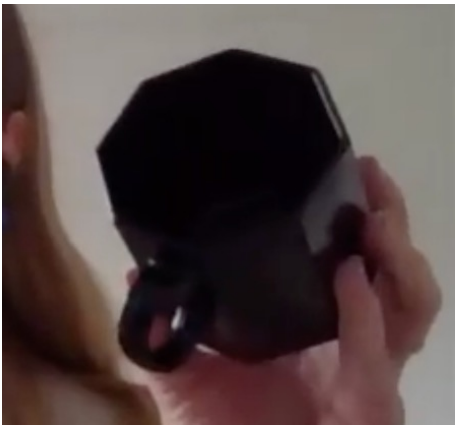
I know what I like

I know what I like

lovely mug ugly mug



My favourite mugs are probably the least functional

They hold the least coffee. This handle is so small, but I have small hands, so it feels nice for me.

I like that they're smaller so that you get two cups of coffee per like rather than like they're basically it's half the amount of content which it spreads it out over time so it's a longer experience and they're less heavy.

These ones are much lighter than this one.

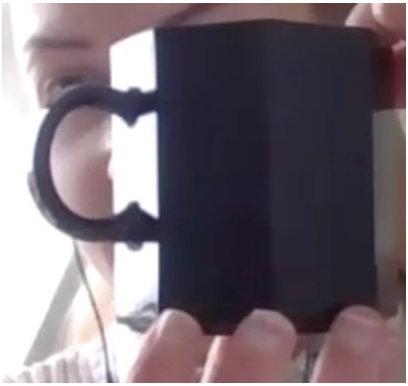
So, it just feels like a little bit more delicate, as well as being lighter

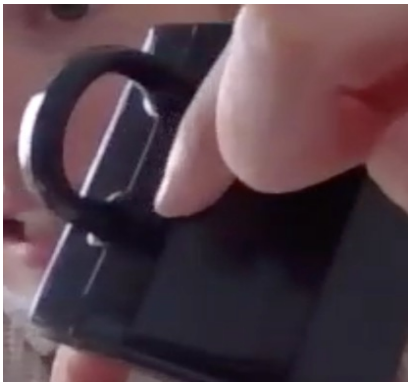
These ones are more like professional coffees

This feels a little bit more like a meeting, or a serious thinking coffee. There's a set of four and they're all exactly the same. It's a different sort of vibe because of the precision and the sharp lines. It gives me a different atmosphere and it's more related to my work.

But I still only use these on weekends I don't use them during the week. I do my own stuff on the weekend so they're inspiring my own work

They're the mugs I picture sharing with friends. When people come over, I wouldn't give them the Ikea mug, I'd give them this. I would expect that when I give people this mug, they're like oh that's a (me) mug. It's neat to see the recognition. That it makes sense (to them) that I have this mug.





I like the gloss: the reflections are quite interesting. I find that quite beautiful - and how on one side you'll get the gloss, but then the other side looks really matt at the same time.

I find the material kind of unique. I haven't seen a material that's so black and so matt at one moment and then glossy at another moment.

There is a seam. It looks like it was cast, almost in two halves. The seam used to bother me, but now I'm more curious about it. I want to know how it's made.

There's a little vintage second-hand store in Vancouver that I really like so I got them from them (when I was home) and it felt good to support a local business.

What is it you like about the colour?

Because they were second hand, I don't have a choice. They happen to be black. I think that's part of why I associate it with architecture and work because it's more like this aesthetic. I feel like I need to focus when I use this mug.

I would prefer them to be bright colours. If it was just my choice totally – I would want them to be like bright yellow. If I could combine this really strict shape with this colour,
it would really identify with me because I like to be mostly monochrome but then have something very bright. Like if it's my earrings: something to express something positive.

So, I would associate these with being more positive if they were yellow.

Everyday mug

In terms of a workday that's why I go with the Ikea mug because: more coffee with less trips, so it's more efficient. And it's just sort of pretty no nonsense just drinking the coffee – not really thinking about the mug experience.

These guys are more light-hearted

They're very light blue. More earthy and organic. It's got different moments. It's almost like you're looking at the earth from an airplane

I like that the different size handles suggest that these are handmade, and how the glaze is different on each of them.
I met the woman who made them so that makes them extra special to me.

These are more like if I wanted a little coffee on the weekend on more like a sunny day. It's good to have something to offset (the coffee) which is what this does, a bit more calm. That's this mug – not a rush.

I think it feels comforting. It's sort of why I save the special mugs for the weekend. Because I want that feeling to keep feeling special, so I don't want to use them. That way it's almost like there's an element of novelty, to a certain degree, or maybe not novelty, but of curating the whole moment around the mug.

I know what I like

Colour

I like all of them- that was my first reaction

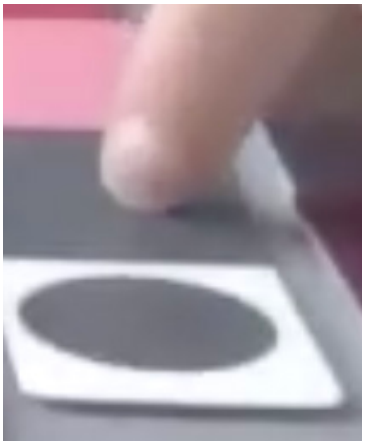
I think there's more that I like and don't like. - The blues are kind of in-between for me, with the purples. But it looks so nice when they're together it makes me like them.

