

Where: Holmwood, south of Dorking

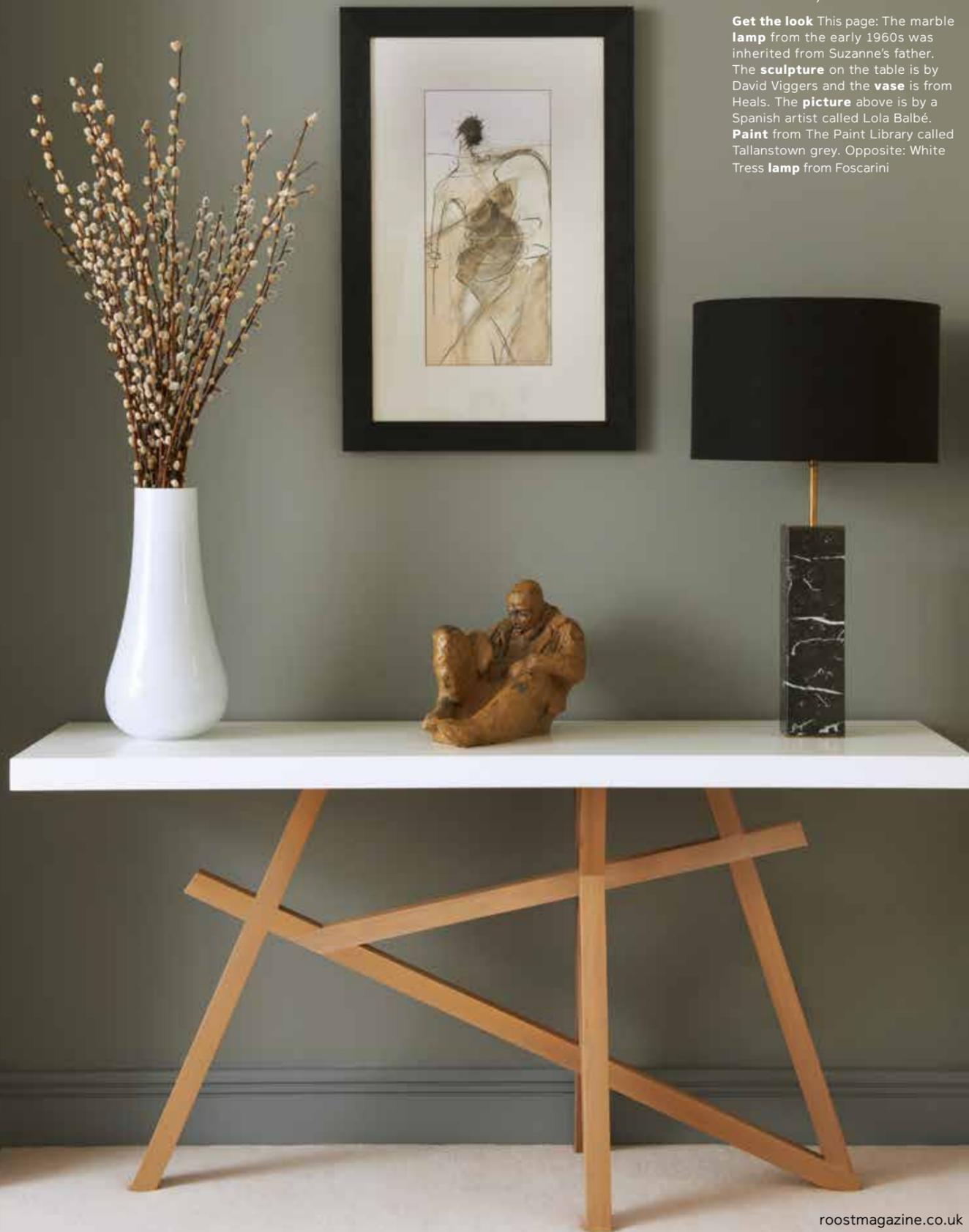
What: A 1930s house on a plot of land with views over the Mole Valley, redesigned to include a new entrance, hall, study and gym

Who: Interior designer Suzanne Tucker, her husband and (at various times) their six grown-up children

Grey's ANATOMY

A palate of deep greys and blues bring sophisticated style to Suzanne Tucker's cleverly extended home, which started life as a humble two-storey garage

