

myHome

Helena Saget, 53, has had careers in theatre costume design, teaching, and advertising before becoming a ceramic artist and designer. She shows us the workshop of her Victorian home in Fenham, Newcastle.

'I feel like I'm going back in time'



Where is your home?

My house is located in a leafy Victorian terrace in Newcastle in a bohemian section of Fenham. At the end of my street are a park and a moor, where cows graze in the summer. The city centre is a 15-minute walk away.

How would I describe it?

When I enter the house I feel like I'm going back in time – perhaps even a foreign land. Much of my storage furniture has been purchased at Millers auction house; other pieces I've had shipped over from Poland. Bric-a-brac is mainly from markets in Europe. This is contrasted by contemporary soft furnishings.

Why did you move there?

I was living in London when I inherited some furniture. I was flat-sharing and wanted to buy a place of my own to house the furniture. Even though I was on a comfortable salary I couldn't afford a property in a location where I would want to live, so I came back to Newcastle and bought what was then a four-bedroom house.

How much did you pay for it?
£42,000.

What is your favourite room and why?

While I have a ceramics studio in Ouseburn, the dust from the clay makes it unsuitable for computer or paperwork, so I use an upstairs room in my house as a secondary workspace. It's the largest room in the house, and being upstairs it's lighter and warmer. I find it very relaxing.

What are your favourite homes and interior shops and websites?

I like the style of many of the homes seen in World of Interiors publications. I love

"At the end of my street are a park and a moor, where cows graze in the summer"

the restored furniture sold at Castle Gibson and the colours of Designers Guild fabrics.

What's the best thing about living where you do?

I have interesting and friendly neighbours, plus the proximity to the city centre and parkland.

What are your favourite shops, pubs and restaurants?

1 Table: I wanted a surface large enough for me to lay out reference materials, a layout pad and a laptop all at the same time, not to mention ornaments. I painted the surface with emulsion and then waxed it to make it smooth and waterproof.

2 Earthenware shelves: I designed these shelves to be ornamental in themselves and to be a surface upon which curved objects can sit without falling over or rolling off. The petite ones are perfect for displaying small objects. They're available at the Biscuit Factory priced from £15 to £75.

3 Porcelain Note pads: This 'sustainable' note pad, which I designed at my studio in Ouseburn, can be written on using a regular pencil and

old notes can be rubbed out with a rubber eraser or washed off with cream cleaner. They cost from £10 for a memo fridge magnet to £60 for a three-page spiral bound notepad (email Contact@helena-seget.com).

4 Picture frames: These are from car boot sales. I cut my own picture mounts and frame anything from vintage packaging to bread!

5 Leather suitcases: My mother picked these up in Egypt in 1947, when en route to the UK from Palestine, where she'd served in the ATS.

6 Name Plaque: This was taken from the house in Poland, which I inherited from my aunt. The house was located on what had once been German territory. The town, Strahlen, is now called Strzelin.

I love the Cumberland Arms in Byker. It's a charming pub in a great location. Bangkok Mini-mart on Low Friar Street serves delicious Thai street food

while Persian Delight on Stanhope Street is a curious café/restaurant where you can eat freshly prepared food while watching national soap operas on a large-screen TV.

DO YOU WANT TO APPEAR IN myHOME?

Email a photo and a brief description of your home to karen.wilson@ncjmedia.co.uk and we could be sending out a photographer to your home.



GET PACKING Battered vintage suitcases. Similar ones can be bought from @FernAvenue Antiques Centre in Jesmond. From £30.

How to get Helena's look



IN PRINT
Classic retro village hall print (45cm by 33cm) in a black PVC clip frame from www.tch.net. £17.99



FLOWER POWER
Forever flowering silk orchid in a pretty silver glass pot from shabbychicoriginals.co.uk £15



PATTERNED Fleur de Lys stencil measuring 9in by 9in (CS28 Damask 3 Solo) from www.stencil-library.co.uk or call 01661 844844. £22.45 inc free UK postage.