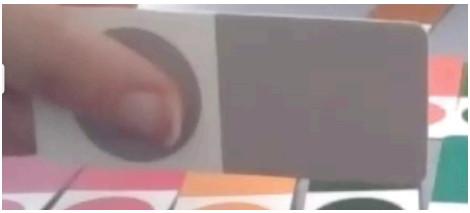
These (centre) my middle, and my favourites (left) and then :not so great (right).

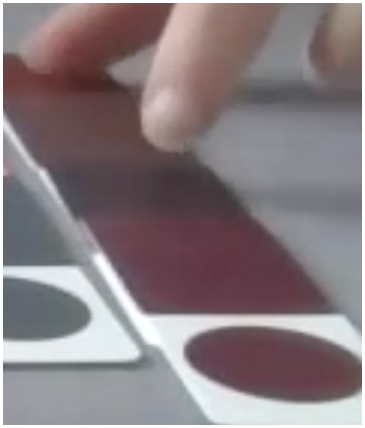
I think I like them more when I see the gradients. It helps me evaluate them, The tricky thing with, that is, it makes me like all of them more. So even the ones that don't like i'm liking more because I like the gradient.

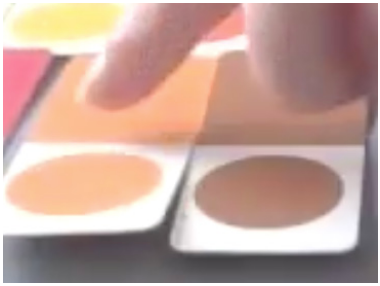
This one's like a sunset (yellows and organges). They start to evoke other things like this is like the landscape (greens). It becomes a scene, rather than individual colours.: Like the ocean (blues) : they all start to evoke different things.

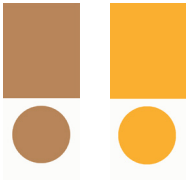
But it is nice to just have the pure colours - they're so bright.











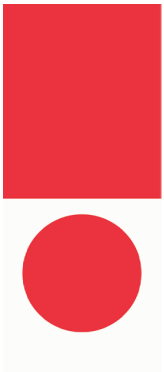
It's different from what I pick when i'm actually designing.

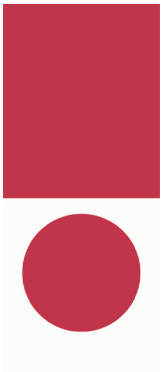
What I was thinking when I look at them: my reaction was that what I would pick just for the cards, (But) I use a lot of greys and browns when I'm designing things

The greys end up being a lot of labels and text and things- in this dark grey. But I don't really like dark grey, I prefer the light grey, but it's harder to see it in type . .But I just think it looks nicer.

These colours just come out maybe trepresenting wood or the darker elements of the building like the different materials.

The only (other) ones that I see in projects regularly is maybe golds and warm browns like these.



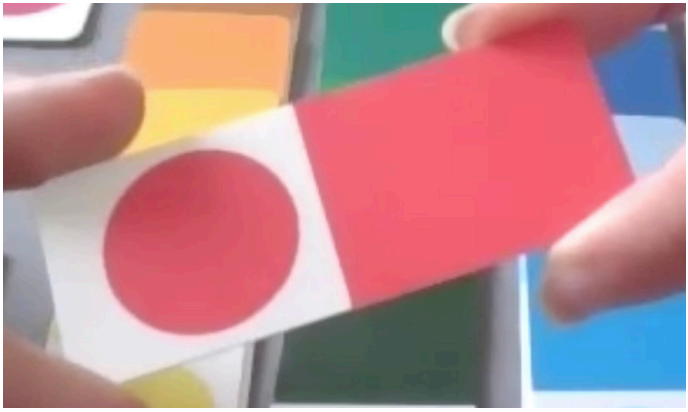


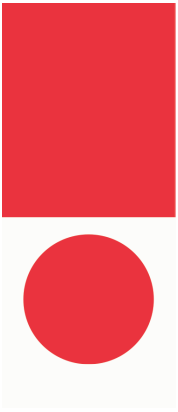
I don’t have a ton of products that are a pure bright colour

This one (left). Its like a lipstick red . There’s something about it, that makes me like it so much more than this one (right). I think it has maybe a slightly bit more orange. It’s just a little bit more vivid . A little bit more punchy. Is it a pure RGB red?

I really like it. I typically don’t like primary red, but I really like this one, I think, because i’m seeing at least (maybe it’s just my eyes) , but I see this tinge of orange.

I would want to wear this one (left) I think. I would be worried about having this one at a big scale, because it would make me feel a bit intense if it was on a whole wall. But in small moments. That’s why it’s nice as a lipstick. It’s a small pop of colour. Or maybe, (there’s some products i’ve been seeing) there’s this Alessi range of products that I really like: toasters and kettles, and these small kitchen appliances. They have a red line and they’re quite fun like. That’s the biggest scale I would go with red.



