

FRIENDS' ZONE

Architect David has designed this ingenious home with a modern blend of shared and private spaces for himself and three friends to live under the same roof

HOME PROFILE

THE OWNER Architect David Money, who lives in the house with his friend and co-owner Kane and Kane's partner Donald; another friend rents the attic. **THE PROPERTY** A three-bedroom Edwardian terrace in south London. The inside has been rebuilt to create an open-plan kitchen-diner/living room on the ground floor, plus a separate study. The first floor has a double-height main suite, comprising David's bedroom and mezzanine gym and a bathroom accessed from his bedroom and the landing. Kane and Donald have a bedroom, sitting room and en suite on the same floor. There's also a loft conversion with a bedroom and en suite.

HALLWAY

'This is one of my favourite features in the house,' says David of the clever birch ply stairway that conceals a laundry area, bike store and entrance to the cellar behind its panelling. **Get the look** The stairway and storage system was designed and built by David Money Architects.



Photography / Paul Massey * Production / Mary Weaver * Words / Andréa Childs

Think of a Chinese puzzle box—shapes fitted within shapes, hidden latches and concealed compartments—and you get some idea of the intricacy of David Money's house. From the bike store and laundry tucked beneath the stairs to the single-tread steps-cum-bookshelf in the main bedroom, each room holds secrets and surprises. At the same time, the exposed joists and bare brick walls give tantalising clues as to how it's all put together. 'I must be one of the few homeowners thrilled to have a house with subsidence,' says David. 'The walls were riddled with cracks and at risk of falling down when I bought it. By taking everything away and supporting the new structure with steel joists, it removed the problem. I literally rebuilt the property from the ground floor up.'

The house is in a conservation area, so it would have been difficult to get planning permission for major additions. Instead, David's aim was to create as much space as possible within the shell of the building. By lowering the ground floor by 30cm, adding a skinny 1-metre side return and converting the attic, he's created an enviable modern home—part luxe loft, part smart townhouse—within the confines of an Edwardian terrace.

'The changes were about being radical with the interior architecture to solve the problems of a long 17-metre house that was dark and gloomy in the middle,' he explains. His solution: a glazed roof on the side return and a glass floor on the first-floor landing that filters light through to the living area beneath. 'The study at the front of the house is a really bright room, so I also fitted sliding doors that can be opened up to bring the light into the kitchen,' he continues. All the better to highlight the kitchen's show-stopping table—a concrete structure that levitates above the screed floor, supported by a piece of steel that rises from the foundations. 'It's totally indulgent as I can never move it, but that's one of the main advantages of being my own client.'



← LIVING → AREA

'I wanted to get away from shiny white walls and choose natural materials,' says David, who used bricks salvaged from the demolition of the building's interior to create the wall of the side extension. Similarly, the wood ceiling joists are left exposed, giving an indication of how the structure fits together.

Get the look The Terence Woodgate sofa is upholstered in a Kvadrat fabric. The Crawford coffee table and Corona oak side table are from Swoon Editions. The artwork behind the sofa is *Exodus IX* by Marcus Lyon. The scissor artwork was bought at Lots Road Auction in Chelsea.

Well, kind of—he and his friend Kane invested jointly in the property. 'Fortunately, he was very trusting of my design process, which was about getting away from that shiny white walls look,' says David. 'I wanted natural materials in their elemental state, so I used bare wood, bricks salvaged from the demolition and concrete. There's no white porcelain or chrome in the bathrooms—instead, the basins are basalt and the toilets are "prison-issue" stainless steel.' Ceiling joists in the living area and David's bedroom are left exposed, both to reveal the structure of the property and to create extra height. But the hero surface is premium birch-faced ply, used for the kitchen cabinets, study bookshelves and staircase, where the balustrade is seamlessly integrated into the side panelling, with under-stair storage secreted behind its slats. 'I realised when working on architecture projects for clients that I often prefer the house when it's half-finished—it seems to lose personality the closer it gets to perfection,' says David. 'I like that the smooth ply lives with the original rough walls quite happily in here.'

Every inch of the interior is considered and not just so David and Kane have a place to stash their bikes. 'There's a cupboard, but we hang the pretty one on the wall,' says David, laughing. In addition to the two of them, Kane's partner Donald lives here and another friend rents the attic room. 'I did a hell of a lot of drawings and geometry before we started work on site to make sure the layout would work,' David adds.

