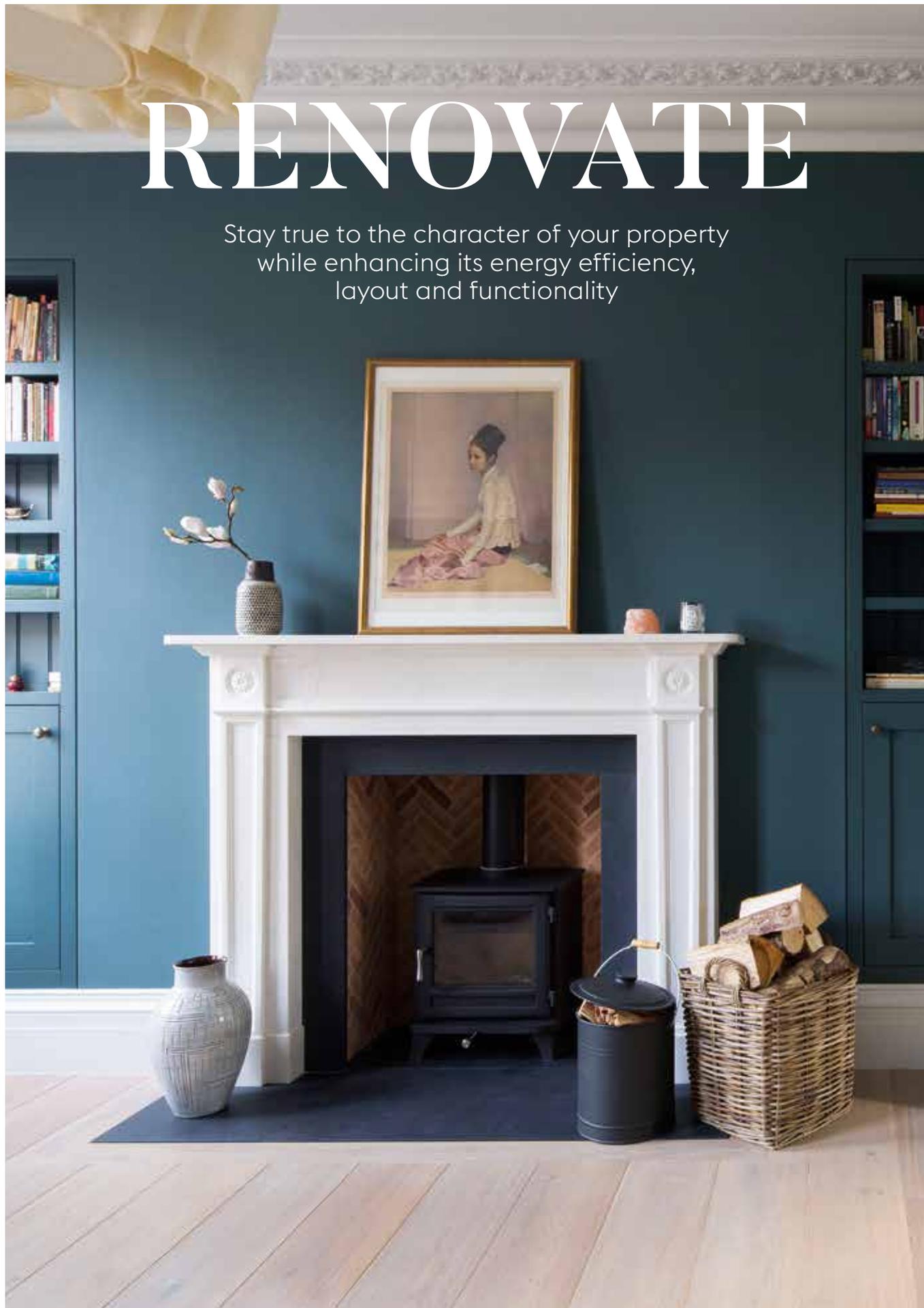


# RENOVATE

Stay true to the character of your property  
while enhancing its energy efficiency,  
layout and functionality



# An eco upgrade

State-of-the-art energy-efficiency technology and a sensitive restoration has brought this period home into the 21st century

## PROJECT PROFILE

**LOCATION** Islington, London  
**PROPERTY** Four-storey Georgian house  
**DURATION OF BUILD** 23 months  
**THE BRIEF** Renovate and improve the energy efficiency  
**COST** £5,000 per sqm

This Georgian home renovation included improved thermal performance and energy efficiency



Shaker-style cabinets are part of the bespoke kitchen by Plain English (020 7486 2674; plainenglishdesign.co.uk), with prices from £45,000



Detailed corning and architrave replicate the original designs. The wooden flooring is Oak New Spitalfields from Ecora (020 7148 5265; ecora.co.uk)

The new layout of Eleanor and Martin Brandon's semi-detached home features a spacious open-plan lower ground floor, positioned around a remodelled staircase. This reworking of this level allowed for a kitchen, dining and family area that opens out onto the garden.

