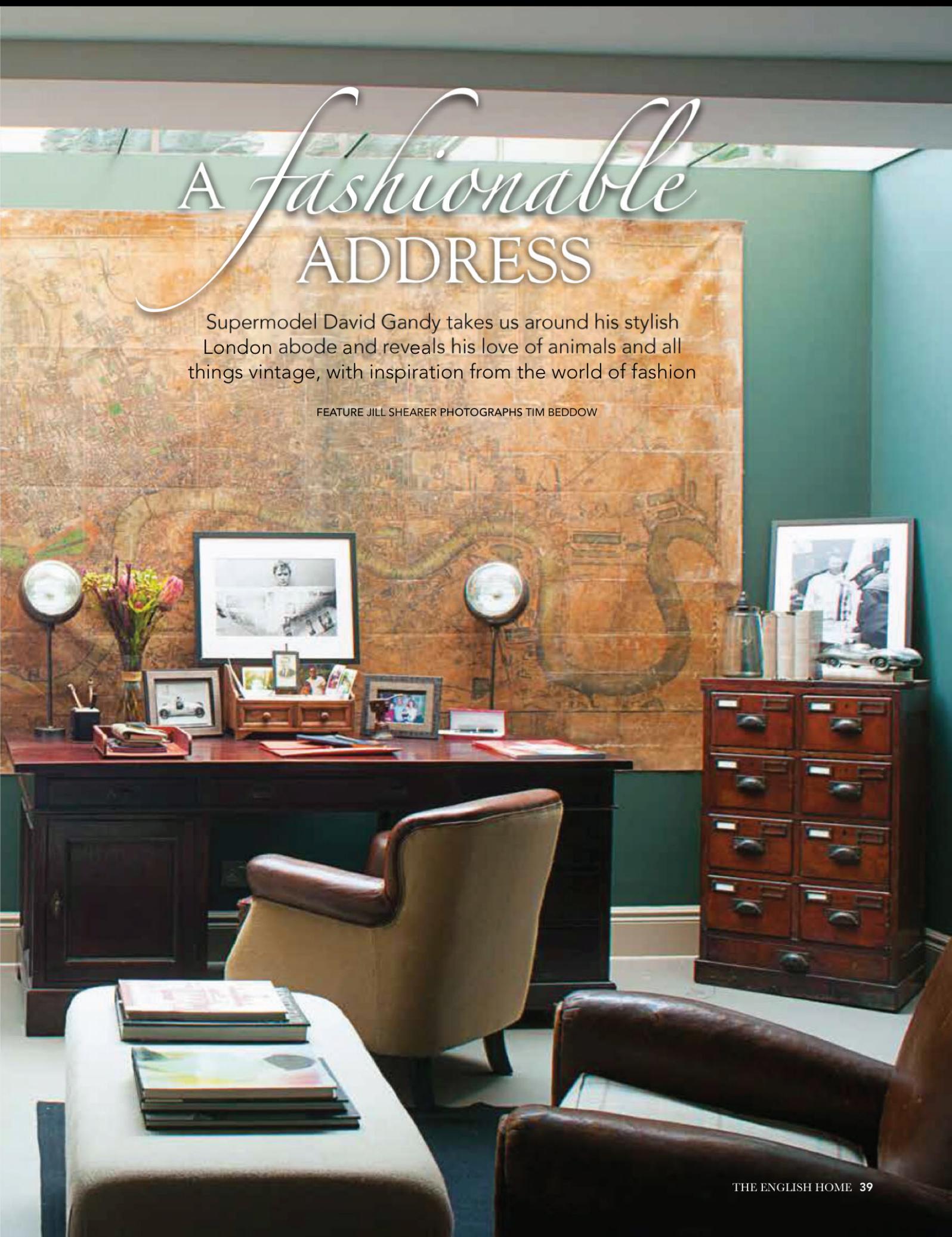


# A fashionable ADDRESS

Supermodel David Gandy takes us around his stylish London abode and reveals his love of animals and all things vintage, with inspiration from the world of fashion

FEATURE JILL SHEARER PHOTOGRAPHS TIM BEDDOW





A comfortable snug-cum-study has been created in the newly dug-out basement. A resin floor by Senso provides warmth underfoot. The sofa is from [Sofa.com](#).

LEFT David brought a pair of Oka armchairs on Gumtree, which he had reupholstered by Chelsea Upholstery & Interiors.



**ABOVE** The sitting room is comfortable and relaxing, with Oka armchairs and a sofa from Sofas & Stuff, upholstered in smart checks and herringbone tweeds from Holland & Sherry.

