

at home with **andy sturgeon** with **skerritt consultants**



ANDY STURGEON IS THE GARDENER ON BBC1'S *HOUSECALL* AND HAS PRESENTED *GARDENING NEIGHBOURS* ON BBC2. HE LIVES AND GARDENS IN BRIGHTON WITH SARAH AND THEIR YOUNG SON LUKE

which are all very clean, contemporary and simple, with everything being painted white. Unfortunately, we've then stuffed it full of all our rubbish and more toys than Hamleys. Incidentally, the toys belong to our children.

What has been your biggest home extravagance?

The tap in the kitchen. I didn't know they could cost that much, but it's beautiful in a curvy kind of way. I'm thinking of angling one of the spotlights so that we can appreciate it on a more regular basis and really get our money's worth.

Do you DIY and, what was the last job you tackled yourself?

Yes, but I probably shouldn't as nothing makes me swear so much. Naturally the problems are rarely my fault and are usually caused by the tools. When we were having all our floors put down, a radiator had to be moved and our plumber did his back in, so I did it myself. We haven't had the central heating on since - I'm praying it won't leak.

Have you had any design and decorating disasters?

The new kitchen has a bulls blood red wall. We bought something like

20 different tester pots to try and get the colour right, and I think the decorator was ready to pack up his brushes and leave. We eventually made a decision but I'm not sure if it's right. Sometimes I think it looks like there's been some horrific accident involving the blender.

Are you green fingered?

I like to think so.

How do you use your outside space?

For gardening, entertaining, relaxing and growing edible things. The gardens are stuffed full of plants but there's also lawn, a sandpit and a stainless steel water rill for my kids to play in.

What would be your dream home?

A very modern house on a sandy beach somewhere warm, with an enormous garden and a swimming pool. I could go on, but don't want to appear greedy.

How do you relax at home?

By not doing DIY. Listening to music and gardening.

What is your favourite way of entertaining at home?

Cooking, eating and drinking, but especially having people come to stay for a few days.

Where do you live and what kind of property is it?

I live near Preston Park in a Victorian town house which is the opposite of a tardis, as it looks much bigger than it is from the inside.

What single thing made you buy your home?

The garden. This was the first house we saw and the garden is very long and quite thin. We wanted to live near the sea, but the gardens were tiny or non-existent in all the houses we looked at, so this one kept crying out to us.

Which is your favourite room?

The kitchen. We've just knocked a wall down and put in a new kitchen, and I spent hours planning every tiny detail. The old kitchen was slightly larger than a telephone box so this one is a real luxury, and it's brilliant to have something made exactly how you want it.

How would you describe your home's style?

Cluttered minimalist chic. Although we've gone to great lengths to preserve the original features we've put in oak floors throughout, and we've had custom-made cupboards, shelves and wall units

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