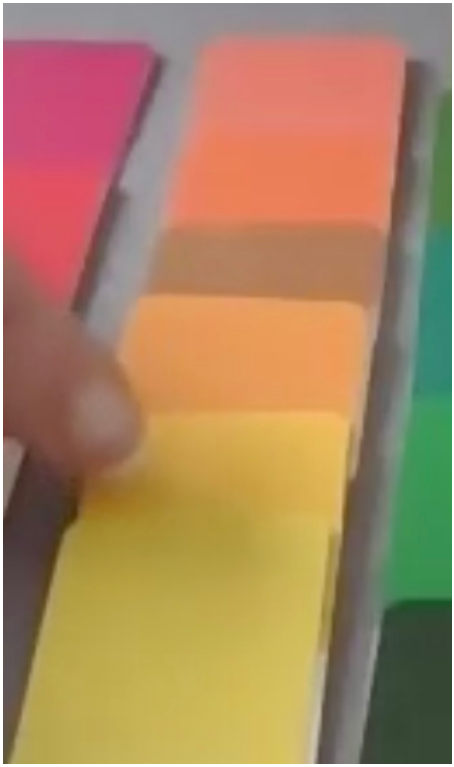


The colours of the Canada Flag

You see the white on here? - I associate it with Canada and the colours of the flag. If you've seen the Canadian news recently, about the residential schools that they used to have in Canada, that they would put first nations people into assimilate them, there's really horrible news coming out that they're finding all of these children's remains in these school properties. So, this year they're canceling Canada Day because it's not something to celebrate: this colonisation of these people.

So for me , I used to associate the Canadian flag and the colours of it as more unanimously positive. Typically I would have just positive associations. I used to play field hockey for Canada and I was very proud to wear red, to represent the country through this colour. I also have really strong memories of having the red jersey on and feeling really proud of that. But now that i'm critiquing nationalism, it becomes more complicated. As I learned more about colonialism and, as I learned more about first nations people, now I'm more critical of what this means. What the Canadian flag means and then the meaning of colours like this.

So it's interesting that this one little stick of colour can like lead my head down that rabbit hole



I associate yellow with positivity

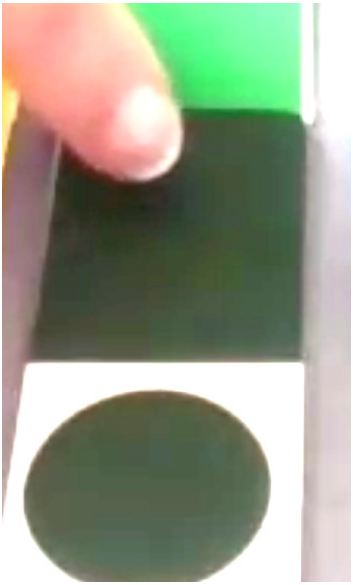
I think this row, is really beautiful: the yellows together. I associate yellow with positivity and it's nice also that I don't currently (or at least not off the top of my head) have negative associations with yellow.

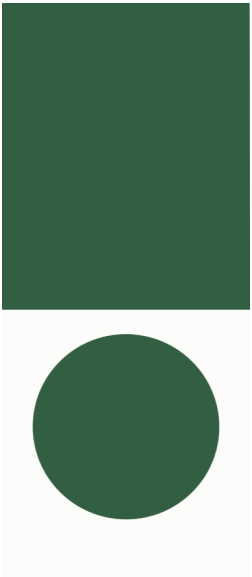
It's an easy colour and they also work well with these neutrals.
It even blends into neutrals.

But when I think about it in a home, it can be larger. These colours can take up more space because they're a little bit easier to use, I feel like they're more usable. A whole space can be made up of these colours.

I think maybe one of the reasons I like yellow in my space is because it's my favourite colour but I can't wear it because it makes me look washed out: I look almost sick when I wear yellow. So I can't wear it. It makes me want to use it in other ways, since I can't put it on myself. To have it as objects that makes up for the fact that I can't wear it.

Then I can have it around me but it wouldn't wash me out.





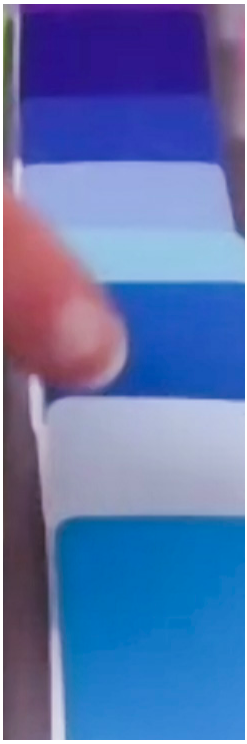
I love this mossy green

But I wouldn't want a whole wall of this unless it was for a very particular type of mood. More of a moody living room with low lighting or something like that.

I really like green

I think because i'm in 'house' mode, I want to live in these greens. I want these greens to be pillows and cushions and couches. Really sort of soft mossy textures. You could imagine all of them in velvet or something very tactile. Maybe that is because one of my favourite things about going home is that we have lots of forests, and the forests are covered in moss. The moss is very soft and spongy and sometimes it's really bright like this light one back here and then sometimes they can almost get a bit icy blue : a whole range of colours.

So I think it just makes me think about home. It feels very comforting . So these ones I really like for both wearing or living around. It's probably some deep sort of biophilia.



The blues

I think it's funny because J and my parents think I look nice in blue but I don't like to wear blue. The default 'nice' colour is definitely blue. In my universe: my family always chooses blue. J chooses blue, all my friends wear so much blue. I don't dislike any of that, but for me it makes me want to be a bit (different).

