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## Man about the house

**Be taken aback by Jamie Theakston's unexpectedly fabulous taste**



Kara O'Reilly

Think of Jamie Theakston and, depending on your age, you'll come up with: kids' TV presenter; man about town and, in his heyday, boyfriend of many a leggy lovely (including the actress Joely Richardson and the supermodel Erin O'Connor); subject of a tabloid brothel scandal; or award-winning breakfast-radio host.

Now you can add family man and aspiring interiorista to the list. For 37-year-old Theakston has finally settled down. In the past couple of years, he has married, moved house, acquired a veritable menagerie of pets (two havanese terriers, two cats) and become a father (of four-month-old Sidney).

His new home is one of those tall, skinny London townhouses, and although Theakston sensibly called in the professionals to do the hard work — the classy interior architecture firm Found Associates, which includes Lady Bamford and Claudia Schiffer among its clients — the final look is unmistakably his own. And very fabulous it is, too.

This is a man who has a great eye for design. In fact, he is so knowledgeable about interiors, he says he has even flirted with the idea of setting up a shop. Many of the pieces that adorn the house are well-sourced eBay finds. He says he has kitted out "pretty much 95% of the house" from the internet. Among his best buys are some rather rare and covetable bits of furniture — such as the 1960s Italian matching set of wardrobe, dressing table and drawers in the spare bedroom — and a collection of scene-stealing statement lights. He talks passionately about his finds. "I've always been interested in furniture. I had a very clear idea of how I wanted the house to look and I knew exactly what furniture was going to go where. I'm thrilled with how it's turned out."

Theakston is one of those well-known faces with whom what you see is what you get — and very likeable he is, too, being rather down-to-earth and self-effacing about the fame game. In the past, he has said: "I set out to have a career, not to be a celebrity." There is also a rather charming openness about him. Before he met his wife, Sophie, who was a manager at the members club Soho House, he talked constantly about how he wanted to settle down and have a family.

So, did Sophie get a look-in on the redesign? "I couldn't have done it without her. She was supportive of all my ideas and had confidence in me. I really did run everything past her."

Now this house is done, he's planning his next move: "My wife will be horrified to hear it, but I would like to do it all over again. This time, I am thinking of going for a William Morris, Arts and Crafts-inspired look." Keep an eye out on eBay when he moves — his current furniture collection would be well worth snapping up.

## TIMESONLINE PHOTO GALLERY



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The kitchen is an unusual mix of concrete, steel and rustic timber. "We made it up as we went along: it was a bit trial-and-error," says Theakston. On the wall is his much-loved collection of royal commemorative china. "I like it for its kitschy appeal." The concrete bulb lights are from [caravanstyle.com](#), and the [dining table and chairs from andrewnebbett.com](#)

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