



# Hadley Wood Family Home

*Interior designed by Christine May Interior Design*



Christine May Interiors was originally contacted back in 2008 by the owners of this fine six-bedroom property in one of Hadley Wood's most prestigious residential roads. The client had decided that it wasn't practical to manage a toddler, plan her wedding, as well as update the design of the large house that she and her intended had just moved into. She had started and tried to make improvements in the living room and kitchen but she felt that the house still lacked colour and warmth so to make the vision of her dream home come alive she knew she needed

professional help. After interviewing a number of interior designers, she appointed Christine May of Christine May Interior Design. Christine, who is a member of the British Institute of Interior Design, has been designing interiors since the 90s. After surveying and discussing what needed doing and the order of importance, Christine began in the sitting room. There was already a sofa and two arm chairs to work with which were positioned in the traditional way, facing a fireplace, but there was a huge void in the middle of the room, which was perfect for an

ottoman. So Christine designed a bespoke oversized leather ottoman with a walnut bridge table to create a useful and stylish space for magazines and somewhere to put cups, glasses and vases for flowers etc. She also designed a matching media unit and lamp tables, which immediately gave the cream colour scheme some added warmth and depth. Bespoke paintings in gilded frames were added to the scheme along with soft raspberry coloured cushions and coordinated accessories.

By this stage it had become apparent that more than decoration was needed to bring

Hadley Wood - Family Home

this 1926 house back to life and get the best from the spaces within. So at her clients' request, Christine and her team embarked on a rolling programme of works that include plumbing and wiring, a new heating system, replacement windows and other miscellaneous building works working on one area of the house at the time while the client continued to reside there. This rolling programme allowed Christine's

client to budget and pay for each room scheme as Christine progressed through the house.

In the kitchen/diner, her client had already installed an expensive Bulthaup kitchen, but the stark white walls against the sleek white of the kitchen cabinets made the room appear cold and uninviting. Christine had already established that the client was uneasy with bold colours and that her natural

inclination was towards the cooler end of the colour spectrum, so together they chose Green Blue from Farrow and Ball paints for the walls. Christine then suggested adding additional lighting including wall lights and accent lighting above the tall cabinets housing the cooker, fridge freezer and larders. Over the breakfast table in the adjoining vaulted ceiling extension, she installed two Caboche pendants by Foscarini. A sea-grass



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mat under the table was also added which helped to eradicate the noise of scraping chairs against the tiled floor. The later addition of made to measure window shutters added character to the windows while the final additions of framed family pictures on the wall help make the room one that the whole family now gravitates toward.

Once the kitchen and informal dining areas were complete (the client was really pleased with the way the look and feel of the rooms had changed under the guidance of a trained professional) work began on the

formal dining room. This was a blank canvas and after some persuasion, the client agreed to a darker colour on the walls than she would normally be comfortable with; the grey blue tones were picked up in the Tim Page carpet and silk curtain fabrics from Beacon Hill. The furniture was commissioned from Julian Chichester with lighting from interior designers favourite lighting company; Porta Romana. The resulting room is glamorous and, at night, it becomes a dramatic backdrop for entertaining; the client and her husband are delighted.

The second floor loft rooms were next on the to do list. This large space at the top of the house, previously with no function, is now a spacious guest bedroom and guest bathroom which has added thousands of pounds to the value of the house. The clients' trust in Christine May meant that by now Christine could suggest deeper colours, which in the sun drenched room look cheery and pretty. The furniture, designed by Christine, includes a bespoke four poster bed finished in antiqued white. The new shower room is lined with frosted glass tiles and mosaics from





Fired Earth. The two linked spaces have a slight Moroccan feel to it which allows guests staying over to feel like they are on holiday.

After tackling the hall, stairs and spacious landing, the master suite was the next and final area to start. By now the client was expecting their second child and Christine and her team worked against the clock to deliver a sumptuous suite before the client delivered her baby. The brief was to create a luxurious but understated space that would be a quiet refuge in the months and years to come. The bedroom suite leads off the main landing and comprises an inner hallway with the bathroom first on the right; next, an open arch leads into the semi open plan bedroom area while further at the end of the inner hallway are the dressing rooms, his on the right and hers (sunken) on the left.

The existing bathroom was clad in beige marble and was a mix of classical details with a 1980s spa bath and a very modern, trough-style basin. The clients' brief here was to









install a freestanding bathtub, create storage and install a shower that didn't flood the floor each time it was used. The team realised that by removing the stud walls, they were able to add another 400mm to the overall size of the room. This was a key factor if all the requested elements were to be included. In keeping with the clients' wish for a modern subtle design, matt ceramic tiles in natural bone were used to clad the walls and floor with texture added by using matching bush hammered listello tiles. The glass finish vanity unit and large mirrored cabinet provide much needed storage space while recessed open shelves, backed with mirrors and internally lit, provide stylish open storage. The composite stone bathtub, which overlooks the rear garden, adds glamour and is the focal point of the room and gives the room a wow factor.

In the bedroom, the walls are silk lined and with meticulous attention to detail the edges are piped in matching silk. The colour scheme for the master suite is a pleasing combination of taupe, silver and grey with ivory silk curtains. A clear acrylic curtain pole and finials from Tilley's and bedside table lamps from Porta Romana add sparkle and modernity to the 'classic with a modern twist' scheme. The cabinet furniture in a smoked oak finish adds weight to the scheme. Helping the luxurious timeless design to flow, silk carpet in oyster is used throughout the bedroom suite with cushions and a throw in a selection of coordinating fabrics adding texture and definition.



The clients' requirements were always uppermost in the minds of the design team, so the dressing rooms were planned to allow for maximum storage. The drawers are finished in lizard effect leather and lined in soft grey suede while all the wardrobe doors are mirrored, to reflect light and create the illusion that the small rooms are larger than they actually are. All the handles are hand forged in nickel from Minimo. The Gracie

lights on the dressing table and on the wall either side of the hall mirror are designed by Kevin McCloud, who before he found fame with *Grand Designs* was actually a lighting designer. The huge mirror in the hallway is framed in the same lizard effect leather used in the dressing rooms, as too is the bed base.

The finished master suite is harmonious and elegant; the clients are thrilled with the

finished result and they were able to move back into their bedroom almost exactly nine months after the whole process began and – just one week before the birth of their baby daughter. In fact, everyone delivered on time and exactly as planned.

*For more information and to see other Christine May projects visit [www.christinemayinteriors.co.uk](http://www.christinemayinteriors.co.uk)*