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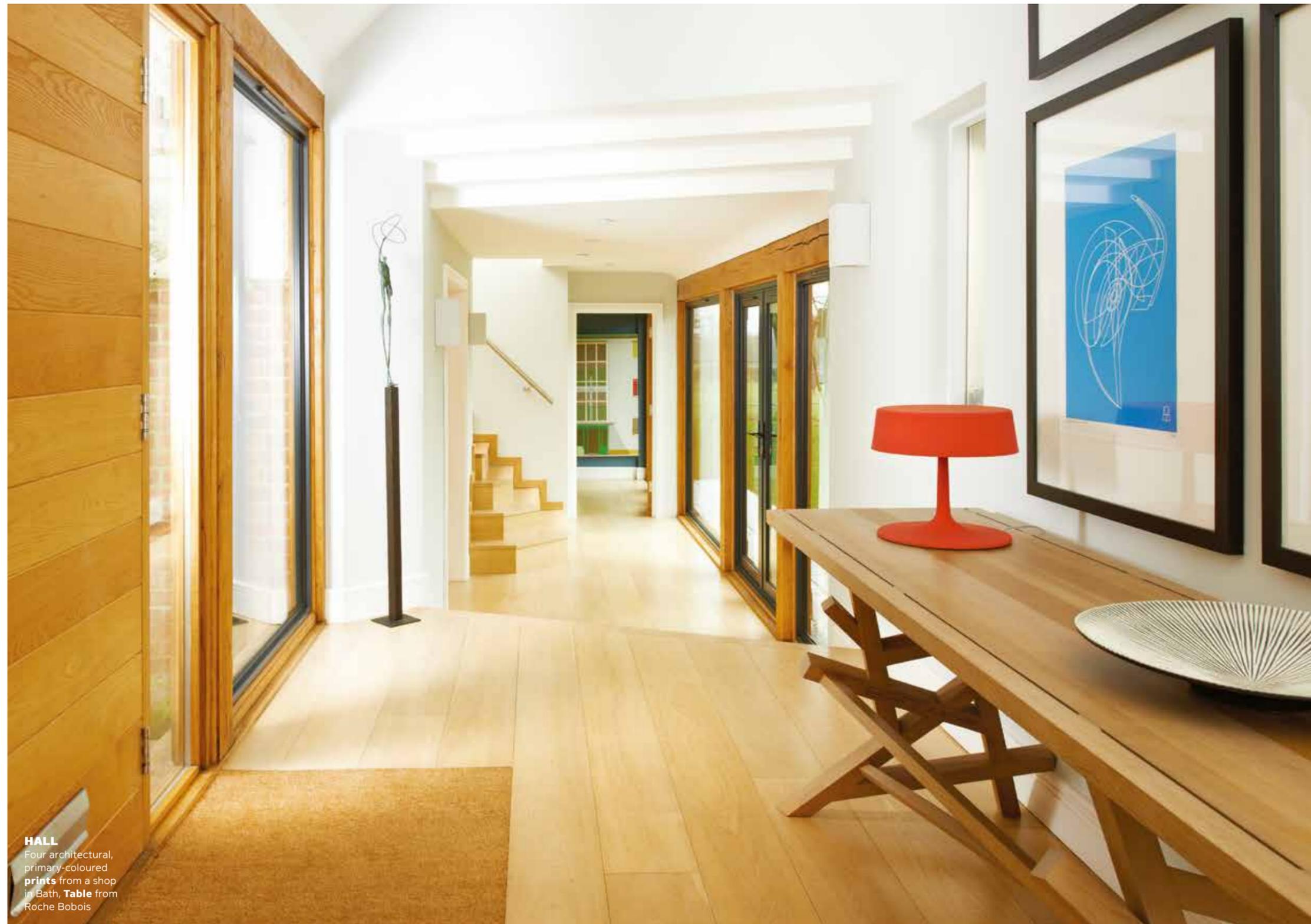
LIVINGROOM

'Grey is here to stay for a while, in all its variations', says Suzanne. In the living room, this simple collection creates a striking tableau which can be seen along the corridor from the kitchen

Get the look This page: The marble lamp from the early 1960s was inherited from Suzanne's father. The sculpture on the table is by David Viggers and the vase is from Heals. The picture above is by a Spanish artist called Lola Balbé. Paint from The Paint Library called Tallanstown grey. Opposite: White Tress lamp from Foscarini



THE HOUSE FEELS EFFORTLESS AND FLUID. COLOUR IS USED TO GIVE THE HOUSE A COCOONING FEEL



‘Contemporary eclectic’ is how interior designer Suzanne Tucker describes her style, and her home – hidden away off a winding lane south of Dorking – was a perfect place to showcase her skills; starting with a dramatic modernisation and extension.

Since they moved into the property five years ago, Suzanne and her husband John have added a stunning modern hallway and new entrance to the front and side of the building, making the most of the large plot on which the house sits, overlooking the fields of the Mole Valley.

The redesign of the house needed to allow space for Suzanne to run her flourishing business from home, a study for her husband, rooms for their six grown-up children to stay, and enough living areas to comfortably accommodate everyone. In the original building walls were knocked down to create a free-flowing ground-floor with the kitchen at the centre. The rooms in the extension, though light, are accented with deep hues which maintain the style throughout the house.

