

# NEW BEGINNINGS

Talei Stewart's move from Australia to Scotland was made easier when she fell in love with this home and got interior designer Kimberley Bremner's help renovating it

FEATURE JANET MCMEEKIN | PHOTOGRAPHY ZAC AND ZAC



## HALLWAY

The wallpaper chosen for the entrance references the family's travels to Thailand and sets the tone for the palette throughout the house.

Chaparral wallpaper in Antique Brass, £105m, Jim Thompson Fabrics. Oversized mirror, £599, Jeffreys Interiors

## SITTING ROOM

An eye-catching pendant is a focal point in this elegant, cosy space with its rich palette of deep blue and grey tones.

Jim's Dream wallpaper in Charcoal, £96m, Jim Thompson Fabrics. Lunar large pendant, £3,020, CTO. Ottoman upholstered in Intrigue in Noir de Lune, £65m, Casamance



## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY**

A Georgian A-listed townhouse

**LOCATION** Scotland

**ROOMS** Sitting room, sunroom, kitchen-diner, utility room, four bedrooms (two en suite), bathroom, dressing room

**PURCHASED** 2019

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We lived in a contemporary beach house in Adelaide, Australia,' says Talei.



### SITTING ROOM

The family's collection of books and artefacts have been displayed to great effect in this personal space with its layered tones.

Armchairs upholstered in Intrigue fabric in Carbone, £60m, Casamance.

Panelling and cabinetry in Basalt intelligent eggshell, £68 for 2.5tr, Little Greene



### DINING AREA

A bespoke dining table and banquette seating area is a space-saving solution in the modernised kitchen.

Banquette upholstered in Talamanca, £85m, Osborne & Little. Wish wooden dining chairs, £149 each, Cult Furniture



### LESSON LEARNT

*'Each room can have its own identity, but it's also important to have a link – for us it's the blue, green and mustard colours'*

Having fallen for the charms of an elegant Georgian property in one of Edinburgh's most sought-after streets, Talei Stewart realised that she had just stumbled across her next home. 'Although I was absolutely captivated by the historic townhouse, the prospect of moving 10,000 miles across the globe, to a property that was such a contrast to my contemporary beach house in Australia, seemed a little daunting,' says Talei. However, having met interior designer Kimberley Bremner of Edinburgh-based Jeffreys Interiors, Talei knew that the whole process would be plain sailing.

In 2019, keen to relocate to the UK, Talei had arranged a whistle-stop trip to Edinburgh with her family, before heading to the Scottish Highlands for Hogmanay celebrations. 'What was meant to be an overnight stay turned into something very different,' she says. 'The people in Edinburgh were so friendly and I felt such an instant connection with this amazing city that it became a hot contender as somewhere to live.'

Strolling through Stockbridge, a vibrant area to the north of the city centre, Talei was enchanted by the cobbled streets, ornate period street lights, neatly kept front gardens and array of handsome homes. 'This particular street was one of the prettiest I'd ever seen and, when I spotted a for sale sign, I couldn't believe it,' she says. Having swiftly arranged a viewing, Talei decided to make an offer on the house. 'Australia is all about bright, open-plan living, but I just loved the cosiness of this house and moodiness of the light,' she explains. 'It



## KITCHEN

Embracing the house's north-easterly aspect, interior designer Kimberley chose an earthy palette of dark green and black for the basement kitchen.

Bespoke kitchen, Peden & Pringle. Cabinets in Studio Green modern eggshell, £73 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



**MAIN BEDROOM**  
Olive tones are punctuated with black for a modern look that's also very elegant.

Woven wallcovering, Sahara Colour 10, £54m, Tektura. Barbara lamp, £1,100, Porta Romana

**BATHROOM**  
Brass finishes add a hint of glamour to this space, which has been painted in a soft, clay-toned palette.

Walls in Raw Umber elite emulsion, £51 for 2.5ltr, Zoffany. Fume Emperador polished limestone floor tiles, £42sq m, Mandarin Stone



**LAST WORD**

*Apparently the Queen Mother used to ask her chauffeur to make a detour to our street – and I can totally understand why'*

was in need of updating but it had some beautiful period features and just felt right. When you know, you know!

Talei was drawn to Jeffreys Interiors when she saw its website and, having visited the company's showroom, was delighted to cross paths with Kimberley. 'Right from the outset, I had a very clear idea about the interiors. I wanted to feel cocooned in a relaxing home, surrounded by my books and artwork,' Talei explains. 'Since Kimberley shares my love of dark, atmospheric interiors and totally understood my design brief, I trusted her to take the lead in this long-distance process.'

When the sale completed in June, taking on board Kimberley's suggestions to rejig the layout, work began. 'I recommended moving the sitting room to the ground floor and repurposing the space to create a special main bedroom suite,' Kimberley says. Downstairs, in what was a split-level kitchen, Kimberley advised levelling the floor and commissioned Edinburgh-based Peden & Pringle to design a bespoke kitchen.

Taking inspiration from Talei's art, pieces collected during travels with her family, and her desire for warm, textured layering, Kimberley painstakingly researched, created and photographed mood boards for each room, before sending the images and samples to Australia. 'I wanted each room to be tied together but also have its own identity,' Kimberley explains. 'The main linking features were the palette of blues, greens and mustards.'

The result is a home that Talei adores. 'Kimberley's work completely exceeded my expectations,' says Talei. 'This is a beautiful home that's truly magical.' 25

