



# Reinventing a Victorian Residence

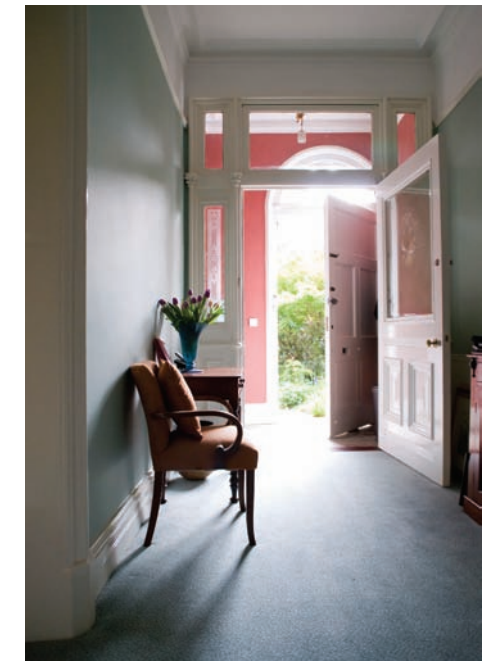
A dark cold kitchen dating back to the 1970s is hardly ideal when slotted inside an inspirational Victorian residence. A modern extension was needed to complete this spectacular home.

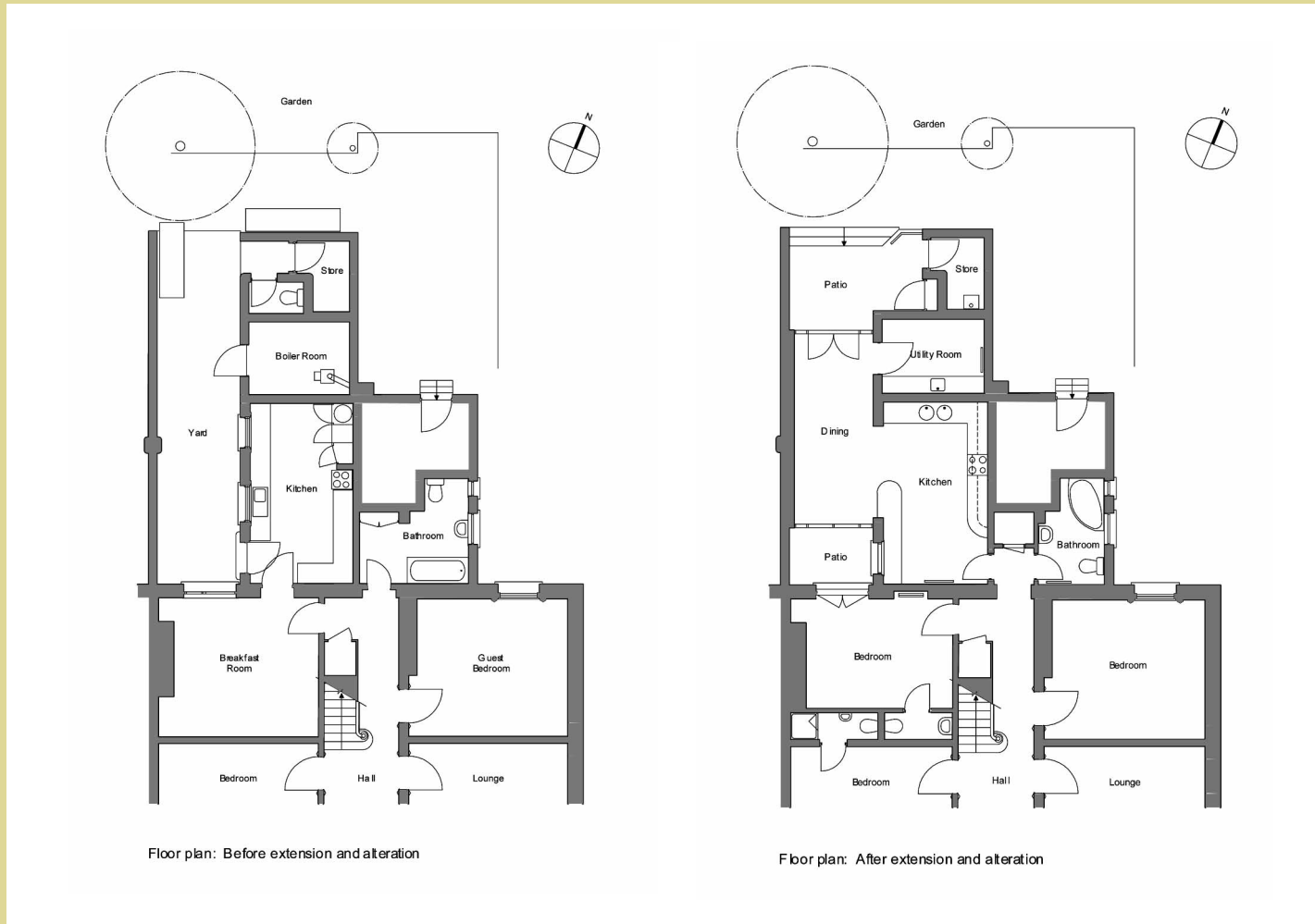
Dating back to 1896, this landmark Victorian residence is separated into two apartments. Owner, Madeleine Rooney bought the ground floor apartment in 1999. The entire back section of the ground floor was passé and scarcely practical. By contrast, the interiors of the sitting room and bedroom at the front of the property are