David Gandy has one of British fashion's most familiar faces. His piercing blue eyes and classically chiselled features have been gazing out at us from billboards and magazine covers since 2006 when, as a 26-year-old model, he was chosen as the face of fashion house Dolce & Gabbana. In 2012, he was the only man to appear on the Union-Jack-shaped catwalk as part of the Olympics closing ceremony, and has been photographed by luminaries such as Mario Testino and Rankin. But he is not just a pretty face – he has designed a successful underwear range for Marks & Spencer, and his charity work includes fundraising for cancer and environmental charities, as well as being the first celebrity ambassador for Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. He has also recently completed his first large interior project – a handsome period London home, where he is able to enjoy spending his time between fashion shows and shoots.

For such a high-profile figure in the fashion world, his West London home is surprisingly low key. Warm, weathered surfaces engender a lived-in feel, furniture is

comfortable rather than showy; it is the sort of home where guests feel invited to kick back and relax rather than stand on ceremony and worry about wearing shoes or putting keys down on a pristine surface.

"Location was important," he says. "After living in the area for seven years, I had got to know it, and loved it, so I knew this was where I wanted my first big renovation project." He had been fortunate to discover a mid-Victorian house, which had scope to extend and was in need of updating. He engaged nu:builds, a local firm run by Richard Sadler, who has since become a good friend.

"The house was in such bad condition when I bought it," David recalls. "There weren't very many of the original Victorian features, but I reinstated Victorian fireplaces, bathtubs and tiling and laid vintage parquet in a herringbone pattern throughout."

The builder dug eight feet down into the basement to create space for a bedroom and utility room along with a large snug below ground level. A small bedroom on the first floor was transformed into a practical dressing room, lined with plenty of oak-fronted ▶



**LEFT** A compact dining area connects the kitchen and sitting room. The table was a fortuitous Gumtree find.

**ABOVE** A panelled effect was created using lengths of dado rail in the hall and up the stairs.

**BELOW** Tumbled-oak parquet flooring,

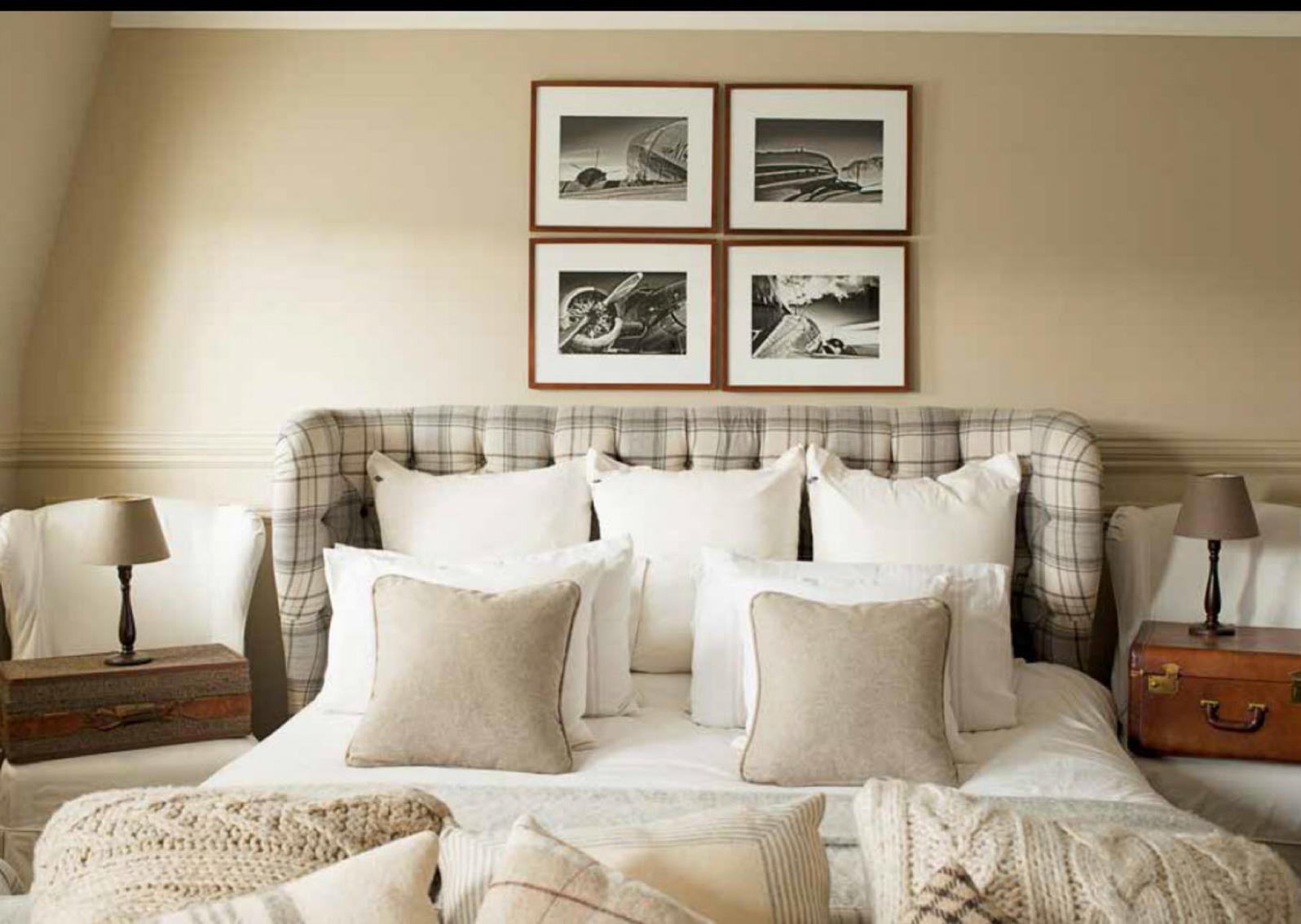
which extends from the hall to the sitting and dining rooms, adds to the relaxed, lived-in feel.