But I've just started wearing a really *Royal Blue* - like this earring or your blue (sweater). That's the blue I love. I think it's such a fun vivid colour. I've started incorporating this colour blue. I think I like it because it works well with black and I wear a lot of black. So that's sort of my first foray into wearing blue but I don't typically like to wear it.

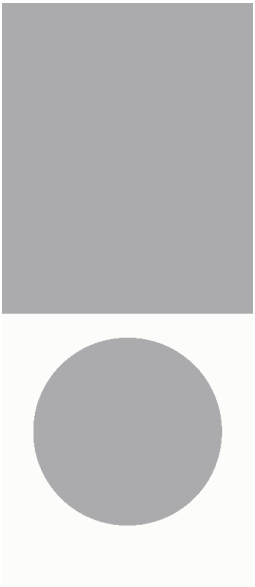
Red Poppy, 1927 by Georgia OKeeffe

Do you have particular colours in mind?

Yes sometimes. But it's interesting to see how they come out as a made object. For instance i've been trying to buy earrings in red by a local maker.

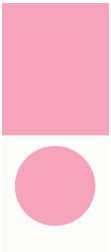
It's harder to find a pure red like this. For instance, there is a ceramicist that I really like. (Julieta Alvarez). She makes these floral earrings out of handmade ceramics. It's how she paints the colour with a glaze. It's not pure red it's got bits of the natural material coming through, but her intention was that there is some red element in this little flower that she's making based on Georgia O'Keeffe paintings and there's this whole story of what she's making and how she's integrating the colour. So it's never exactly what I have in my head at first, but then once I find it, I like it more because it's someone else's journey to figure out how to get that colour as part of whatever they're making.

I just realized why I may like these red flowers so much, one of my closest older friends at home, was a pencil colour artist and she drew me a giant red flower for a wedding present. She passed away last year and I found these earrings not too long after that happened. There may have been a subconscious connection.



I think the pale grey for me is a little bit more optimistic than the dark grey.

So if i'm thinking about complementing my bright colours with this pale grey, rather than the darker colours



I like pink when it has grey in it so it becomes more dusty

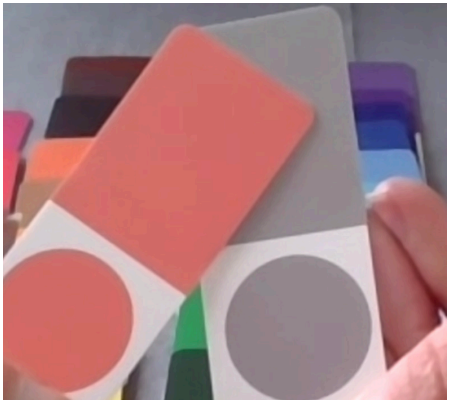
A sort of an off pink, I prefer. When it's this true baby pink It makes me think of the pink that girls are supposed to like, and then it makes me not like it, because it feels like a stereotype. But am I only not liking it because I think I shouldn't like it because of social constructions?

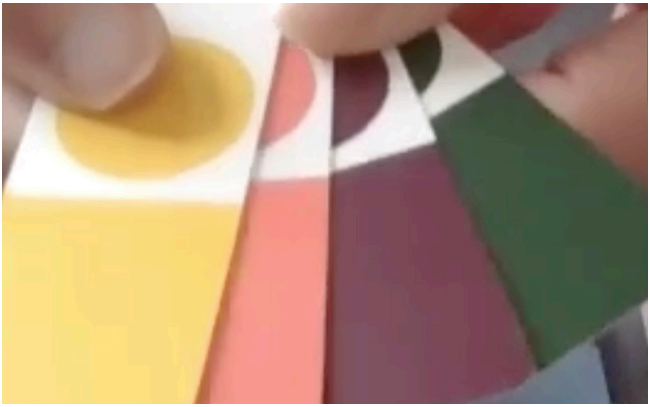
It was pretty strong in my childhood in North America with all the Barbies for girls. I used to wear only exclusively boys clothing. I would try to wear my brother's old clothes, but they were always too big, because he's seven years older. But I tried to find a mini version of whatever my brother wore. It was always black or grey or dark blue Nike sports clothing.

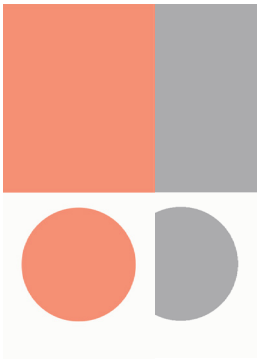
Once I got a present - a pink velvet coat from an aunt or an uncle. They made me wear it to school one day, and I got called 'pinky' and I hated it. So I just never attempted to wear pink again because I wanted to be one of the kids playing tag at recess. I didn't want to be one of the kids trying to chase boys around. It made me feel like I was on the wrong side of the camp ! But its unfair now to think back that I thought pink meant that about me. It didn't mean to mean anything but at the time that's how I was thinking of it.

Burgundy, I typically wouldn't like

Except recently I saw a ceramicist (Andrea Roman) had made these burgundy mugs that are amazing. Just seeing how well she made these mugs in that colour almost like a really deep red wine colour. I liked them, so it's making me rethink. Typically if I looked at this on its own, I wouldn't like it, but because it makes me think of those mugs i'm leaning towards liking it more.



