

AUGUST 2019 £4.80

# ELLE DECORATION

CELEBRATING  
30  
STYLISH  
YEARS

## THE FORECAST A/W 2019

DISCOVER THE  
TRENDS SHAPING  
OUR HOMES  
THIS SEASON

**SHOP THE EDIT**  
THE MOST EXCITING NEW  
FURNITURE BUYS REVEALED

**SUSTAINABLE STYLE**  
WHY IT'S COOL TO BE  
KIND TO THE PLANET

**MADE IN CHINA**  
HIGH-END DESIGN IS ON  
THE RISE IN THE EAST



# IN THE KNOW

Looks, launches, innovations & the newest names





HOME TREND

# Life in monochrome

*Black and white never goes out of fashion, but to keep it contemporary, take inspiration from this London home's focus on geometric details*

Words **TRISH LORENZ** Photography **MADS MOGENSEN** Production **MARTINA HUNGLINGER**

# T

his mews house in the central London neighbourhood of Bayswater is home to architect Cooky Monseignat, her husband Nicholas and children, Theo, four, and Cat, eight months. The family moved here in 2017 after a two-year renovation process that saw them transform the traditional 170-square-metre home into a modern, monochrome space that channels the couple's interest in art, taking inspiration from contemporary galleries. 'My elder sister is a photographer and my younger sister a sculptor, so I've spent a lot of time in galleries,' says Cooky. 'They give me a sense of peace, with their minimalist white spaces. I wanted to partially recreate that at home.'

You enter the three-floor house via a small cloakroom framed by a ceiling-hung curtain, inspired by French brasseries that protect entrances with heavy drapes as a buffer against the cold air. This leads into the open-plan living and dining room, where a full-height, freestanding bookshelf defines the zones. Through an arched opening – which mirrors the shape of the large front windows – is an ebony-coloured kitchen and, to the right, a glazed extension that contains a home office. The children's bedroom and playroom, as well as a guest bedroom and bathroom, are in the basement, with the main bedroom, bathroom and walk-in closet upstairs.

Black and white is a classic, timeless colour combination, but it can sometimes feel a little starchy and cold. To avoid this, Cooky's opted for a sophisticated tonal palette, utilising shades ranging from steel to charcoal to add depth and warmth. Dark-stained oak flooring and black joinery contrast with the pale grey sofa, slate-coloured curtains and white walls. There are plenty of on-trend geometric details, too, such as the chevron flooring, the gridded simplicity of the pattern on the dining table and the tiling in the bathroom.

As in the galleries Cooky was inspired by, her home's pared-back scheme allows the couple's colourful art collection to shine. And there are some powerful paintings in this home, including the nude by Robert Stanley that hangs above the fireplace. The considered tranquillity of the interior extends outside, too. The house is at the end of the mews, so there is no through traffic, and Cooky has created a small garden for the family to enjoy. 'We have an apricot tree, apple tree and a fig tree in large black glazed ceramic pots in front of the house. We can sit out here and forget we're in central London.'

**Previous spread and opposite**  
The living room sofa is secondhand and the coffee table a repurposed art plinth. A 'Mobile Chandelier 9' by Michael Anastassiades, available at Twentytwentyone, and a Serge Mouille floor lamp add graphic touches. The white tower bookcase is the 'Sapiens' by Sintesi  
**Stockist details on p194 ►**







GEOMETRIC details  
keep this TIMELESS  
black and white colour  
SCHEME from feeling  
too cold and starchy

**Kitchen** The units are bespoke and the black pots are from the 'Barro' collection by Ames Sala, while the artwork is by London-based Whitney McVeigh  
**Dining area** SuperStudio's 'Quaderna 2600' table for Zanotta was the first piece bought for this home. The light is the 'Mimosa' by Atelier Areti, and the painting is by Italian artist Romana Londi. Shelving by Rimadesio separates this space from the living room **Stockist details on p194 ►**







‘Galleries give me a sense of  
PEACE, with their MINIMALIST  
white spaces. I wanted to partially  
RECREATE that at HOME’



**Opposite** The ceramic floor tiles  
in the kitchen were cut to exactly  
the same size as the parquet  
throughout the rest of the house  
**Above** Glimpsed through this  
window, the all-white scheme  
of the office, situated in a glazed  
extension, has an orderly look ►





SHADES ranging from steel to charcoal add a SOPHISTICATED tonal depth to this MONOCHROME palette

**Bathroom** Square white tiles, arranged in a grid pattern, are given an element of drama with contrasting black grout  
**Bedroom** White Company bedding and a throw by Toast are topped by cushions covered in fabric from Romo. The raffia cushion was a holiday find in the Belgian town of Knokke-le-Zoute, while the wall light is by Vincent Devisscher for Atelier Moderniste **Stockist details on p194** 

