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SUPPLEMENT
OF THE YEAR

MAGAZINE

11.07.15

CAN THIS MAN
WIN SPORT'S
ULTIMATE TROPHY
FOR BRITAIN?

NO SWEAT

Giles Whittell meets Ben Ainslie

11.07.15

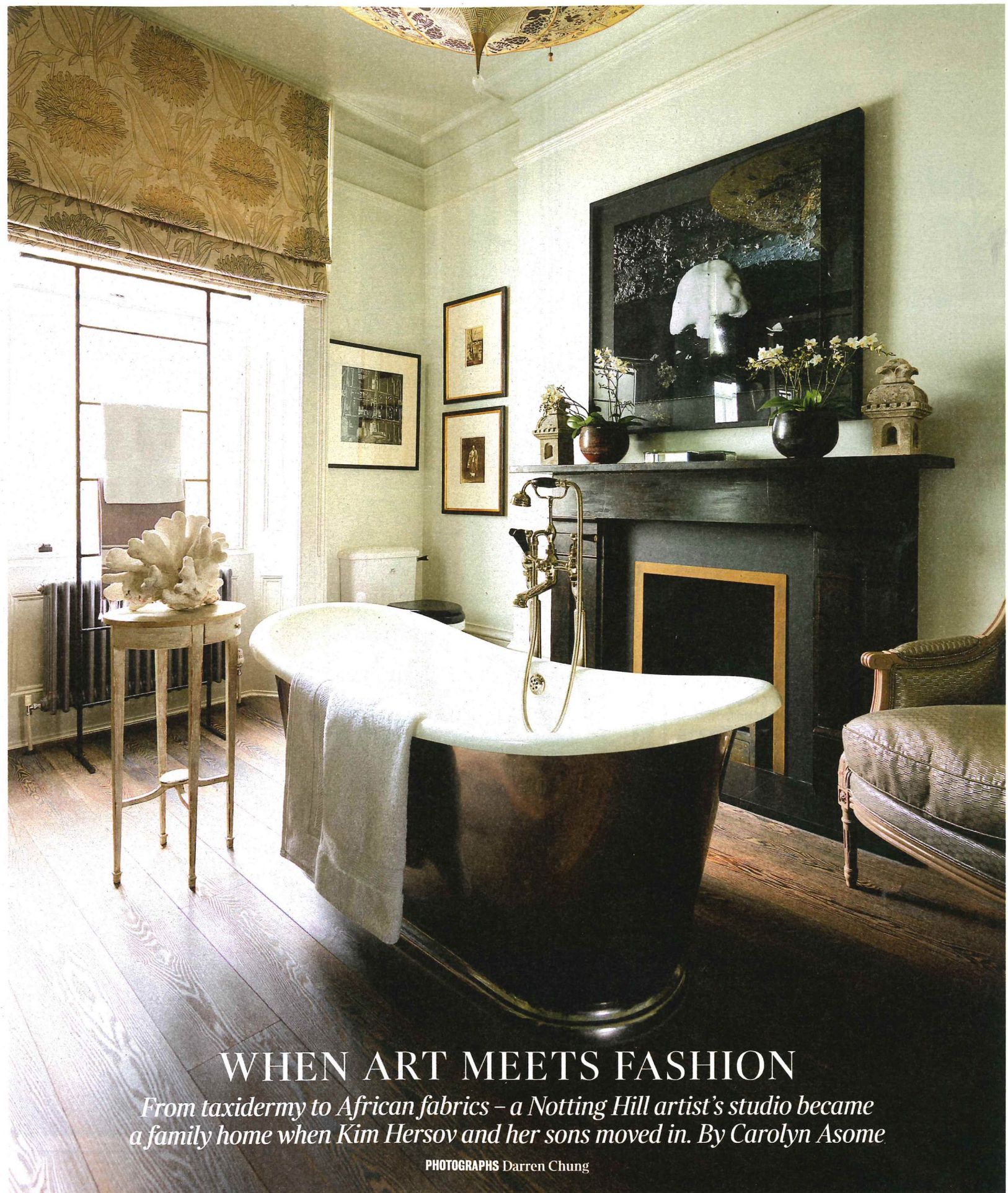
THE STYLE PAGES



**At home with
the Notting Hill set**

*Kim Cattrall's
art-filled town house p58*

PLUS 39 BEST BEAUTY PRODUCTS - FOR MEN • HILARY ROSE'S SUNGLASSES RULES





In many ways, Kim Hersov's house is an anthology of stories. It's the story of her friendship with the interior designer Hubert Zandberg; of her life post-divorce; of her travels to India, Africa and France; of what many families look like in 2015. It's also the story of returning to her California roots and a youth spent moshing to Nirvana and dropping out to the Grateful Dead.

