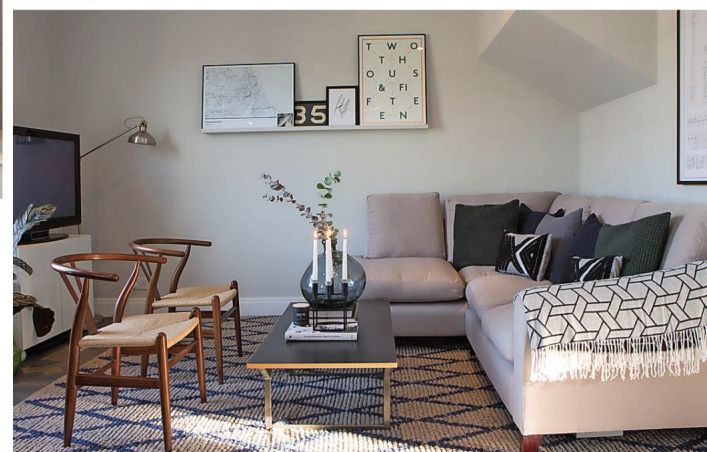




The en-suite bathroom is done in Moroccan tadelakt, and below is the airy, light living room



# Naturally NORDIC

*Some people have an innate eye for design – certainly the case with new Scandinavian interior designer on the block, Cat Dal*

Words BETHAN ANDREWS

**D**reaming of creating a space in your home that is open yet feels as inviting as the most luxurious hotel room? Cat Dal is the woman for you. Having set up Cat Dal Interiors in 2015, the Scandinavian interior designer is going from strength to strength and scooped the Top Interior Designer at New Design Britain 2015.

It's important to Dal that she makes any design as fresh as most Scandinavian influences filtering through our culture, but that she makes the projects affordable too. A project that shows this perfectly is the recent renovation of her own home, a Victorian split-level flat in Tufnell Park, where she constructed a dormer in the attic bedroom. Natural materials play a starring role in Scandinavian design; it connects you to the vitality of the outdoors, which, as Dal tells us, simply makes us feel good.

'The flat has beautiful proportions and a double height window overlooking the gardens, so we wanted to make the most of the natural light,' says Dal. 'The result is a clean, modern yet mid-century



atmosphere with high end finishes, pops of rich colour and reclaimed materials.'

It was dated and unloved, but Dal and her husband loved the dimensions of the property and the character, so decided to make it their project. 'It was a big project that started the day after we got married in Ibiza, so there was no holding back,' she says. 'It was a fun learning experience. I had two heads on: my design business brain and my owners' heart – I had to be strict with myself.'

Staying within budget is a challenge, Dal says, as it's hard to work out where it is worth spending the money and where it

is worth holding back. 'My favourite room is the en-suite bathroom, which has polished plaster called tadelakt, a Moroccan plaster they use in Spain and it's like silk to touch,' says Dal. 'With the light coming onto the Bert and May tiles, it's a really lovely place to shower.'

One of her biggest hates is unnecessary clutter, so this is part of her thought process. In the airy master bedroom renovation, there is a place for everything and this, combined with the teal colour scheme, sets a calming atmosphere. 'You have to constantly remind yourself about how you actually live,' she says. 'That's why I get very personal when I work with my clients.'

'I often start with a conversation, getting to know them and then looking at images to see what they like. It sometimes just starts with artwork. It's a two-way street where we kind of interview each other to see if we match.'

Design has come to the forefront of a lot of bars now, somewhere Dal gets a lot of inspiration from. 'Inspiration comes from the heart though,' she adds. 'And from being brought up in Scandinavia, I always start my designs from a feeling. Then I move to the colours, materials and nature – there will always be organic materials in my rooms.' Versatility and diversity in projects is something that Dal takes in her stride, and which means hers is a name we will see everywhere in 2017.

Find out more at [catdalinteriors.com](http://catdalinteriors.com)