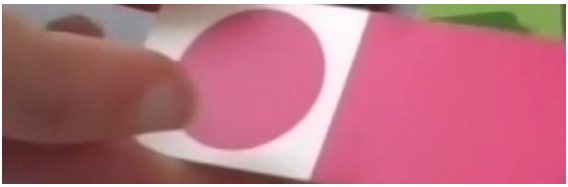




These are quite nice together.

This (middle one) is a bit of peachy. I like that a lot. I think i'm drawn to this colour because I think.it's pretty easy to use, to wear, it or to put it around the home. It works with grey.

Maybe a green would work with them as well. I would put these colours in my home. This is sort of what we're looking at. P wants these Moroccan colours. She wants turmeric and the other spice colours.



I like this one a lot but I'm not confident about how to use it

It's so strong. I'm not quite confident enough with my colours to know what to do with this one. I admire people that arethough, when people just go for it.

I think if I could blend it in with this, and hide it almost within a gradient, then it would be maybe less powerful. But I do like it.

Did you omit a beige or sort of a warm buff intentionally?

I think I default to that colour so much that I'm almost glad it's not in the mix because it forces me to pick brighter more vivid colours.

I'll fall back on a creamy colour quite a bit in terms of what I wear but also what I'll design into the space. I'll put a lot of whites and creams, because they're easy, and they're bright. Basically, like the colour of my hair, I have a lot of things this colour because they sort of all blend together.

I have been trying to curate more, what colours I want in my wardrobe as a whole, what colours were missing. I was really thinking about colour first because I had so much black from architecture school and I was trying to fit in as an architect. How do I compliment all this black clothing that I have, by getting pops of colours integrated?

That's when I would look for a pair of yellow earrings, blue earrings or red earrings and a coat or something . Very specific things that work with the black wardrobe to make it more playful and representative of who I am.

I know what I like

Reflections on colour

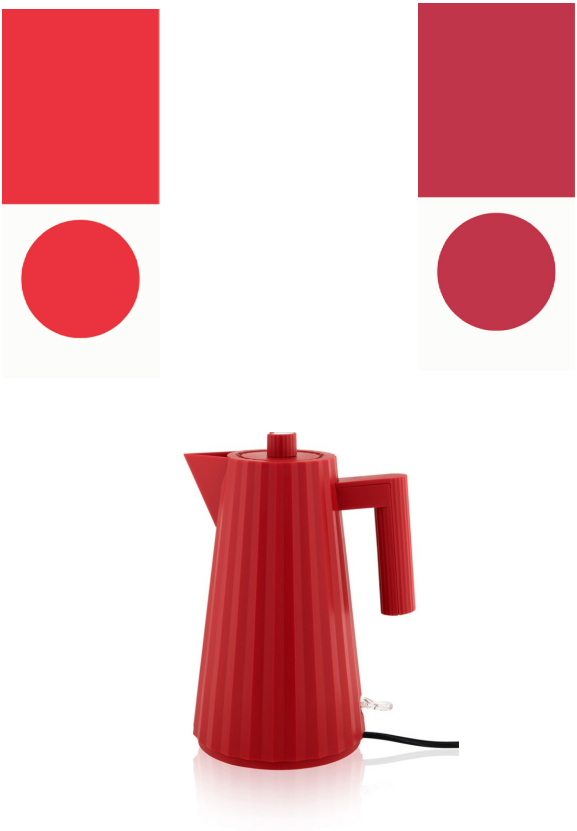
Your views on feedback booklet :Colour Preferences

I think it looks really great and it was very clear. I really like the 'statement pages', almost like a presentation as a book. I like that style, because it's a nice pace of going through it.

I like too that you've made the photographs into diagrams as well.
This feels very correct.- I look at this and I still agree - this is how I feel.

I like too, how you designed it in the same - spatially - the way that I had laid it out in terms of pairing. I think, in the order ..as well because - it seems to tell me more than I realised what I was saying. when I was doing this.

I personally prefer the white (background) because then it feels like a blank slate. - It helps me imagine what I could do with these gradients. - It feels like this is now my palette and I can more easily work from this than from a totally blank page.



I love this. I look at this and I absolutely want this kettle still. I must go and get that kettle!

I think it all just affirms- the intuition or that - what was maybe not explicit in my head, now feels explicit.

I would like to read this in the future as like a reminder- of oh, yeah, this is what I like: I remember this. I have this box of things that I put stuff in - lika a memory box, - I always love going back through those. and this (booklet) is the type of thing I would put in there because it's nice -, to just be reminded of what you like.

My feelings towards this red will stay because of the story (but) for instance, right now I'm having a moment where I'm - really into forest green but that's not locked to a personal thing. This could change. I could, you know, in 10 years imagine that this is replaced with cobalt and that's my new phase.

