

Terrace

Luana had a chair and stool from her old house reupholstered in a bright Graffiti velvet by Timorous Beasties for this garden room, which looks out to the terrace. Filled with outdoor furniture from Tesco, this space gets the sun till mid afternoon, with durable composite decking for the Manchester weather next on the to-do list



‘It feels like a Mediterranean retreat here’

Light and space were the main draws for Luana Hanson, who has swapped London life for a relaxing oasis in a vibrant Manchester suburb

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Luana

“My style is modern, clean and minimalist, but with an eclectic twist”

Step inside...

Meet the owner

Luana Hanson, a production designer in the film and TV industry who also runs an interior design practice (luanahansoninteriors.co.uk) lives here with her son, 14

House details

A modern, three-bedroom split-level property in south Manchester

When she bought it

September 2019



↑ Kitchen

Luana loves the simplicity of the kitchen for preparing and cooking meals, with a favourite canvas of Porthmeor beach by her mum taking pride of place on the wall. 'I'd like to eventually change the worktops to quartz, adapt the island to create a breakfast bar and remove the extractor fan, adding one flush to the ceiling,' she says

After 30 years living in London as a student at The Royal College of Art then a film and TV production designer, Luana Hanson decided to sell the Victorian terraced house in Twickenham she shared with her 14-year-old son, and return to her native Manchester. 'I'd always enjoyed coming back up here for work,' explains Luana, who has designed

sets for productions including BBC's *Last Tango in Halifax*, as well as winning a Royal Television Society Award for her work on Channel 4 drama *It's a Sin*. 'There are more work opportunities here now than ever before, especially in TV, so I was happy to move back up north for a new lifestyle,' she says. 'I wanted somewhere similar to Twickenham with a sense of community and good transport links to the city.' →



In her bid to find the ideal house, Luana viewed 18 properties. 'I viewed 65 potential homes when I lived in London, so to me it wasn't that many!' she admits. 'The market was very buoyant though, so as soon as something came up for sale, it was being snapped up straight away.'

Eventually Luana found a modern eco home with solar panels in a suburb of south Manchester that was perfect. 'I loved the open-plan, split-level layout, and it was full of light, which was so important to me,' she explains. 'Plus, it's very green around here; there are 70 acres of meadows just down the road where you can go walking.'

↑ **Outdoor access**

Off the kitchen is a door leading to another small patio area, where Luana sometimes has breakfast. 'Along with the rear decked patio, there's also a little roof terrace, so it's nice having three different outside spaces'

After tackling all the DIY snagging jobs during lockdown alongside her busy job, Luana has gradually worked her way around the house, replacing the bedroom carpets and re-painting the white walls with a combination of natural stone shades. And by opting for contrasting dark navy feature walls in the living room, kitchen and bedrooms, her cherished possessions and artwork can really sing.

'My style is modern, clean, uncluttered and minimalist, but with an eclectic twist,' says Luana. 'I'm inspired by everything from magazines and Instagram to art galleries and exhibitions, and I often →



Dining area

There's ample space to seat eight when friends and family visit, and the glass balustrade and open-tread stairs enable plenty of borrowed light to come through the large windows at the rear. 'I picked a classic Scandi design table by Hay and teamed it with chairs from John Lewis & Partners that won't date,' says Luana

Mezzanine living room

A dark feature wall painted in Dock Blue by Little Greene makes Luana's artworks - including a framed glass box of memorabilia found in her late father's sculpting studio - stand out, while creating a contrast with the lighter faux-suede sofa from Habitat. 'I like a bold pop of colour, so the pink velvet cushion from John Lewis & Partners works well,' she says





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← **Fireplace**

The wood burner was already in situ but Luana has painted behind to accentuate it. 'I created the artwork myself many years ago from leftover paint, and it fits perfectly in this space,' she says

→ **Staircase**

A trio of pendants from Tala Lighting make the most of the ceiling height and complement the glass balustrade. 'I love the unusual split-level layout,' says Luana. 'It's what originally drew me to the house'



get ideas when I'm out reccing for shoot locations and looking inside people's houses.'

Dotted around the house are several pieces with special meaning created by Luana's late father, a sculptor who was head of studio at Madame Tussauds. They include a bronze model of Luana's head from when she was six, and her son when he was eight. There are also coastal scenes by Luana's mum, a painter and sculptor who lives in St Ives, as well as film and TV memorabilia from various projects. 'I've framed some of Gary Oldman's story boards, which he gave me as a thank you present when I worked

on his film *Nil By Mouth*, she says. 'And I have a cast of Alfred Hitchcock's hands from 1979 that my dad was involved in creating, which I plan to put up in an alcove.' There's also a gold painting in the living room created as a test piece when Luana was designing Rifat Ozbek's London Fashion Show in 1993. 'We then gold-leafed an enormous backdrop for his catwalk show, in which Naomi Campbell, Yasmin Le Bon, Linda Evangelista and Cindy Crawford were all modelling,' she recalls.

Next, Luana wants to add more fitted wardrobes in the bedrooms and replace the wooden fencing at the front →



Luana

“We live in a world of endless consumption, but I try to buy classic pieces that won't date and will last a long time”

with glass balustrades. However, she's not one for impulse buys or wastefulness. 'You might want things, like an outdoor kitchen for instance, but you don't actually need one,' she says. 'We live in a world of endless consumption, but I try to buy classic pieces that won't date and keep them for a long time. I've had the Habitat sofa for about 25 years, for example, and the coffee table was originally maroon, but I've painted the top in the same stone colour as the walls.'

Having started an interior design business in London, Luana is keen to share her expertise with homeowners in Manchester too. 'My job had taken me to 18 different countries, and it was difficult juggling the travelling and long hours expected in TV and film,' she explains. Her top tips include keeping a project diary, getting a detailed breakdown for any quote, never selecting a paint colour under artificial light and always having a contingency fund of around 20%. 'You only have to watch *Grand Designs* to know that every project goes over budget!' she says.

Luana has no regrets about moving and the new lifestyle her home affords her. 'It's given me space to entertain, an office to create in, plus it's near the hustle and bustle of a lively, trendy street,' she says. 'I do tend to get itchy feet, and would love to go travelling for a year in a camper van, but I can always rent this place out if I do.' 🏠



↑ **Landing** Luana picked up the pair of Egon Schiele art prints at the Pompidou Centre on a trip to Paris when was 18, opting for a simple monochrome pendant light from Amazon with a Tala bulb to complete the look



↑ **Main bedroom** A long made-to-measure shelf provides a spot for an ever-changing display of prints and family photos. Luana has painted the bottom half using Off-Black by Farrow & Ball, which makes her bed from The White Company stand out, and the bee motif on the Timorous Beasties cushion is a symbol of Manchester



Bathroom

Trailing plants bring verdant freshness and a softer element to the monochrome bathroom, which features wall-hung fittings to make the space feel bigger