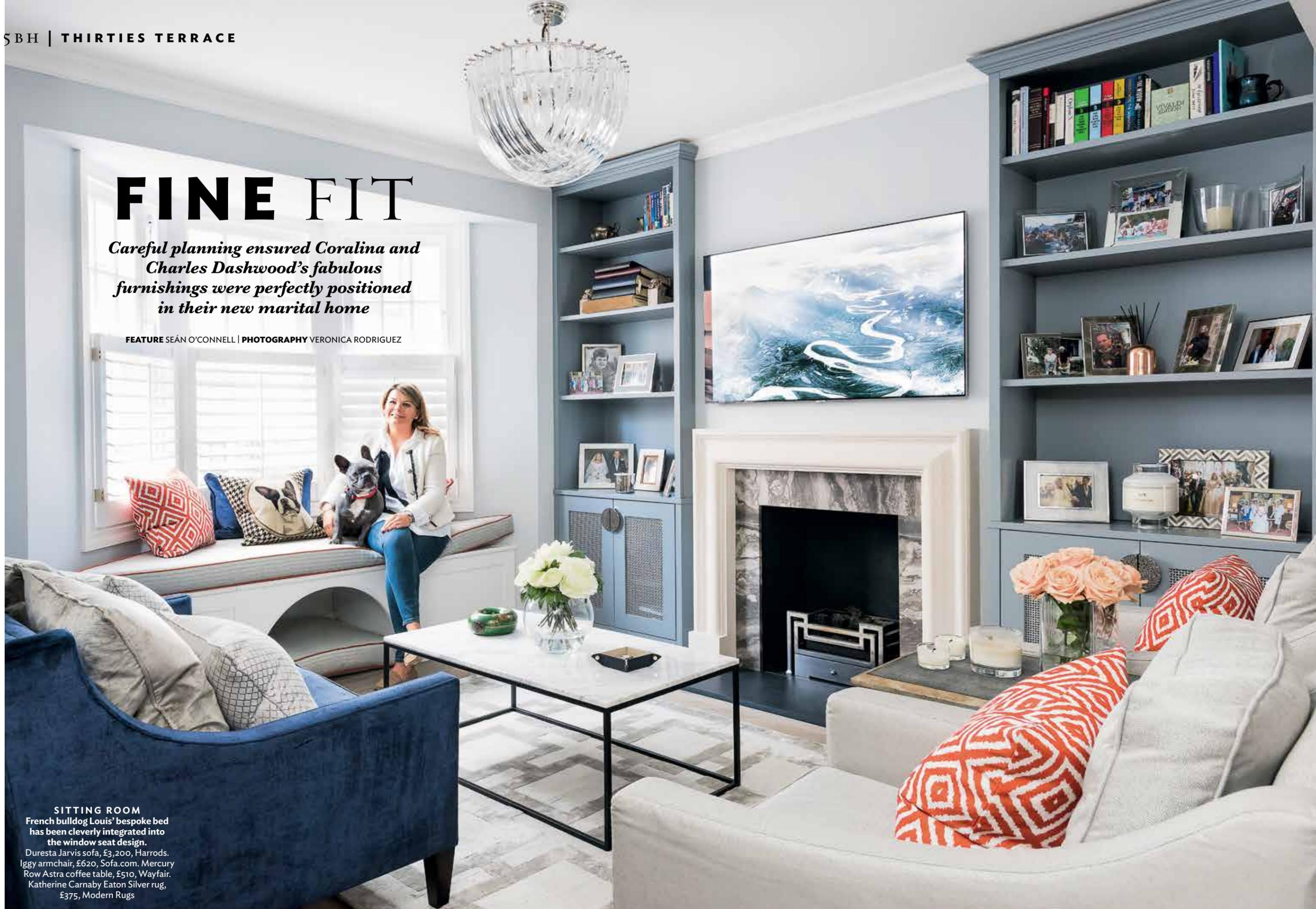


FINE FIT

Careful planning ensured Coralina and Charles Dashwood's fabulous furnishings were perfectly positioned in their new marital home

FEATURE SEÁN O'CONNELL | PHOTOGRAPHY VERONICA RODRIGUEZ



SITTING ROOM

French bulldog Louis' bespoke bed has been cleverly integrated into the window seat design.

Duresta Jarvis sofa, £3,200, Harrods.
Iggly armchair, £620, Sofa.com. Mercury Row Astra coffee table, £510, Wayfair.
Katherine Carnaby Eaton Silver rug, £375, Modern Rugs



KITCHEN
 'I love cooking so I wanted plenty of work space,' says Coralina. Hartford units, price on request, Tom Howley. Eternal Statuario worktops, £8,592, Silestone. RAK porcelain floor tiles, £55sq m, Tiles and Beyond



DESIGN ADVICE
 'Plan, measure and mark out space before buying any furniture, to make sure the proportions work'



DINING AREA
 A glass-topped table keeps the feel light and open. Levante table, £1,470, Calligaris. Lule chairs, £250 for a pair, Made.com. Signs of Life linocut by David Mach RA



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Thirties terrace, rebuilt in the Fifties
LOCATION London
PURCHASED 2016
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, cloakroom, three bedrooms (one en suite), dressing room, bathroom
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'Before buying this place, we lived in a two-bedroom flat nearby,' says Coralina.