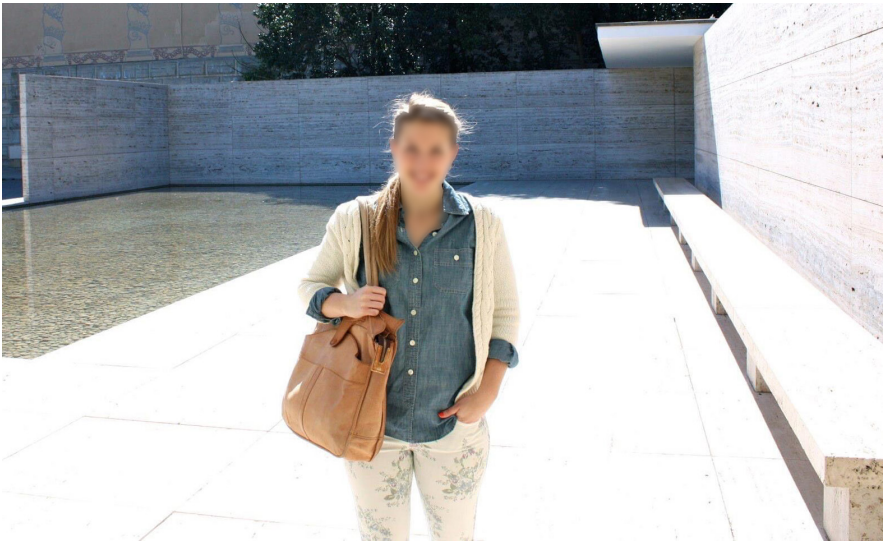
Red Poppy, 1927 by Georgia O'Keeffe

I thought (this) was really cool as well because - with the story of my friend M. I didn't realise that until we talked. I hadn't made the connection.. .. I had kept thinking about these red flower earrings and until we started talking about it, I hadn't connected it to the fact that M had painted this red flower for me. That was a cool, - unearthing of a memory for me.

It's neat that it is so tied together because what M used to do, is she would go around to gardens and take photos of flowers and then draw them and she liked that Georgia O'Keefe did that as well.

She would always give me her cards because she made her water-colours into cards and I always enjoyed getting them. So then, for my wedding present, she gave me the giant one, of the one that I had really liked.

I had seen her in the process of drawing that one, and half-way through it she had seen me and she had asked me my thoughts on whether she should do the background dark or light. - I gave her comment and she ended up dong it that way, and that's the one I got. So it was cool that it was also something she had talked to me about.



A smorgasbord of pattern and colour

When I was younger, I think I thought less about my visual expression and how it related to my identity. I thought more about :'Oh, I like this pattern, or like this' as its own thing and not what it meant on me. I thought they were cool - this is a cool shirt, these are cool pants. and also no-one else had style. But I was terrible at matching things, so I was just like a smorgasbord of patterns and colours - nothing matched. It was all very bright- objects I liked, (if) they happened to be very colourful and patterned.

Now because of architecture training, I can't dress like that anymore, because they were too critical of the fact that they don't go together. I miss the colour, so (the colour preferences book) is a good reminder. I prefer to be colourful and now I just have to curate that in a way that it also suits my design sense.

I can't find a perfect smorgasbord but for example this was me transitioning out of it - first year of grad school but still trying to mix things so that both are both are represented.

I know what I like

Personal Space

Creating a new home

SURVIVOR
SURVIVORS
RE OF THE 20'S AND 30'S
DER ROHE MART STAM EILEEN GRAY

Personal Space

Thinking about the colours that I feel are “me” colours and realised my bedroom dresser is a good summary - could do with a bit more yellow though..

Your position is rather unique, isn't it?
-because you're in a new home

We're here pretty much full time. We go to P's every so often and then we've been travelling a bit. It's good to get out a little bit because it's... well, you saw it! (But) it is the permanent residence.

We have three space heaters, which I think made a big difference - and then lots of sweaters.

THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING
JOAN DIDION
Being Heumann
JUDITH HEUMANN
How to Do Nothing
Jenny Odell

I‘m quite conscious of the lack of storage, and I’ve been really excited when I do have a surface to put something on. - We got a bench from our neighbours, because they are clearing out their attic so we got some of their stuff and we got a cute little bench. I immediately put a vase that’s yellow, books that have the right colours and the yellow picture..

Because even though that room had been partially set up: to add a little bit more to it to make it feel not like camping in that space, and give it also things like books because we didn’t have a bookshelf anymore

To be able to use the shelf as well as being a display was nice because then it feels -(like you were saying) - to be able to leave things out to remind me that I like them?

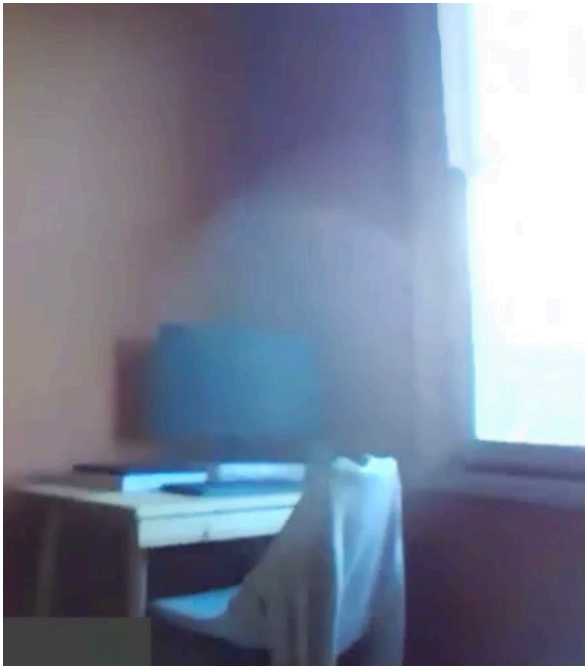
So, the books that I want to finish - to be able to put them out, I’ll be more likely to read them than when they were tucked away in boxes.

