





HOME TRUTHS THE PROPERTY Sixties Span house LOCATION Berkshire ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, cloakroom, two bedrooms, bedroom/study, bathroom PURCHASED 2015 PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We used to live in a Victorian house in Cheshire,' says Carol.



hanging jobs is never simple, so when Carol and Cris Towner decided to relocate their work from the northwest of England to Berkshire, they wanted to make life easy for themselves by buying a home that was similar to their previous Victorian property. But in the end, the house that caught their eye was a Sixties Span design. With huge windows, an open-plan ground floor and

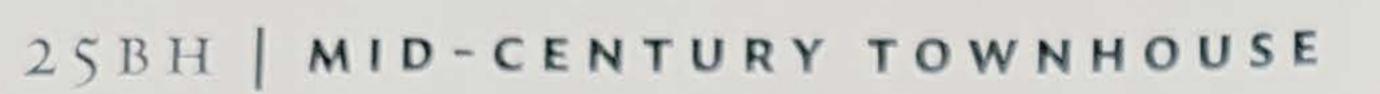
soaring ceilings in the bedrooms, it was the complete opposite of their last home.

'We were really impressed by the layout and loved the light that flooded through the windows all day,' says Carol. 'We had never heard of Span housing or of the architect, Eric Lyons, whose concept was to blur the edges between indoor and outdoor space. But it appealed to us, and we've found it creates a relaxed environment.' Ironically,

the former owner had tried to turn this futuristic design into a classic country cottage. 'There were floral curtains and wallpaper and lots of pink,' says Carol, 'so we decided to go back to basics and complement the original vision for the build."

Cris searched online and discovered Deborah Moor, whose interior design company, Slightly Quirky, offered the clean lines and styling that he and Carol were







after. 'Deborah and her co-designer Caroline Nicholls came in right from the start, says Carol. 'They helped us find everything, from builders and materials to lighting and furniture. They respected the original design and era, yet delivered an up-to-date house without losing its heart.'

From the start, the Towners decided on no half measures. 'The walls were taken back to the brickwork and replastered, and

new electrics, heating and floors were fitted," says Carol. We replaced the single glazed windows with double glazed wood-framed units, and a kitchen and bathroom were installed.' During the work, which took six months, the couple rented nearby.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the interior now is the way it echoes Sixties style without following it slavishly. Deborah's use of ply for much of the storage and shelving,

smoked oak for the furniture and seagrass for the sitting room wall is typical of the period. Scandinavian-inspired schemes were also in vogue at that time and when Deborah introduced Carol and Cris to the Danish company, Carl Hansen Furniture, they could not help but treat themselves to a new dining table and chairs, too.

Although the house feels spacious thanks to its floor-to-ceiling windows, the



rooms are modest, so most of the couple's furniture didn't really fit. 'We kept pieces with a meaning, such as artwork, explains Carol, 'but we sold a lot on eBay or gave it away.' This meant they could start afresh. Built-in storage was needed, so the couple asked Deborah to design a new kitchen - to include Cris's request for a red cooker - and all the fitted furniture for the sitting room. The use of open plywood shelves is a theme

that runs throughout the ground floor It not only provides practical storage, but also acts as the perfect setting for the pair's

collection of sculpture and ceramics. Upstairs, two of the bedrooms have high, sloping roofs that provide the perfect opportunity for even more storage. In the bedroom belonging to Cris's two daughters. Scarlett, 14, and Florence, 12, who often stay over, there was even enough room to build a

striking mezzanine level accessed by a ladder. It gives the girls some independent space where they can work or play, says Cris.

Span homes have become design classics and the Towners' main aim was to respect the architect's philosophy. I think the best decision we made was to find a designer who could really help turn our vision into a reality, says Carol. This unique building has become the perfect home for us. 3









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