When Charles and Coralina Dashwood got married in 2015, they began their search for their first home together. 'After a year of looking, while living in Charles' two-bedroom flat in southwest London, we finally found a terraced house close by, which was perfect because we love this area,' explains Coralina.

The fact that the property was in need of repair was a plus, as the couple wanted a place they could put their mark on. 'We knew it was going to be a challenge, as the house was riddled with damp and had very

low ceilings,' says Charles. 'As a result, we called on the services of architect Chris Bailey. He came up with some good ideas and saw them through to submission – the houses on this side of the street suffered bomb damage in the Second World War and since then have all evolved differently, so the process was quite straightforward.'

With planning approved, local company Orchestrate began a full refit and refurb, which included new plumbing, electrics and heating, as well as replastering. It also involved adding extra windows to the first and second floors at the front, and turning

the suspended front bay window into a full-length one – a minor change but one with a big payback. 'As well as increasing the square footage in the sitting room, it meant we could have a window seat with storage underneath, incorporating a den for Louis, our French bulldog,' says Coralina.

The couple had weekly on-site meetings with the builders, which made the works as stress-free as possible. But the project wasn't without some complications. Opting for underfloor heating meant the existing concrete sub-floor had to be dug up, which took several weeks due to unforeseen drain

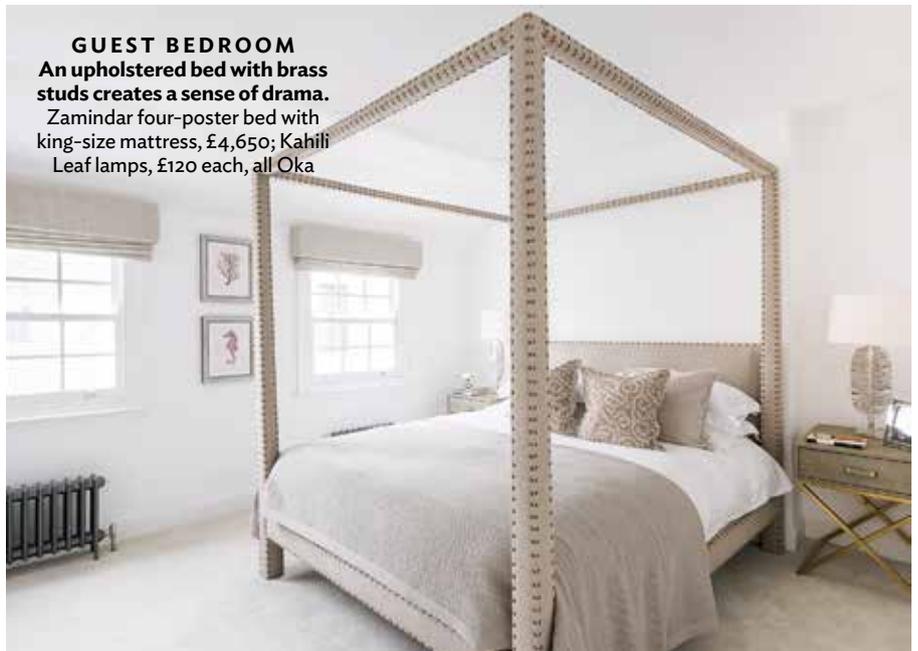


MAIN BEDROOM
A boutique-hotel feel was the desired effect here. Kingston super-king bed, £4,830; Vouet stool, £1,170, both The Sofa & Chair Company

DECORATING TIP *‘Buy good-quality ironmongery for your doors and joinery – it will make all the difference to the look and feel of your home’*



EN SUITE
Marble wall tiles add opulence. Statuario large-format marble porcelain tiles, £470 each, Capitol Designer Studio. Antonio Lupi II Bagno vanity unit, £4,075, West One Bathrooms



GUEST BEDROOM
An upholstered bed with brass studs creates a sense of drama. Zamindar four-poster bed with king-size mattress, £4,650; Kahili Leaf lamps, £120 each, all Oka

problems; and raising the low ground-floor ceiling meant a steel beam, spanning the width of the house, had to be inserted.

As each room was completed, the couple would decorate it. ‘We gleaned inspiration from magazines and the internet,’ says Coralina. Charles found a 3D computer modelling program that allowed him to visualise what furniture would fit in their sitting room. ‘As well as saving time, it

reassured us that when our sofa and chairs arrived, they’d look perfect,’ he says. Just as much consideration went into the upstairs rooms, particularly the main bedroom. ‘We thought about every aspect – colours, fabrics, accessories,’ says Coralina, ‘and ended up with a space that exudes a sense of luxury.’

Many of the features were custom-made, which didn’t come cheaply – or quickly. The Italian vanity in the en suite took three

months to deliver and the marble wall tiles took almost as long. The installers broke two of the bookmatched tiles, each of which had to be reordered, meaning a further delay of four months. ‘We had to laugh about it, or we’d have cried!’ says Coralina. But when the project was finally completed, the only tears shed were those of joy. ‘We love our new home,’ says Coralina. ‘The effort it took to get it absolutely right was worth it.’ 25