



#### KITCHEN/ BREAKFAST ROOM

Niki likes to describe this scheme as being in a 'caravan style', as it is so compact and ergonomic. Lark and Larks supplies kitchen doors painted in vivid shades of blue, from £11 for a 285 x 296cm design. Billsta table, £139, Ikea

#### INSIGHT EXOTIC ACCESSORIES

❖ Niki sources many of her textiles in countries such as Uzbekistan, which is located along the Great Silk Road, an ancient trade route linking Europe with Central Asia.

them as little gem accents, or layered to create a strong, bohemian style,' says Niki.

❖ Embroidered fabrics, floral silks and vibrant yarns are all integral to the look of a traditional design: 'I like to use

While her cushions have an unmistakably ethnic vibe, Niki's rugs appear more modern. But these are also imported from the East. 'They're made in India, using techniques handed down the generations,' she says.

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#### DESIGN ADVICE

'I learnt at college that people are happiest when they're surrounded by colours that make them feel comfortable – that's why certain shades are used again and again'



Niki Jones follows a simple philosophy when it comes to interior design. 'Buy things you really love and you'll never tire of them,' she says. 'It's all about quality, not quantity.' Looking around the beautifully furnished apartment in Glasgow, which Niki shares with her young son Gilli, it is clear that she has put this theory into practice.

Having finished her studies at London's Royal College of Art, Niki worked as a textile designer for Habitat and creative director at Wedgwood, before setting up her own craft business in 2009. In fact, it was the launch of Niki's company that prompted her to return to her native city from the British capital. 'I travel extensively to source products, so the support of my family in helping to bring up Gilli was vital,' she explains.

'The apartment has slowly evolved since I bought it two years ago,' Niki continues. 'I took my time getting to know the flat before decorating it, as opposed to rushing in and gutting the place.' She purchased her home from a developer, who had worked hard to preserve the period features that Niki is so fond of. 'It's a listed building, so he wasn't allowed to touch the cornicing and the wall panelling,' she says, 'which is why the kitchen is fitted in the centre of the space.'

With no structural improvements to worry about, Niki concentrated instead on revamping the decor. 'The light varies from room to room, so I've used differing shades throughout,' she says. 'Darker palettes make just as good a backdrop as lighter tones, which often people ▶

**VIEW FROM SITTING ROOM**  
Bathed in light from the bay window, the dining area is Niki's favourite spot in the flat. A comparable table based on the classic Tulip design by Eero Saarinen, from £675, is available at Design Icons. Upholstered footstool in linen, £350; Lattice rug, £1,250, both Niki Jones

**MASTER BEDROOM**

A striking combination of pattern, materials and palettes results in a look that is both glamorous and cosy. Colonial curved rattan bed, from £995, Sweetpea & Willow. Kangree bedlinen, from £120 for a double duvet cover; silk quilts with handmade pompom decorations, £350 each; bone-inlay bedside cabinet, £435; bespoke mother-of-pearl and bone-inlay floor mirror, around £850; bone-inlay three-drawer chest, £1,395, all Niki Jones. Walls painted in Down Pipe estate emulsion, £29.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



**SITTING ROOM**  
Niki loves to curl up here with a good book. Button-upholstered armchair embroidered with natural linen, £1,195, Niki Jones



**GILLI'S BEDROOM**  
The table and chairs are some of Niki's earliest designs. John Lewis sells a comparable round child's table, £59. Ikea's Ringum rugs, £6.99 each, are near identical to these three



**BATHROOM**  
Tiling the walls gave this inherited scheme a fresh feel. Fired Earth is a good source of iridescent mosaic tiles; its Oyster Waterfall, £199 per sq m, is also available in a similar sparkling blue

**DECORATING TIP**  
'Farrow & Ball's Down Pipe has a depth and texture that other colours can't match'

don't realise, and I've used both here'. However, having continuity is important to Niki, too, so she laid oak flooring to unify the reception area with the kitchen. But it was retiling the bathroom in a Moorish-style mosaic that gave the best indication as to how Niki would furnish the rest of her home. For it is the fabulous collection of finishes, fabrics, design classics and curios that gives the apartment its unique look. Handmade textiles, of course, play a vital part in the mix. 'I've brought back examples from India, Eastern Europe and Indonesia, and they still inspire me today,' says Niki. 'I like to take traditional designs and put my own stamp on them, playing with the proportions, colour and materials until they become something new.'

In contrast to what Niki calls the 'disposable nature' of many products available on the high street, sustainability is another of her passions. 'The cushions, quilts, upholstery and bone-inlay furniture that I sell are made by craftspeople, and a lot of love and skill goes into the work,' she explains. 'The result is longevity. I adore the idea that we can mend things and pass them on, and the mismatched threads in some of the fabrics are part of their charm.'

Now that the apartment has been brought up to scratch, it serves as a peaceful sanctuary where Niki can work on her latest designs undisturbed by the outside world. 'In the office, the phone is constantly ringing and there's always something going on,' she says. 'I'm never happier than when I'm sitting here with the sun streaming in through the huge bay window. This place is a real inspiration.'