As such, the Notting Hill town house that Hersov, a fashion editor and designer, shares with her partner, the artist Barry Reigate, their six-year-old son, Aidan, her teenage sons, Alexander and Luke, and her stepdaughter, Elfie, is wildly eclectic. It's a gutsy combination of African and Indian artefacts, antique brocante finds from Paris and Provence, contemporary taxidermy and Reigate's own art, which lines the blue walls.

"Quite simply, it reflects where Kim was willing to travel in her head," says Zandberg, who helped his friend to redecorate Reigate's former studio, creating a family-friendly five-storey home with a series of rooms with different personalities.

"The house needed a lot of architectural detailing to be restored. We had to work out what couldn't be ripped out, because it's listed,



Clockwise from far left: Kim Hersov; the kitchen; Hersov's bedroom; assortment of art on the wall, including Rainbow and Mickey Mouse by Barry Reigate



'It's important not to deny the past. That table used to sit in a grand French room, and yet it now looks a bit throwaway'

before we could set about adding new doors, panels above doors to create the illusion of height, and architraves," explains Zandberg. "If you get the architectural detailing right, then the whole house looks seamless."

"The fun of this project was that Hubert helped me to give my favourite bits of furniture a new lease of life," says Hersov. And so the side tables in her former dining room are now her bathroom-sink tables, while a black screen by Nominka D'Albanella, a London-based artist who works with glass, has been reworked for her bedroom.

"It's important not to deny the past. Look at the table there," says Zandberg, pointing to a faded mirror table in a cosy snug off her main sitting room. "That used to sit in what was a grand French room, and yet it now looks a bit throwaway."

Hersov arrived with around 60 per cent of the house's contents. The rest was sourced



from Portobello market, Columbia Road and Clignancourt and Paul Bert markets in Paris. Fortunately, Hersov and Zandberg were on the same page when it came to having different rooms for different moods. With its raw brick walls, concrete floor and modern, steel kitchen, the basement has a distinct industrial feel. The sitting room has a more modernist feel, and the snug, off the main sitting room, is designed as a “cabinet of curiosities”, says Hersov.

To many, this may not seem the most child-friendly house, but Hersov insists she is not precious. “There are three teenagers who live here, usually sprawled all over the sofas. But I think it’s great that they are learning to live in a space like this, and to be considerate of their surroundings.”

Unsurprisingly, Hersov, who cut her teeth on American *Vogue* and has recently co-founded Talitha, a collection of holiday-inspired pieces with embroidery expert Shon Randhawa, is strong on colour and texture. She says that Zandberg has taught her to become more daring, a lesson that has also spilled into the way she puts her outfits together.

The most arresting room of the house, and Hersov’s favourite, is her bedroom, the walls of which are covered in a warm turquoise silk. It is opulent, decadent even, and filled with rich, contrasting prints and textures such as the butterfly bedspread from Kokon to Zai and



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Clockwise from top left: the dining room, with painting by Reigate; the master bathroom, with side tables turned into sinks; the shower room

an armchair upholstered in a bold orange silk. The fabrics and mood of the room suggest a nostalgia for the Californian artist and set designer Tony Duquette, who was also a friend of Hersov’s grandmother. Above her bed is a picture and birthday present from the artist Alastair MacKiven. She is also very fond of the Anne Hardy print that hangs above a console table covered in African objects.

There are few walls in Hersov’s house that aren’t covered in art, even on the stairwell to the top of the house. Reigate may have had little to do with the overall design direction of the house, but his art is everywhere. There is also a taxidermy piece by Polly Morgan, who is godmother to Aidan, of tiny birds cheeping from the earpiece of a Bakelite phone, and a large Mat Collishaw photo, which hangs in pride of place in the sitting room. A Pieter Hugo photograph hangs in the hallway.

“It’s not as if I’ve amassed some priceless art collection,” Hersov says with a smile. “It’s more that we are friends with many of the artists, so the artwork is personal.” ■

hzinteriors.com; talithacollection.com



The sitting room, with Munich chandelier by Richard Taylor Design and mirror by Christian Astuguevielle