

HOMES & INTERIORS SCOTLAND

Circulation ('000): 16

Readership ('000): 60

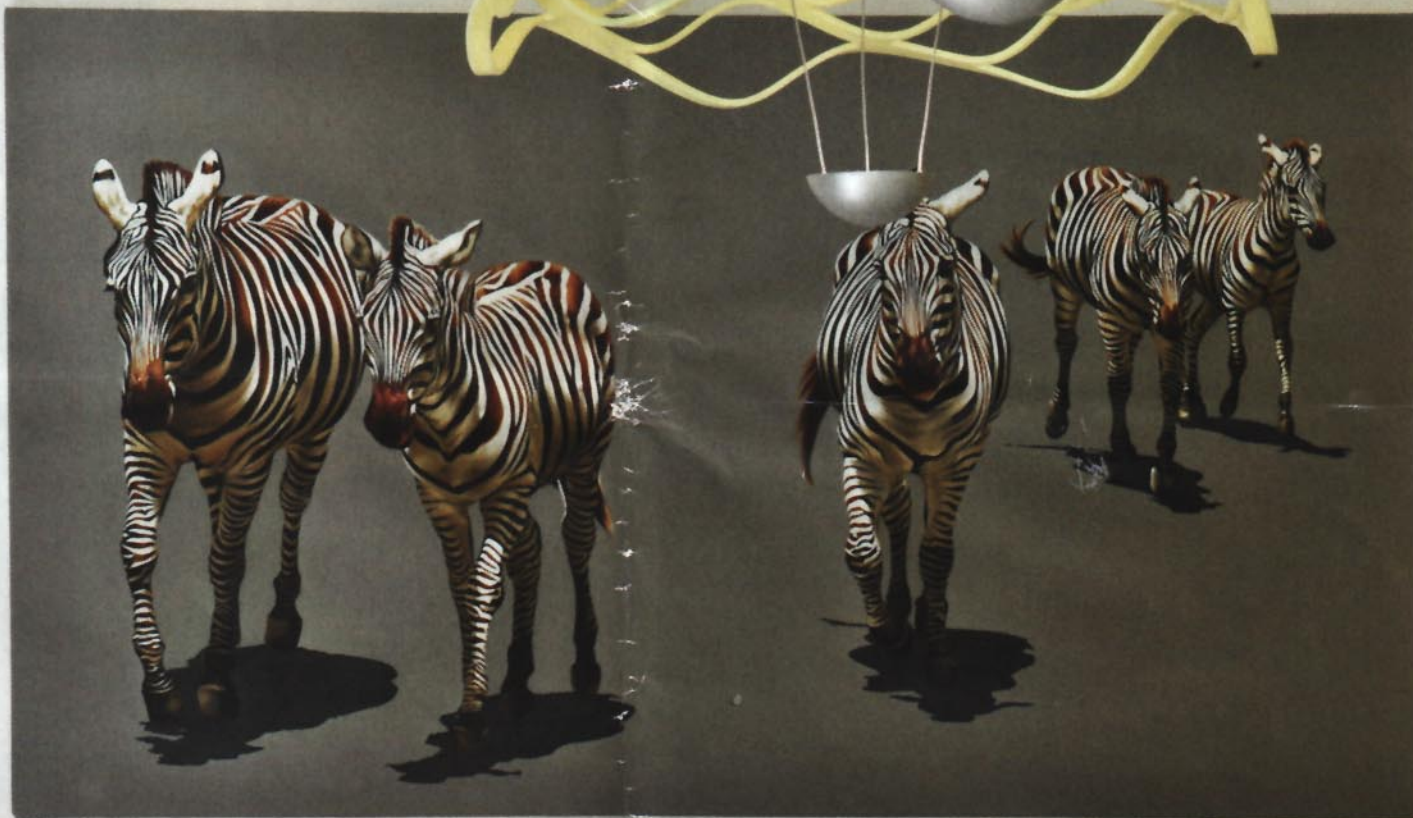
Display Rate (£/sqcm): £5.10

-- OCT 2011

DETAILS

What A four-storey
Georgian townhouse

Where Central Edinburgh



WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Through bold colours, unusual textures and bespoke furnishings, the owner of this Edinburgh townhouse has managed to create a thoroughly modern home in very traditional surroundings

Words **Catherine Coyle** Photography **Liz Lees**





Jay Watson's lime Corian lightshade was the starting point for the kitchen. The units are from Stoneham Kitchens' Avant Garde range, with the walls covered in a Galerie paper and Robina Yasmin's striking zebra painting [previous page]



"IN THE KITCHEN – WHICH IS THE ROOM WITH THE BIGGEST WOW FACTOR – INSPIRATION CAME FROM A SIMPLE LIGHTSHADE"



IN HINDSIGHT

"If Historic Scotland had given us permission, we'd have installed double doors to connect the dining room and the kitchen"

After three decades in London, Edinburgh-born Alice Aitken wanted her homecoming to be special. With two teenagers approaching university age, she and her husband Michael realised the time had come to move back to Scotland so the children could study in the capital and they could retire in familiar surroundings.

With relatives already living in Edinburgh, Alice had had one eye on the property market and it wasn't long before she spotted her dream home. "A development company had bought this house and the one next door and had then gone into administration," she says. "We saw the board up outside the house and chased it!"

Their property – a wonderfully grand four-storey Georgian townhouse – and the neighbouring one had both been owned by an accountancy firm since in the 1960s and the developers had bought them with the intention of converting them back into residential use. The collapse of the company meant the conversion never got started, however. What Alice was faced with on buying the house in 2009 was, literally, an empty shell.

"There was nothing – and I mean nothing – here," she recalls. "No plumbing or electrical work had been done and there were only fragments of the original cornicing left."

A full-scale refurbishment loomed. Despite being a truly enormous task, it took just 18 months to complete the work. ▶