



PORTFOLIO 3



Sarah Wyndham Lewis knew she was in for a challenge when she bought a former sugar mill in Bermondsey, south-east London. Having previously lived in a spacious eight-bedroom Victorian villa, Wyndham Lewis and her husband were looking for a change. A long search unearthed this property, built in 1860, in which she spotted potential instantly, despite its tricky layout and limited storage and light. 'The property narrows from front to back. It could have easily just turned into a railway carriage, so we tried to make finite areas with defined functions in the space,' she says.

The family sold half their possessions in the move, and Wyndham Lewis and her design manager, Toby Wilson, also devised clever storage ideas for the house. 'It's very much like being on a boat. The boys' bedrooms have hugely deep cupboards for everything, including the TVs and stereo systems, all put away.'

Wyndham Lewis also wanted to maximise light while maintaining privacy. The high-gloss kitchen from Neil Lerner, chosen to reflect the light, was an exception to the generally weathered or honed finishes in the house. The property's location in a conservation area meant that windows had to open inwards, so using shutters from the New England Shutter Company provided a solution for both shade and privacy. Wyndham Lewis was also able to restore some of the building's original features, such as the loading platforms on the outside of the building which were properly forged for her. 'We didn't want to get carried away with high tech,' she says. 'The most important thing was to preserve light, character and texture' **idFX**