The little corner bench

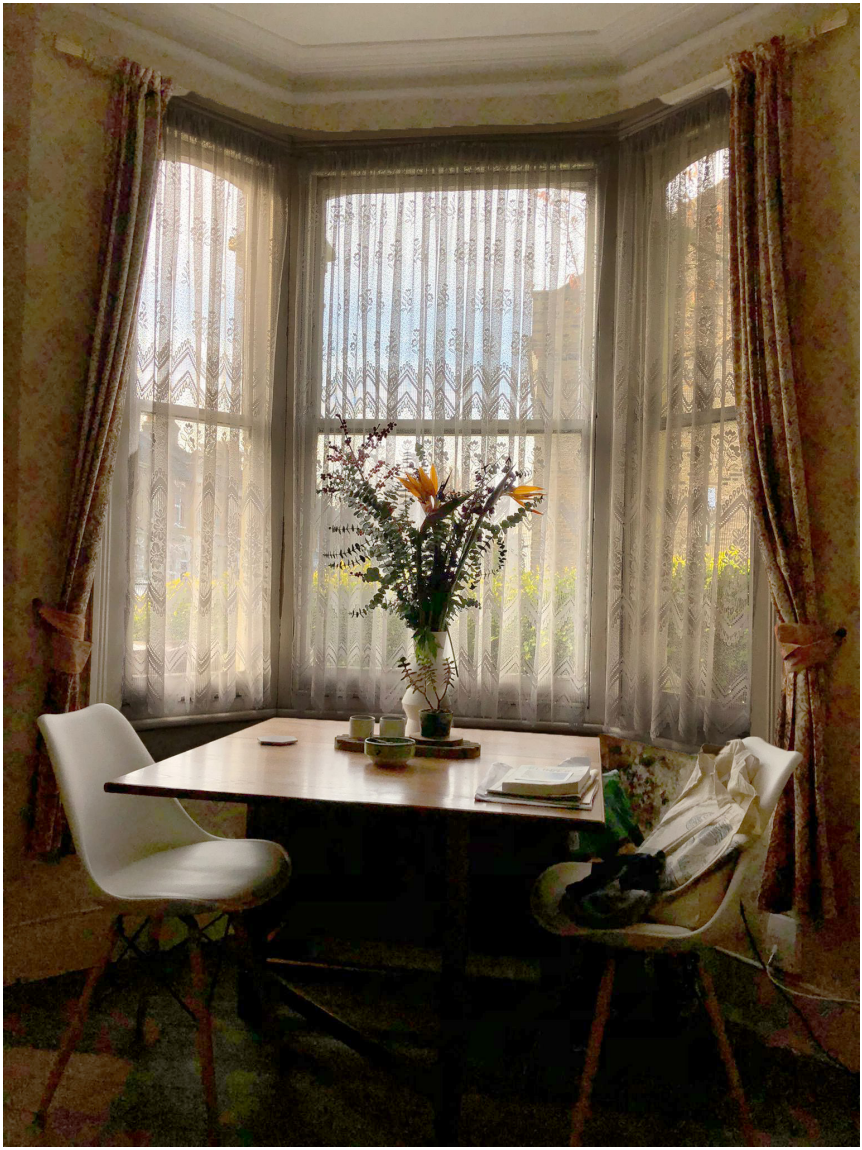
I put it in a place where it hides all the cords and equipment stuff.

I got a new little plant that I put in front of the internet thing because I don't like to see the technology stuff because - it just reminds me of - 'work'.

So it's like :' OK - put that away: this is just a space for a living not for tech'.



We can have two workstations, basically - the one in the corner here, and then the table downstairs in the bay window



The table downstairs - in the bay window

That table I don't like as much downstairs, which is where I used to work when the table was - in our old flat. - It was second floor - I looked out the window - at the coffee shop, and I was next to a heater, when I sat at the table, so it was very comfortable

(But here) - we have a mould problem on that wall and - we need to get our curtain situation sorted out. So, it's just not the same experience sitting at the table anymore. So we'd never sit at the table..

I do anticipate that will be my 'go-to' spot when I can - put my coffee on the sill and sit against the window and not be afraid to touch the mould!

The other spot, (which doesn't exist yet, but which will be in the side extension) is also like a window nook, but looking onto the garden. They're kind of mirrors of each other so I can imagine those two spaces ..

Imagine a table

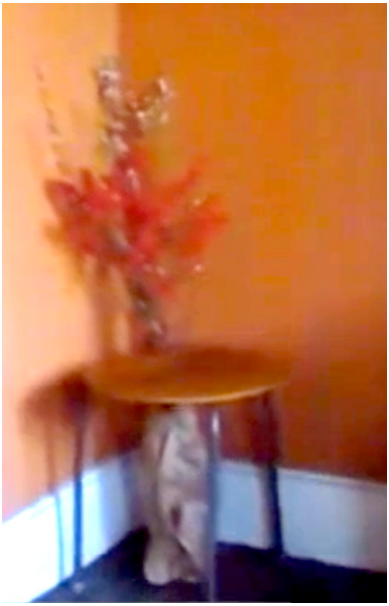
We just saw an amazing - vintage Ikea table - the top was some type of glassy thing, you could see through it, but not fully. If you could imagine- a table top like that with drawers where you get glimpses -(of) just the colour glowing through of whatever's inside and then it's like a spark to - open it up and discover what's in the drawer? - The activation energy

Maybe it's an entire wall - You could also imagine - a patressed wall, but in the wall are moments -of fold down ledges- if they had - colours behind them too: whenever you folded it down, it was like a colour and then you could put something on the little fold down for it?