spacious and stylish giving way to corniced ceilings, panelled doors, picture rails and antique fireplaces.

Architect Alastair Macnab took on the challenge to extend and alter the kitchen with a bright conservatory dining area where a damp yard used to be. "The apartment was very stylish when you

walked in," he says, "but as you made your way towards the back, it was a different story. There was a door with frosted glass panels (leading to the bathroom) which had been crudely inserted into an archway at the end of the hall. The kitchen was dark, had small windows and a pine board ceiling, while the yard was narrow and received no >





➤ direct sunlight. Madeleine wanted a modern space, but a careful and sensitive transition between old and new."

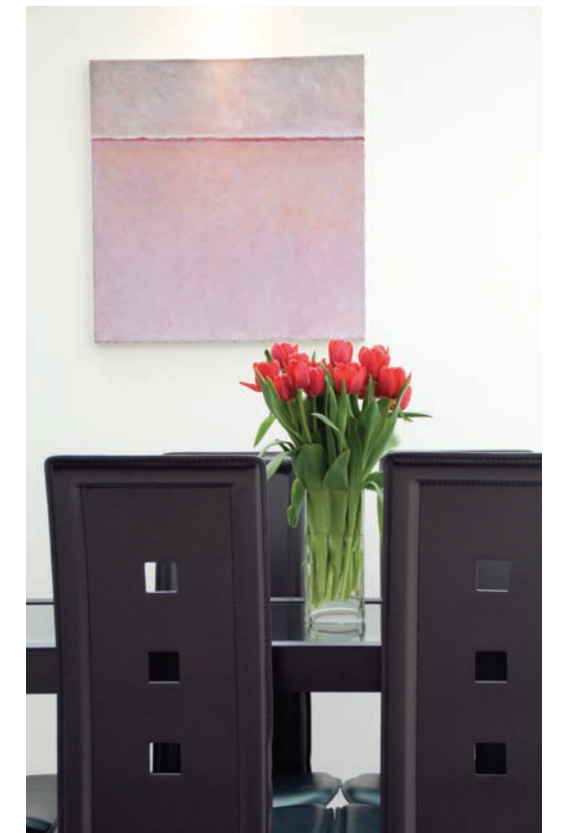
To achieve this transition the layout of the apartment was altered to

provide direct access to the kitchen from the hall. This involved re-design of the bathroom, formation of a new door opening into the kitchen and restoration of the archway at the end of the hall. The archway became the point of transition

between interiors refurbished using period details (the new bedroom and en-suites) and the new contemporary interior of the kitchen and dining areas.

The original kitchen had a black vinyl tiled floor,

pine board ceiling, two tiny windows and a door leading out to the yard. Now it is bursting with light with new ceiling and white walls making the room bright and airy. The elegant Dekko kitchen with Bosch appliances and light grey lacquer units perfectly complement the black polished Angolan granite worktops and breakfast bar. An unusual red splash back made of toughened glass completes the kitchen. An open-plan layout leads onto a glass



➤ conservatory dining area opening out to a paved area. Italian ceramic tiles run throughout with under-floor heating eliminating the need for radiators.

The kitchen design was a collaboration between, Madeleine, Alastair and Dekko. "I was very clear on what I wanted," says Madeleine. "I wanted glass instead of tiled

splash backs, a neutral colour for the units that wouldn't date, and a bright airy dining space. The restored arch from the hall matches the existing Victorian interior; while the dining area is wonderful in all weathers and Alastair made room for a fully-fitted utility room. The result has totally transformed how I live." Work began in

September 2005 and finished in May 2006. "It was a great project to work on because Madeleine was always receptive to new ideas and remarkably open," concludes Alastair. "She was enthusiastic and interested in a design that would be both functional and timeless. We are both very happy with the outcome." ■

## THE PROJECT

Client **Dr Madeleine Rooney**

Architect  
**Alastair Macnab**  
Chartered Architect

Structural **David Gruhn**  
(deceased) of **Ennis Gruhn & Co Ltd**

Mechanical & Electrical Engineer  
**Bennett Robertson Ltd**

Main Contractor **Cantley Construction Ltd**

Photographer  
**Paul Megahey Photography**