

STUDY

Giving new life to an old antique – Justine had her vintage armchairs upholstered in a fabulously vibrant Jane Churchill fabric.

HOME TRUTHS

✿ **THE OWNER** Justine Beal, her husband Andy, who is a fund manager, and their children Alice, Eddie and Finlay, plus cats Gracie and Jensen

✿ **THEIR HOME** Detached Edwardian house

✿ **LOCATION** Hertfordshire

✿ **ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, study, playroom, six bedrooms, (one en suite), three bathrooms

✿ **PURCHASED** 2000

✿ **PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We moved here from a 1930s semi-detached townhouse nearby,' says Justine.

WHERE THE
HEART IS

THE BEALS SPENT A MAJORITY OF THEIR LIVES ABROAD, EXPERIENCING DIFFERENT CULTURES AND LIFESTYLES. BUT FOR JUSTINE, SHE KNEW ONCE THEY HAD A FAMILY THAT SHE

FEATURE JO WELCH ✿ PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON

DINING ROOM

One of the most neutral pieces of furniture in the house, this exquisite, Danish original 1950's dining room set (in rosewood) was a real find, bought at auction.

Similar set, Garrat Chestnut Oval Dining Table & Carron chair, Laura Ashley (www.laurashley.co.uk).



A market town in Hertfordshire can rarely claim to be exotic but when it came to settling down, Justine and Andy Beal chose this pretty part of the country in preference to Korea or the American west coast. 'We'd spent many years living and working in these wonderful places,' Justine explains. 'However, when our first

child, Alice, was born, we knew we wanted to be closer to our families.

'We had so many mementos from our life abroad that we needed to have a big home to house everything.' With that fairly basic objective in mind – as well as a big garden – they quickly bought their current house and set to task.

'We had to move into rented accommodation while the house was renovated so we knew it had to be a swift and smooth process – luckily we managed our deadline,' Justine says. 'We had an excellent project manager who really handled things well and we had an amazing interior designer at hand.' Having an incredible amount

LIVING ROOM

The use of co-ordinated purples and olive greens create an exotic, serene feel to the living room. The olive green colour runs throughout the



INSPIRATIONS
'Our travels. The colours' in
Mexico and the atmosphere
of sunny southern California'



KITCHEN
A family sized kitchen, equipped with a central island unit. The kitchen is painted in a light neutral colour to stay in keeping with the 'light and airy' brief. For a kitchen like Justine's please contact www.howdens.com for a quote on their 'Glendevon Cream' kitchen.



BEDROOM
Another perfect example of mixing the new with the new - an antique sleigh bed looks perfect next to the vibrant Jane Churchill wallpaper and made-to-measure Jane

of abstract furniture - Justine had a simple design brief - to create open-plan living and clean lines. This enabled the Beals to make full use of their vibrant collections and not be restricted by certain colourways; although Justine still felt she needed a little guidance with her interiors. 'Luckily she was put onto designer

Sherry Wales, and I'm very grateful for that!' she says. Justine was adamant that the kitchen was the biggest priority in the renovation. 'We wanted the kitchen to be the hub of the house, the heart and soul,' she says. We opted for a big open-plan kitchen, with everything light and spacious.' This is exactly

what was achieved, with a central unit and a separate breakfast bar-style table, which opens into the dining room. 'I really wanted to create somewhere where the children will want to come in and chat while doing their homework,' she says. Justine began planning the aesthetics with a nod of approval from



BEDROOM DETAIL
A simple dressing table with a bespoke mirror, made by Justine's interior designer, Sherry Wales.



BATHROOM
Simple and elegant, this master bathroom is equipped with his and hers sinks. His and hers sinks are available at www.bathstore.com 08000 23 23 23 'beta ceramic