Kane and Donald have a self-contained suite with its own separate sitting room and bathroom, while David's double-height bedroom provides space for his own mezzanine gym. 'It's designed so that we all have our own private areas, but most of the time, you'll find us hanging out around the kitchen table.' This could be the coolest house share ever. *To see more of David's work, visit davidmoney.com*





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LIVING AREA

'Creating a view of the garden was key, so the room is designed to take your focus outwards,' says David. To prevent the glazing appearing as a black 'wall' when it's dark outside, the garden is strongly illuminated. 'It looks a bit like an aquarium at night,' David adds.
Get the look The Womb chair and footstool are by Eero Saarinen for Knoll.

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KITCHEN

The bespoke cabinets were designed by David and built in premium-grade birch-faced plywood, which has a smooth, knot-free finish. 'The tall cabinets draw your eyes upwards,' says David. 'Plus, it helps prevent my phobia about the grease and dust that usually collects at the top of cupboards.'
Get the look The DSW chair is by Charles and Ray Eames for Vitra. The oven is by Neff. The floor and work surfaces are by The Concrete Flooring Contractors.

HOME TRUTHS

What's on the menu when you're cooking for guests? One of my housemates is vegan, so we mainly eat plant-based food at home – such as spicy dal with flatbread.
What three qualities do you look for in a friend? Independence of mind, sociability and house-trained!
Favourite place for a weekend getaway? Newcastle to reconnect with my roots, or Brighton to see my family.
Biggest indulgence? The remote-control blind to the roof light in my room. It's my Roger Moore moment.
Your favourite journey? Down the Havasu creek to the Colorado river in the Grand Canyon.



'THE TABLE IS SO LARGE, WE CAN PREP FOOD AT ONE END AND EAT AT THE OTHER. WE CAN SEAT 16 PEOPLE FOR A DINNER PARTY'



DINING AREA

'I originally hung bare bulb lights on cables, but it looked like a forest of wire and you couldn't see through to the living area,' says David. 'The wires of these globe lights are ideal – they hang like a cloud above the table.'
Get the look The table was cast by The Concrete Flooring Contractors. This is the 14 Series pendant by Bocci.



MEZZANINE STAIRS

Alternate-tread stairs that double as a bookshelf lead up to David's mezzanine gym. "The double height means that, in volume terms, this room is huge," he says. **Get the look** The stairs were designed by David and built by David Money Architects. This is the Saltbak rug from Ikea.



'I WANTED TO USE A LOT OF NATURAL MATERIALS - BRICK AND WOOD, SLATE AND STONE - IN THEIR ELEMENTAL STATE'

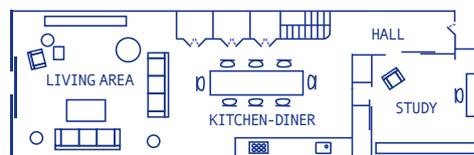
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KANE AND DONALD'S BEDROOM

Two rooms were knocked into one to create a self-contained suite, with the idea that they could be divided to create two bedrooms if the friends decide to sell the house later. 'It gives Kane and Donald their own space,' says David. **Get the look** The Aim pendant lights are by Flos. The Fawn bed is from Heal's. The artwork is *Maenad XII* by Phil Binaco.

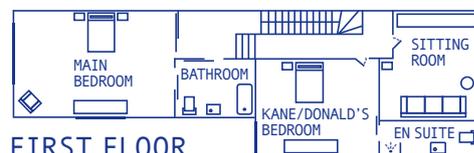
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DAVID'S BATHROOM

'It's dark in here, but I wanted to get away from white porcelain and chrome that's the norm in bathrooms,' says David. Instead, a basalt basin forms the foundation of an inky palette. A horizontal window lets in light and acts as a mini hothouse for a row of ferns. The mirrored cabinets have been designed to conceal the plants' pots. **Get the look** The Pegasus basin is by Living Roc. The Eye encaustic tiles are by Marrakech Design.

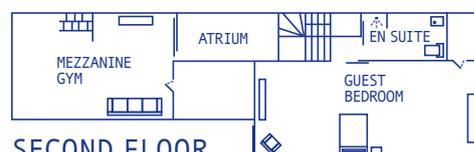
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