**BELOW LEFT** The map of London, which lines one wall of the study, is from Andrew Martin.





The kitchen at the back of the house is by Tom Howley. Outside, a small terrace incorporates the glass skylight, which lets light into the basement study, into the design.



*Vintage pieces sit alongside bespoke cabinetry and colours are muted, with natural tones of oatmeal and grey*



cupboards, shelves and drawers for David's, not surprisingly, extensive wardrobe.

David was very involved in the project from the beginning. He has always taken an interest in interiors, and reveals that one of his great pleasures is shopping for antiques with his mother, Brenda.

"I didn't want anything modern or minimalist," reveals David. "I wanted the house to feel cosy and lived-in. I've been lucky to do a lot of travelling from a very young age, so there have been many influences. Every time I saw something I liked in a location house or hotel, I would take a picture to remind me."

Vintage pieces sit alongside bespoke cabinetry and colours are muted, with natural tones of oatmeal and grey. Over the years, David had amassed a contact list of shops and websites where he knew he would be able to find the sorts of things he liked, and he spent a ▶

**ABOVE** Cable-knit cushions and a soft wool throw add texture in the master bedroom. The bed is from Sofas & Stuff.

**LEFT** Warm, neutral tones and a weathered leather armchair provide a restful foil to soft furnishings in crisp checks and tweeds.



*With such a hectic lifestyle, often away on location or working erratic hours even when in London, David's home is a place of sanctuary*

**ABOVE** David's dressing room is enviable, chic and practical with bespoke floor-to-ceiling drawers and plenty of hanging space.

**ABOVE RIGHT** David spent a great deal of time sourcing the master bathroom tiles, which he discovered at Eden Clay. The Marseille Cyprium copper bateau bath came from The Cast Iron Bath Company.

lot of time on websites, such as Gumtree and eBay, as well as browsing antiques markets, both in Britain and in France, sourcing unusual vintage pieces.

Particular favourites are Rose & Grey and Eden Clay, which "has incredible service and the most amazing choice of tiling and wooden floors as well as period radiators." One of the few nods to the fashion world is a preponderance of houndstooth and Prince of Wales checks by Holland & Sherry, inspired by his collection of suits from Savile Row adding an urbane, masculine note.

David spent a great deal of time on the design of the bathrooms, and each one now feels like an indulgent haven with double sinks, huge showers and generously proportioned baths. Although fairly minimal in style and layout, great attention was paid to the surfaces with complementary combinations of scale and texture to provide interest and a sense of luxury. "The tiles,

grouting, flooring, resin walls, lights and taps, as well as the fittings, all took a long time to decide on and research, but I actually love the bathrooms the most," he reveals.

With such a hectic lifestyle, often away on location or working erratic hours even when in London, David's home is an important place of sanctuary. His girlfriend's dog Alfie is a frequent visitor, where he is welcomed up onto the sofas and chairs as much as any other guest. "I've grown up with dogs at home, and worked as a volunteer at a dogs sanctuary from the age of 15, so it sometimes sounds strange to people when I tell them I don't have pets of my own," he explains. "Pets are a huge responsibility, and I'm away a lot of the year with work, so to have a dog at the moment would be irresponsible. As an ambassador for Battersea Dogs and Cats home, I get to spend time with the animals there." ■

# Coming next month



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