The wide, airy entrance hall is the exception to this style. It’s accessed through an oversized, solid oak front door that Suzanne had specially made. Glass panels on either side allow light to flood through in the mornings, and giant

HALL
Four architectural, primary-coloured prints from a shop in Bath, Table from Roche Bobois

'HAVE THE PIECES YOU REALLY WANT ON DISPLAY AND LOOK AT THEM ALL THE TIME. PUT THE REST AWAY'



LIVING ROOM: The feature wall houses the family's collection of books and artefacts. 'I'd love to work on a very contemporary, open house with lots of glass,' says Suzanne. Grey **corner sofa** from Roche Bobois. **Cushions** in fabrics by Kenzo. **Picture** above the fireplace is by one of Suzanne's favourite Spanish artists called Maria Colom, bought from Byard art gallery at the Affordable Art fair in Battersea



bespoke French doors further down the hall lead onto the garden and fields beyond. As well as its grand height, the hallway is wide enough to serve as another room, and a well-placed lounge chair provides a good spot for reading or admiring the garden. Suzanne's study sits in the extension and enjoys front-facing views over the driveway and fields, and at the far end of the hall a home gym smartly utilises a space next to the original garage, where John keeps his prized selection of vintage cars. The second storey of the extension houses another bedroom and bathroom.

The whole house feels effortless and fluid, with deep blues and greys giving the house a cocooning feel. But while the look of the house appears simple, there are many subtle details at play. "In the past people have gone for a clean, minimalist look," says Suzanne. "Now we are putting personality back into our homes and trying to make rooms cosier and warmer."

So although the hallway is clean and unfussy, interest is created by the lamp in the corner throwing subtle shadows onto the collection of four architectural, primary-coloured prints, an quirky table and sculpture.

"Have the pieces that you really want on display and look at them all the time", Suzanne advises. "Put the rest away. Sometimes the pieces you like won't match but they might »

KITCHEN

The tv set into the wall like this makes it look like a feature in itself. The colours flow from one room to the next emphasising the smooth layout of the downstairs.

Get the look: Table

from Habitat. **Units** from Magnet resprayed in Pebble Drift 5 from Dulux.



work together if placed at different ends of the room.”

For example, a busy feature wall in the living room is contrasted by a clean, spare table opposite, displaying just three beautiful items and a picture above. In soft, muted shades, and set against Suzanne’s favourite painted grey backdrop - Tallanstown grey from The Paint Library - it is a simple and elegant tableau to balance the energy on the opposite side of the room. The painting above the fireplace ties the sides of the room together by reflecting the vibrant colours in the wall of books.

What are Suzanne’s tips on creating this look at home? “Live with an empty space until you’ve found the right thing,” she advises. “When you’ve found it, you know, though it might take a couple of months of looking.” And if you fall in love with something but don’t know where it can go? “Buy it anyway and hold onto it,” she says. “I am always on the lookout! When you start spotting items you will soon find the perfect object.

“People can buy so much for themselves, but I always strive to buy one thing that they can’t find. It’s also important to know when to order something bespoke and where to get it made.”

The open-plan kitchen sits in the centre of the house and has a clever wall of bespoke cupboards lining the wide »



OFFICE

As well as mood boards for her clients, Suzanne gives them a wallet with all the samples in including pictures and photographs. They can have it to hand when they're out so they can be on the lookout. BELOW: The stairs in the office lead to the bedrooms upstairs and opaque glass helps light enter the study from the landing above

THE CHOICE OF A DEEP BLUE PAINT IS A BOLD ONE BUT IT SERVES TO WARM UP THE ROOM



corridor. They contain all the pantry items and kitchenware, meaning essentials are easily accessed but tucked neatly out of sight. The corridor of cupboards links the kitchen and the rest of the original house, bringing the whole space together. The choice of a deep blue paint on one of the walls was a bold move, but serves to warm up the kitchen, and it's one she has used with some of her clients.

“With a client in Holland Park we used lots of greys, and she wanted a blue kitchen so we integrated grey/blue cupboards. I work very closely with clients; if there's a piece of furniture that they love we work around that, or if someone has a collection of ornaments I like to put them in one place where they work together.”

Suzanne's father was an architect and she grew up with an awareness of the man-made environment. “We always lived in a very contemporary modern home and both my parents are interested in interior style, paintings and fabrics. My interest in interior design stems from that. I've been doing this for 13 years and it's always important to keep abreast of what's happening.”

What are Suzanne's style trends for the coming months? “Grey is here is stay for a while, accented with splashes of colour. And I like the revival of retro wallpapers, and those that look like metal and wood and bookcases.” ■

'I'VE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN PAINTINGS AND FABRICS. I LIKE THE REVIVAL OF RETRO WALLPAPERS'



BEDROOM:

Cushions are from a shop in the Cotswolds and another was spotted through an offer in the Evening Standard. This eclecticism, which appears effortless, defines Suzanne's style and works thanks to a clever play on colour.

BATHROOM

Wallpaper in both bedroom and bathroom is from the Fornasetti range by Cole & Son