WHAT IS BRITISH STYLE?

Diverse, eccentric, steeped in tradition yet alive with innovation – these unique homes display the many influences at play today...
Living room: The 'Parliament' lamp by Le Corbusier - reissued by Nemo - overlooks a 'Tulip' Marshmallow sofa by George Nelson from Hanna Miller, as well as a 'ChaiseLongue' sofa and 'Chippy' chair by both by Doshi Levien for Moroso. The "Triple Lens" mirror, a limited edition piece for Galerie Kreo, the 'Robe' rug by Nani Marquina and 'Mara' side table by Bulthaup are all also by the design duo. See stockist details on page 26.
It's interesting how people can live in the Burj酬 кров and yet do up those beautiful Brutalist apartments like they are in a little country house,' muses Nipa Doshi, one half of the multiple Elle Decoration British Design Award-winning studio Doshi Levien, which she founded in 2000 with her husband Jonathan Levien. It's a thought that has been bothering the couple since they and their 11-year-old son Rahul moved into a new home in the London landmark just a year and a half ago.

Upgrading from their old first-floor apartment on the same estate to a three-storey penthouse with views of the City should have been simple, but the pair's dream home needed a lot of work, having previously been owned by an elderly gentleman with a penchant for beige carpets and drab magnolia walls. Both were removed immediately, but for the rest of the project, the designers took a more considered approach, living in the flat for a few months before deciding on the pared-back aesthetic that Nipa now describes as 'the perfect canvas'.

"For me, a home is the place where you accumulate the things you love," she adds. For this couple, that includes many of their own creations. Jonathan masterminded the kitchen and many of the cabinets that dot the apartment, as well as the bespoke bed. With a cotton mattress reminiscent of the ones Nipa slept on growing up in India, and an elevated profile that allows air to circulate underneath it, it's true to the Doshi Levien aesthetic.

"Generally, our pieces are not very big," points out Nipa, who explains that they are intended to be placed in spots where they can be viewed from all angles, like functional sculptures. That is true of the 'Cape' chair, designed for Cassina, that sits in the living room, and the lights from their new self-produced 'Earth to Sky' collection, but it could also refer to any of the thoughtfully curated objects in this home. There isn't a hierarchy to the pieces we own," says Nipa, who sees just as much value in her collection of brass and copper vessels rescued from a recycling exchange in India as she does in classic designs, such as the teapot by Memphis Group founder Ettore Sottsass.

Whether relaxing on the roof terrace while gazing at the imposing Cromwell Tower or sitting in the lotus position on the rug in the living room playing music - Nipa is studying Indian classical singing and Jonathan plays the tabla (Indian drums) - culture and architecture are of equal influence here. These joint inspirations are best displayed in the miniature painting that she made in collaboration with artist Shami Banerji that hangs in the living room (opposite). Set in the Le Corbusier-designed Villa Sarabhai in Ahmedabad and featuring depictions of some of Doshi Levien's designs, it presents the mythical love story of Radha, the guji (milkmaid) who became the consort of the god Krishna. "It's a world of indoors, outdoors, modernity and tradition," says Nipa, who could just as easily be describing the dichotomies at play in her own home. doshilevien.com
NIPA DESCRIBES HER HOME'S PARED-BACK AESTHETIC AS 'THE PERFECT CANVAS' FOR HER DESIGNS AND FINDS

Kitchen Pieces on display include Indian stainless-steel spice containers and a colourful bag by Doubi Levavi for Totid Detail. Left: The 'Triptych Lava' mirror by Doubi Levavi for Galeria Kreno hangs above their 'Charpy' daybed for Moroso

Dining room: Swedish and Indian antiques sit on a 'Huller' storage unit by USM. The 'Tulip' table is by Ezra Friedman for Ebell, the chairs by Charles and Ray Eames are from Herman Miller, and the 'Model No. 360' pendant light is by Gino Sarfatti for Arredap Stocklot details on p156.
Below: In Rahul's bedroom, a USM 'Haller' storage unit displays a 'Turn On' lamp by Hug, a 'Table' lamp by Etienne Sottsass – available at Memphis Milano – and a sign by artist Marianna Kennedy announcing his birth. The 'Kali' mirror cabinet by Doshi Levien for Authentics hangs above Opposite: A 'To-Moi' armchair by Doshi Levien for B&B Italia is placed beside the 'Cancer' chair by Charles and Ray Eames for Herman Miller. Behind, an 'Atollo' table lamp by Vico Magistretti for Flos can be seen beside the rubberized staircase.

Stocklist details on p.106.
"FOR ME, A HOME IS THE PLACE WHERE YOU ACCUMULATE THE THINGS YOU LOVE"

Details, from top: Douki Levi’s ‘Squamish Lute’ limited-edition mirror for Galerie Kreo hangs in the hallway. In the bedroom, the ‘Kangel’ cabinet on the wall, the sideboard and the bed are all by the design duo, while the ‘551’ table lamp is by Mario Zanuso for Giacoma Bedroom. A ‘69 Globe’ pendant light by Verner Panton for Verpan hangs above the hospitable mahogany bed. The large storage unit is by USM and the rug is the ‘Taboret’ design by Douki Levi for Zimmermann Stockist details on page 19.