furniture, accessories, art and books is key to making your house a home. I'd rather buy a cheap chair, then spend on having it upholstered in a beautiful fabric. You can find great offcuts on eBay or Etsy.'

Her maxim is: 'Love and treasure it, whether you save up for a piece or find a bargain.' Here, this approach, and her designer's eye, has produced a stylish mix of heritage, high street and homely.

rosannabossom.co.uk

Related Topics
Stella Magazine, Interiors



The Telegraph values your comments but kindly requests all posts are on topic, constructive and respectful. Please review our [commenting policy](#).

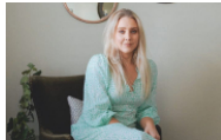
Show comments

More from Interiors



DIY home decorating ideas to keep you busy during lockdown

By Jessica Doyle
10 May 2020, 1:48pm



Inside the countryside home of a wellness guru

By Jessica Salter
3 May 2020, 7:00am



The best garden chairs, loungers and day beds for a laid-back summer

By Madeleine Howell
30 Apr 2020, 1:36pm



How to transform your home with a leftover can of paint

By Jessica Doyle
26 Apr 2020, 7:00am



Nominate your favourite small British businesses

By Tamara Abraham
22 Apr 2020, 5:34pm



5 simple ways to add more joy to your home

By Russell Whitehead
19 Apr 2020, 7:00am

More from The Telegraph



The Left's hysterical 'confusion' over No 10's plan is utterly transparent



The three steps for ending the lockdown: When schools, garden centres and shops will reopen



Can I see my family or friends under the new social distancing rules?



When is the end of lockdown? Boris Johnson's roadmap to reopen the country



Sage having 'heated arguments' over science of lockdown



This is what our social and work lives will look like by Christmas