

Perfect harmony

Satu Ore-Tervo and her husband Ari transformed an unusual family house into a cohesive home, blending inherited antiques with contemporary designs

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KITCHEN-DINER
'Our most recent project involved painting the cabinets and updating the countertops and hardware,' says Satu. Another new addition is the custom-built plate rack - the perfect frame for an extensive collection of vintage china. Chichester kitchen, Neptune, is similar. Try Vita Gustavian dining chairs, Georgia Lacey

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Detached home,
built in 2004

ROOMS Sitting
room, dining room,
library, kitchen, four
bedrooms, four
bathrooms, a sauna
and a gym

LOCATION
Finland



LIBRARY

Repainting the fire surround and panelling has transformed the space. 'It's our favourite room now. We love to sit and read by the fire,' says Satu.

Petit Fleurs wallpaper, Boråstapeter. Try the David Hunt Fauna table lamp, Broughtons of Leicester

SITTING ROOM

Nordic shades of blue, beige and grey are the sitting room staples, with inviting armchairs and sofas grouped around an antique glass-topped coffee table.

Cushions in Sanderson's Magnolia and Pomegranate fabric. Try Juan ceramic stool, Orchid. Ginger jar, Indigo Antiques



Satu and Ari had admired a smart house in a quiet part of town for years and when it came up for sale, they had to act fast. 'We weren't looking to move, but this was our dream home and we'd always said we'd buy it given the chance,' says Satu. 'It's not typically Finnish in style and has a charming international look about it. It has big windows, high ceilings and beautifully landscaped gardens.'

After a week of bidding, Satu, who plans to open an antique and vintage store, and her husband Ari, managing

director of an electrical enclosure company, became the lucky new owners.

The property was just a short walk away from their previous home in the town of Espoo, half an hour from the Finnish capital of Helsinki. The house was in good condition and the couple didn't rush into making decorative changes, preferring to live in it for a while to see how it felt. 'Then, in order to give ourselves more of a blank canvas, we painted a few walls white,' says Satu.

However, when eventually they decided to update the library, they

were disappointed with the results.

'We built white bookshelves and chose a dark muddy brown paint for the walls, but the colour didn't feel right at all,' says Satu. 'Around the same time, I inherited a lot of antique furniture and paintings, and the house felt overwhelmed. We had lots of decorating ideas, but we didn't know how to balance them all into a functional yet beautiful home.'

It was at that point that Satu and Ari turned to interior architect Elina Siltanen-Sjöberg for guidance. Elina specialises in creating cosy Nordic interiors with an

'Inherited antiques slot beautifully into these classic yet contemporary schemes'



ENTRANCE HALL
Classic chequerboard ceramic tiles in grey and white, plus light grey walls with a few classic wall hangings lend understated elegance to the entrance, setting the tone for the harmonious look throughout the home.

Try Calacatta White and Bardiglio Light chequerboard marble tiles, Intmarble

MAIN BEDROOM
The panelled walls and soft grey-blue colour scheme continue into the main bedroom, creating a restful scheme. As with elsewhere in the home, the furniture and decor strike a balance between traditional and classic-contemporary aesthetics.

Josette wallpaper, Laura Ashley. Rocksjön armchair in Klovsta, Ikea



international flavour and is the author of two books, *Hidden Gems – Home Like a Dream* and *Charming Rooms*, both published by Cozy Publishing. She quizzed the couple closely to understand their ideas.

‘We told her we love classical, fresh and contemporary styles, and that we have a more is more kind of attitude,’ says Satu. Elina discovered that Satu and Ari love the combination of beige and blue, and were looking to introduce pattern with wallpaper and fabrics. ‘We wanted to keep our existing sofas and reupholster as much as possible,’ says

Satu, ‘and we needed to tie in all our blue and white porcelain somehow.’

Using Elina’s suggestions, Satu and Ari started to transform the house. ‘It was a huge renovation, but we saved money by doing most of the work ourselves,’ says Satu. ‘We enjoy working together and even though it took us longer, the results are so rewarding.’

Elina was on hand to advise whenever they got stuck and the finished result is remarkable. The living space is now calm and characterful, with the inherited antiques slotting comfortably into their

new surroundings. The biggest changes are in the hallway, where Elina suggested panelling and chequerboard flooring, and in the library. There, the muddy brown paint has given way to floral wallpaper, with blue woodwork and green accents. ‘We weren’t sure about the green at first, but it adds a beautiful extra dimension,’ says Satu. ‘The colour palette and all Elina’s changes have created flow and harmony. This home is now built with all the ingredients we love and the rooms make us happy every single day.’ 25
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‘We had many dreams, ideas and visions, but they also developed during the design process’

