

GEORGIAN REVIVAL

Modern materials
meet beautiful bones

in Laura Butler-
Madden's lovingly
restored family house
— an elegant backdrop
for the festive season

SITTING ROOM 'We kept this room small and made it cosy in an elegant way. Cosy doesn't have to mean dark and moody.' Christmas tree, skirt and baubles, The White Company. Side table, Soho Home. Roses, FLOWERBX



KITCHEN This spot with its view over the garden was the perfect place for a window seat. **Walls** in Kensington Rose, by Mylands. **Cabinets and ladder**, Blakes London. **Four wick candle**, Heloise O'Hagan



The festive season is a time to relax for Laura Butler-Madden, husband Patrick and their three-year-old daughter, Lily. 'It can be hugely stressful if you put too much pressure on a "big day" like New Year, so we allow ourselves to take it slowly. We'll have a leisurely breakfast, then a sociable stroll with both families - Patrick's visit from Madrid each year. Lunch comes late, around 4pm, and consists of an Anglo-Spanish meal

combining a traditional British roast with Iberian delicacies such as aged hams and piquant olives.'

Home is an elegant Georgian townhouse in Bath that Laura and Patrick completed work on a couple of years ago. 'We fell for the house because of its architectural history and saw the scope to breathe new life into it without fundamentally changing its bones,' says Laura. 'No extensions, nor knocking down walls; just a considered update to enhance its beauty and make it comfortable and practical for modern living.'

Part of the house's appeal was its unusual layout, with two levels below the ground floor kitchen and sitting rooms, and two more above. 'We didn't want the kitchen in the basement, with Lily's room miles away at the top of the house,' says Laura. 'In this home we live in the middle, sleep above, and have spaces for guests and a cinema room below.'

Tucked away in a hidden row of period properties and backing onto a park, the house had been converted into two flats when they bought it. 'We had to get planning permission to turn it back into a single dwelling, then during lockdown, working around the availability of builders and supplies was a challenge. Even so, the total revamp, including a new kitchen and three bathrooms, plus plumbing, wiring and redecoration throughout, took an impressive six months. We spent time on advance planning to avoid hold-ups but

stayed flexible, as you need to, finessing the details as work progressed,' Laura says.

The couple - Laura is an interior designer and Patrick is co-director of both their interior design business and the property renovation company they run together - have been working in tandem for 11 years. In that time, they have remodelled 10 houses and they are constantly refining what works for them and their clients. 'Here, we installed a butler's pantry, with extra elements such as a dishwasher, oven, sink and fridge, in a room off the kitchen for the first time, which allowed the kitchen itself to be a more elegant room to enjoy,' Laura says. 'It works so well and I think this idea will become a zeitgeist of our time, in the way that dressing rooms have become.'

How is it for them, in this instance, being both client and designer? 'We try to take each new project to the next level, and this definitely involves coming out of our comfort zone,' Laura says. 'I'm still nervous until the last minute, waiting to see if my vision works in reality!'

The bywords of Laura's designs are elegance, comfort and calm, which are perfectly reflected in this home. Georgian curves and period features are allowed to be the heroes, enhanced by understated materials and a soft and gentle colour palette. Pale woods, aged brass and marble happily co-exist. 'This is a home that both excites us and feels like a calm haven at the same time - it really is the dream,' Laura says.

AT HOME WITH

OWNERS Laura Butler-Madden lives here with her husband Patrick and their daughter, Lily, three. The couple have interior design and property renovation businesses; laurabutlermadden.com

HOUSE A four-bedroom townhouse with three bathrooms in Bath.

KITCHEN Banquette seating is a great use of space,' says Laura. **Banquette** covered in Velvet from Designers Guild. **Art** bespoke commission by Kristin Gaudio Endsley. **Dining table**, by Laura Butler-Madden with Trunk Floor



'We have always loved Georgian style and this house was the dream – stunning architecture, combined with a layout that could work really well for our family'

BUTLER'S PANTRY This used to be a ground floor bathroom. The loo was kept and the rest of the space is now utilised as an extension of the kitchen. Carnival wallpaper, Christopher Farr. Flowers, FLOWERBX





HALL The beautiful staircase didn't need restoring but was enhanced with a banana leaf wallpaper and cool paint colours. **Door** painted in Threadneedle by Mylands. Wallpaper, Maison Pierre Frey. Bud vases, Dress for Dinner



MAIN BEDROOM 'I love that my fiddle leaf fig does so well here,' says Laura. **Walls** in Hoxton Grey, Mylands. **Flooring**, Trunk Floor. **Bedhead** and **bedside table**, The Sofa & Chair Company. **Shell light**, Edition 74



DAUGHTER'S ROOM 'Scandi design was the inspiration here and the bed and storage pieces were central to planning the room,' says Laura. **Bed**, **canopy**, **bedside table**, **chest** and **shelves**, all Cam Cam Copenhagen at Scandiborn

FEATURE AND STYLING MARY WEAVER
PHOTOGRAPHS PAUL RAESIDE

MAIN BATHROOM 'I had been looking for a subtle pink marble for years and found this to create a decadent yet elegant space,' says Laura. **Bath** with Rosa Antico marble trim, and **taps**, both Porter Bathroom



LAURA'S COUNTRY LIFE

SIMPLE PLEASURES... 'I love going for a long walk on New Year's Day with my family and coming home for shepherd's pie and Bloody/Virgin Marys. It's becoming a tradition and a lovely way to start the year.'

SHOP AT... 'I love design studio and shop, Berdoulat, and browsing for books in Toppings & Company booksellers in Bath.'

GO FOR A MEAL AT... 'We love the Beckford Bottle Shop for wine and nibbles; it's a great spot for people-watching, too.'

A LIGHT TOUCH

Laura and Patrick's elegant and calm scheme embraces fresh neutrals



FEATURE ALICE HUMPHREYS

1 **A RESTFUL HUE** Serene Pink matt paint, from £21 for 1ltr, Yes Colours 2 **A COMFORTING CLASSIC** CH24 Soft Wishbone chair, £510, Heals 3 **AMBIENT LIGHTING** Bombazine wall light with natural brass opal glass, £90, Dar Lighting 4 **A CONTEMPORARY CLASSIC** Isabelle Small in Green from the Carnival Collection, £190 a roll, Sarah Vanrenen 5 **HANDMADE BY ARTISANS** Medium Real Deal arch mirror in brass, £345, Loaf 6 **REACH THE TOP** Chawton

Ladder, £525, Neptune 7 **CUSTOMISABLE CHESTERFIELD** Baxter T-arm sofa in Silver Grey, from £4,000, Jonathan Adler 8 **BREAKFAST IN BED** Rattan serving trays in Rustic White, £149 for two, Rebecca Udall 9 **ENGINEERED EUROPEAN OAK** Venture Plank collection, Amazon Prime 120mm Herringbone, £85.95sq m, Havwoods 10 **FAUX, YET FABULOUS** Faux eucalyptus wreath with berries, £35, Idyll Home