

“Then we looked at establishing the different living areas. As she was going to work upstairs, we had to accommodate both the dining and living areas on the lower floor.” To make every inch count, Candice took advantage of the unused space under the stairs. Here she placed a dining table with a banquette on one side, which takes up less room. As corner sofas also give the most seating in a small space, Candice placed one facing the TV and included two ottomans for extra seating. “I also designed a small sideboard alongside it to provide storage space for the extra items the kitchen couldn’t accommodate.” The round coffee table is easy to negotiate and light enough to move around.

“As I wanted to establish a sophisticated look, and there were no children or pets to consider, I used a selection of plain and patterned neutrals throughout, and introduced metallics and textures to add subtle interest,” explains Candice. The only place she deviated from this was in the main bedroom. “I thought the very dark blue (Plascon’s Dark as Night) on the wall would be beautiful and it’s the perfect foil for the pink in the cushion fabric.”

The small square windows in both bedrooms dictated the placing of the beds. “You had to centre the bed below them or the room would have looked unbalanced. This left very little space on each side for bedside tables so I had to be creative here. In the main bedroom, I had a small sculptural unit custom-made and in the guest room I used two wall-mounted cabinets.”

Contributing subtle glamour is the lighting. “I believe in using mood lighting as much as possible and introducing beautiful light fittings to enhance the decor. As there were slabs and concrete ceilings to deal with, and we weren’t able to chase the walls, lighting the apartment was a challenge. For the pendant lights, we managed to draw power from wall plugs upstairs. We fitted the lights with



receivers so they can be operated by remote control,” says Candice, who also replaced the standard wall lights with small unobtrusive designs.

Aside from new floors, the kitchen was left as is and so was the bathroom. “We just softened these areas with pictures, plants and open shelves.”

The other attractions of this apartment are the outdoor living spaces. Off the living room is a small patio. For more privacy, Candice installed a faux buxus hedge and for low maintenance, filled the wall mounted pots with fake plants.

Upstairs is a larger partially covered area with space for dining. “To create a garden-like atmosphere, we laid artificial grass on the floor, introduced weatherproof furniture and continued the glamour with a large beaded chandelier above the dining table. This was a gift from a colleague and it works beautifully,” says Candice. ▷

**ABOVE:** As the **guest bedroom** is small, the bedside table was wall-mounted. The cushions are in Stuart Graham and Tessa Sonik fabrics.