The project was the work of practice Cousins & Cousins (020 7482 4009; cousinsandcousins.com). 'Creating a light-filled house with a rational layout was an important element of the brief,' says Jelena Cousins, design director at the firm. Another key priority was to improve the building's energy-efficiency.

Every interior surface was stripped right back to the building's fabric. 'Working with energy consultants, Enhabit (020 8380 8908; enhabit.uk.com), we upgraded the property as close to Passivhaus standard as possible,' says Cousins. 'This process involved adding insulation to all external walls, and an

internal wrap to improve air tightness levels.' As a result, all of the exquisite design details – including windows, doors, panelling, cornices and architraves – are either copies or contemporary interpretations of the originals.

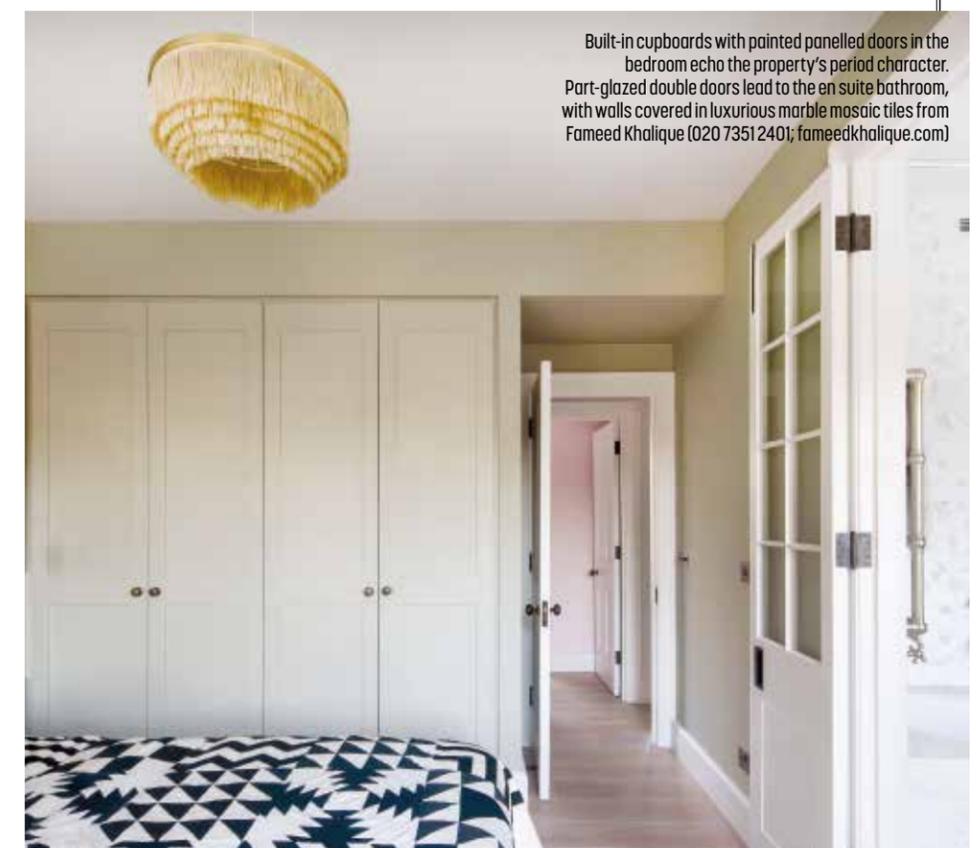
A mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) system was also installed to channel a fresh supply of air to all rooms. 'The supply and extract grilles are cleverly hidden within fitted joinery,' explains Cousins. Eleanor and Martin have noticed a marked difference in the air quality and temperature levels. 'The comfort that goes along with the improved energy efficiency of the house is a major plus,' says Eleanor.

With the work now completed, the couple are delighted with the new layout. 'We love how the project has created an open flow-through on the lower ground floor level, plus a strong connection with the outdoor space,' explains Eleanor. **GD**

**'We upgraded to as close to Passivhaus standard as possible'**



The front entrance leads onto the remodelled staircase



Built-in cupboards with painted panelled doors in the bedroom echo the property's period character. Part-glazed double doors lead to the en suite bathroom, with walls covered in luxurious marble mosaic tiles from Fameed Khaliq (020 7351 2401; fameedkhalique.com)