

BAZAAR

LIVING

EDITED BY CHARLOTTE BROOK

OPEN HOUSE

Polly Morgan welcomes *Bazaar* into her characterful home. Plus, Sophie Ashby's chic boutique; Erdem's horticultural hideaway; and why Claudia Schiffer can't resist a plate of spaghetti bolognese...

PHOTOGRAPH BY PHILIP SINDEN



*The living-room.
Opposite: Polly Morgan
wears knit cardigan,
£460, Acne Studios.
Denim and cashmere
jeans, £920, Loro Piana.
Leather sandals, £320,
Totême. Left: steps
leading to the roof terrace*



ON THE CORNER OF A BUSY ROAD in southeast London stands a retired pub, its austere grandeur now tempered by a prolific wisteria that rambles over the red brickwork, saloon doors and signage advertising 'Stout' and 'Buxton Ales'. Belying appearances of romantic dereliction, this former tavern is not abandoned at all, but the thriving family home and creative headquarters of one of British art's powerhouse couples: Polly Morgan, renowned for her use of taxidermy, and her husband Mat Collishaw, who came to prominence as one of the YBAs. He bought the house 12 years ago; Morgan joined him six years later. They live here with their two children, making boundary-pushing work within its walls while reshaping the four storeys one room at a time – including the beer cellar, which is now Morgan's studio.

'After the pub closed, the building was used as a filming location, so they kept the ground floor as a bar and then every other room in the house had a different look. We still sometimes see it on the TV,' Morgan says, sitting in her sunny backyard while delicately painting a cast snakeskin sage-green for a forthcoming show at the Royal Society of Sculptors. And so, with the aim of adapting the interior to suit their life, work and tastes, the couple took down the flocked wallpaper and re-organised the infrastructure, Morgan drawing up plans herself and implementing them with the help of Noto Architects. After knocking down walls and removing loo cubicles, they transformed the ground floor into a vast, versatile space that serves variously as a shared office, a party room (where, on one occasion, Morgan held a dinner for 60 people to celebrate her 40th birthday), storage

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for their artworks and even a home for the children's trampoline. 'My aesthetic has always been a bit more modern than this building allowed for, so it's really nice to have carved out a more contemporary, minimal area,' she says. 'I used lots of pictures of [the architect] Luis Barragán's house as a reference – I love those clean lines, and the juxtaposition of muted tones with bright colour.'

Offsetting the industrial feel of the workspace, with its raw, unpainted walls and chrome Knoll chairs, is the canary-yellow paint shade of the passageway leading



Morgan and Collishaw's shared office, with a pink ceramic vase by the artist Leena Similu on the table



Morgan's artwork, 'A Hundred Hints' (2018)