



# Going up in the world

Francine Clee meets a woman getting used to life on the fifth floor of a landmark York building

Photography: DAVID HARRISON



Downsizing's a tricky business. When your family has flown the nest, it makes undeniable sense to move to something more manageable, and yet finding something that gives you the same wow factor as a beautiful family house isn't easy.

But when your new home is a spectacular two-storey penthouse apartment overlooking York Racecourse...problem solved.

"We moved here for the views," says the proud new owner of this fabulous apartment, gazing out of the floor-to-ceiling windows that link her internal living space with the generous private balcony beyond. The balcony looks out on to Knavesmire, and she and her husband are already anticipating how great a setting it will be for pre-races drinks when the new season gets under way.

All the windows open fully, making it easy to see how the indoor and outdoor space will combine to make a particularly lovely backdrop for entertaining in the coming summer months.

"When I first said I wanted to move, my husband wasn't keen, I think he really liked it

where we were," recalls the owner. "We had a lovely big family home, but our children had left and there was just so much so space in the house that we weren't using any more.

"We have some apartments overseas and I have always liked the idea of apartment living. There's no gardening, which I've always hated, and I'm a townie, so I like being in the centre of things.

"My husband's not so keen on city-centre life and we had a few discussions about possible places where we might move.

"Then one day he came home and told me: 'I've just found the place where we are going to live.' He wouldn't tell me where it was, but he took me on this long drive around the streets of York. It was only when we came into Bishopthorpe Road that I realised where he was taking me!"

And where he was taking her was from her then home in a village outside York to the fifth floor of The Residence, the exclusive apartment complex in the landmark building that was formerly the Terrys chocolate factory. The upmarket conversion of a true slice of city

history is creating some of the most desirable new homes in York.

The amazing views are clearly a major draw, but other perks of living at The Residence include a private entrance into the racecourse, so that owners and their guests can beat the queues when they fancy a flutter. Bisby Road with its fantastic independent shops is a short hop away and the walk into town is just a mile, which suited our owner without being too central for her peace-loving husband.

But location isn't the only thing that our owner enjoys in her new home; she's also delighted with the habitat she's established for herself with the help of Sarah Shackleton from Love Thy Interiors, the interiors boutique in Little Stonegate, York.

Their association began when the owner was looking for help to track down some key pieces for her new apartment.

"I'd fallen for some console tables in the show home at The Residence, but I couldn't get hold of them," said the owner. "I approached Sarah to see if she could source them." Sarah could





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indeed, and now the glamorous chrome-based tables have pride of place in the penthouse, pulling together an exquisite but comfortable environment in the main living and dining space.

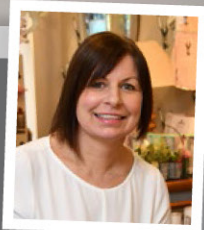
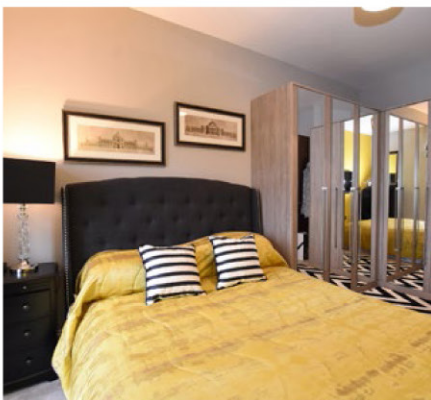
Other pieces from Love Thy Interiors include the beautiful four-seater dining table, elegant ceiling lights and a stunning metallic clock, all adding distinction to the apartment, which is furnished in sumptuous grey velvets and chenilles with accents of yellow.

“I’d originally thought of a grey and lime green colour scheme but I changed my mind as I went along,” said the owner. “I have had my own vision for the look that I wanted to create but Sarah has been really helpful in sourcing the right pieces for me. There were items in

her shop but I also browsed her catalogues and she got items for me from those.”

Deep, neutral carpets add to the sense of comfort in the apartment, and the walls are painted in Zoffany silver, a classic, calming grey tone. Much of the art is by the owner’s favourite painter, urban landscape specialist Tom Butler. It’s all very smart and luxurious, without sacrificing the feeling of being a much-loved home.

The final touches are still being made to the bedrooms of the apartment, but the work is almost complete. “It’s taken me a little while to adjust from my old house,” admits the owner, “but I really love it here, and my husband settled in straight away. It’s been the perfect move for us.”



### Sarah says:

“I have enjoyed working with my client and helping her achieve the look she wanted for her fabulous new home. It was a fantastic opportunity to get involved, especially as this is a piece of York history. I have lived in York all my life, so it was great to see how it has evolved. “We were able to find the key items that were required and then add amazing accessories, creating a stunning residence. With our huge range of suppliers, we can source most pieces for our customers, who come to us from across the UK.”

### Sarah’s interiors does and don’ts:

**Do take your time:** Sometimes finding items for your home isn’t an easy task. Don’t rush or impulse-buy, or you may regret it.

**Do take advice:** It’s always worth asking when furnishing your home. An experienced eye can help and give you plenty of ideas.

**Do think long-term:** Furniture can be a costly part of furnishing your home. Choose good-quality pieces that will last.

**Don’t clutter:** It’s often the case that less is more. Choose less, but more individual, statement pieces.

**Don’t buy all on trend:** If you want to add on-trend items just choose one or two accessories to your own furnishings.

**Don’t buy before:** We are all guilty of getting excited when moving into a new home, and want to start buying lovely items! Mistake. Move in and live in the space before purchasing. Your ideas will most likely change!

**Love Thy Interiors, 14 Little Stonegate, York YO1 8AX**

Owner’s decorator: Douglas Tate & Son, 07963 948586