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# Keeping it in the family

When Charles Maggs downsized to a London terrace, he knew just who to call for its renovation – son-in-law Neil Dusheiko



## AT A GLANCE

**Name** Charles Maggs  
**Location** Stoke Newington, north London  
**Property type** Victorian terrace  
**Bedrooms** 3 **Bathrooms** 2  
**Project started** December 2015  
**Project finished** September 2016  
**Size of house** 165sqm  
**Build cost** £350,000



The new kitchen/dining space was designed with family gatherings in mind





**'I wanted a great feeling of light, and that has been achieved perfectly'**

**W**alking into Charles Maggs' neat terraced house, tucked away on a side street in Stoke Newington, London, it's immediately clear that its recent renovation was a labour of love. Warm paint colours abound, while rich oak joinery takes you from a bright, airy hallway through to an open-plan living area, which leads down wide brick steps to a sociable dining and kitchen space. There is art everywhere you look, from the eclectic array of paintings and prints covering the living room walls to the ceramics displayed proudly in a purpose-built open shelving unit in the dining area. It's no wonder that it has been named Gallery House – it is the result of a lifetime spent collecting and curating.

While Charles' creative eye is reflected throughout the home, the renovation is the brainchild and handiwork of his son-in-law, esteemed architect Neil Dusheiko of Neil Dusheiko Architects. When Charles' wife, Dusheiko's mother-in-law, passed away a couple of years ago, the family made the decision that Charles should move out of the large family home he had lived in for 45 years, and buy something smaller, more manageable and closer to Dusheiko's house, where he lives with his wife, Lucy, and their daughter, four-year-old Stella. By a stroke of luck, they found something in the perfect location – Charles'

new home backs onto the Dusheikos' street. It's so close, in fact, that the family cat regularly wanders between the two houses. The only downside was that the terraced property hadn't been altered for several decades, and was long overdue an update. 'It was gloomy and dark,' recalls Charles. 'I wanted a greater feeling of light, and that has been achieved perfectly. Maybe it's my South African roots, but it's important to me to be able to feel the sun coming in.'

There was a nine-month period between the sale going through on the new house and the next owners moving into the old one; in order to make the process as smooth as he could for his father-in-law, this was a deadline to which Dusheiko was determined to stick. Charles set a budget of £350,000, and they got to work designing the perfect space. 'We have a very rigorous briefing process with all our clients,' says Dusheiko, 'and I wanted to make sure Charles got the same treatment. It did feel different though – we knew each other well, but the build brought us even closer together. Charles really knew his mind, which made it easy to decide on colours and materials. We share a lot of our tastes, too, which helped. It felt very special designing a house I knew my family would get to enjoy.'

The renovation opened up the living space, letting light flood through the home and creating a bright, sociable >

**above** A standard Howdens kitchen is enhanced by bespoke joinery made by Dusheiko's in-house team

**left** Brick slips recovered from a castle in the Netherlands add warmth and colour to the open-plan dining space





above The bold zinc loft extension contrasts with the soft brick, glazing and putty-coloured render of the floors below it

and the putty-coloured paint completes the natural palette, which runs through the whole house. The kitchen itself is a Howdens carcass, with bespoke doors made by Dusheiko's in-house joiner and handles by Buster & Punch, in a budgeting trick he and Charles are pleased with. 'We were quoted up to £50,000 for this kitchen, but by using off-the-shelf units we managed to do it for less than £20,000,' Dusheiko says. He used the same trick in each of the three bedrooms and the office upstairs, where fitted Ikea furniture has been customised with bespoke joinery and handles.

Dusheiko's favourite elements of this extensive renovation are the lighting – a series of pendants by Scandinavian

designers, including Jørn Utzon and Sofie Refer, which is a nod to Dusheiko's Swedish mother-in-law – and the bathroom on the first floor. He raised the ceiling and filled in the windows, replacing them with a skylight over the top of the bath. 'I like to create spaces that celebrate the small rituals of life,' he says. 'Bathing, cooking, relaxing, spending time together – these are the important things.'

To that end, he has certainly achieved his goal. Built in a time of grief, this is a home that celebrates life, love and the strong ties of family. **GD**

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## Project details Find out more about Charles' updated home

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### A WORD FROM THE HOMEOWNER

'I had a vague idea of how the house would look before it was built, but it was wonderful watching it all come together bit by bit,' says Charles Maggs. 'There is a great feeling of busy space now, which isn't empty or blank. It's a very nice place to be.'



### SUPPLIERS

#### PROJECT TEAM

**Architect** Neil Dusheiko Architects (020 7354 8106; neildusheiko.com) **Structural engineer** Momentum Structural Engineers (020 7739 6939; momentumengineering.com) **Building contractor** Sutton Construction (020 8642 0385; suttonltd.com) **Party wall** Party Wall Partnership (01233 638 287)

#### STRUCTURE

**Glazing** Culmax (020 8896 0700; culmax.co.uk) **Pocket doors** Portman (01462 444 466; portman-pocketdoors.co.uk) **Joinery** MG Joinery (024 7661 2330; mgjoinery.co.uk)

#### FIXTURES & FITTINGS

**Brick slip flooring** Charles Howey (020 8935 5662; charleshowey.co.uk) **Timber flooring** Goodfellow (01691 718 872; goodfellowuk.com) **Kitchen** Howdens (howdens.com); Wood & Beyond (020 3869 0900; woodandbeyond.com) **Sanitaryware** Bathrooms By Design (020 8619 0131; bathroomsbydesign.com) **Lighting** Mr Resistor (020 8874 2234; mr-resistor.co.uk); Panik Design (01908 307 020; panik-design.com) **Tiling** Capitol Designer Studio (024 7668 0046; cdstiles.com) **Ironmongery** SDS (020 7228 1185; sdslondon.co.uk)

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