Our new couch is very comfortable - that orange coach.

So we really like sitting on the couch and then we put the space heaters - directly on at us on the orange coach and it's very nice.

They look like pets - the little space heaters, they look like they're waiting to play at our feet!



I found that when we moved in and I got to do the initial: -'go with what we had'. I felt like I did that before doing things for the house that I should have done. -- I put stuff out before I even vacuumed. X was like: - ' - *we're really gonna have to clean it all!*' But it was - about making it feel like ours.

X will get home and do a gazillion things before he'll deal with..what-ever we've just acquired.

But I always put it out - immediately.. Yesterday I got these berries to have Christmas colours.. and - that little stool we got, - it's a nice beechwood - a warm nice wood and I immediately had to unwrap it and put it out to just be part of the collection. Whereas X doesn't think about that much, but once it's out he likes it.

I like the idea that we're stewards of homes

I've been thinking about how to make a time capsule that future residents can enjoy and learn about/contribute to the history of the home. I like the idea that we're stewards of homes, the home has a life before and beyond our time there, and for those of us with the capacity, it's our responsibility to make the home sustainable for the future, and it's helpful to look to the past to understand what would have made it more sustainable for H :) . Also we've heard so many stories about how sweet she is, I like the idea that her sweetness is embedded into the design so it has a subtle influence on whoever lives here

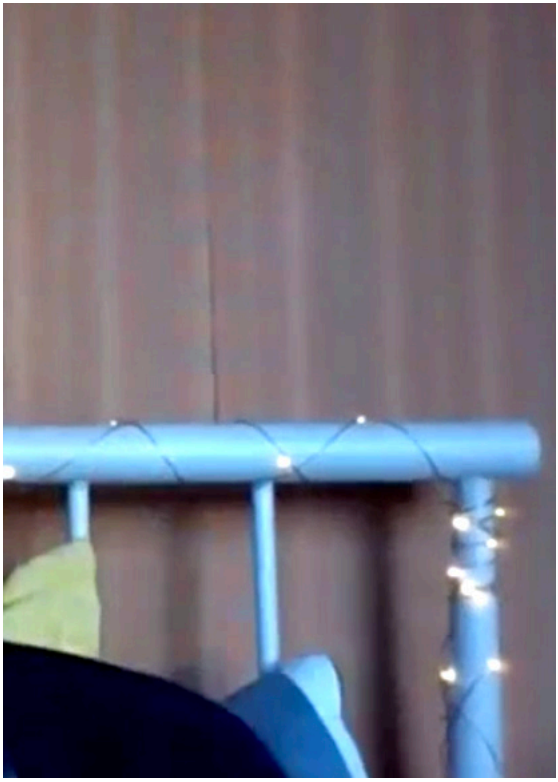
The cat is H's (it's been there for ages, when you take it off the wall there is a tan line haha) and the ikea cabinet is our little hold- all but I realised it had more of my yellow bits on top so thought I'd share.

We follow the light a bit to a certain degree

The morning light we can't access as much, because those rooms are not in good shape.

But it's really nice to be in this room and the front room in the afternoons towards dusk because the light's on our side, and they get a really warm glow.

This orange wall -- this corner of it with the flowers gets a really good ray of sunshine on it, so that looks really nice. - So this room, we curated to be- more comfortable and - it's felt pretty good to be in here.



These little twinkle lights we turn on - and you can't see all the dirt at night! So at dusk, it's in it's prime.

Just little cuties - they are just enough to have when it's dark - enough glow to read something… with a bit of frowning...!

Do you see my all my yellows?

My yellows/golds blend in nicely with H's wallpapers. There is something very pure about the primary yellow - It's timeless. It's always going to be a powerful colour, I think.

(We have) a yellow blanket and yellow pillows - We have duplicates of because they sent us - a dirty one and then they sent us another one for free.

So, we have two. Which is great.

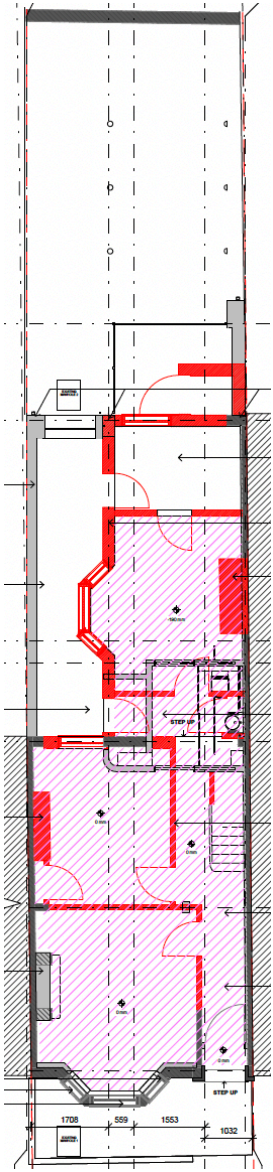
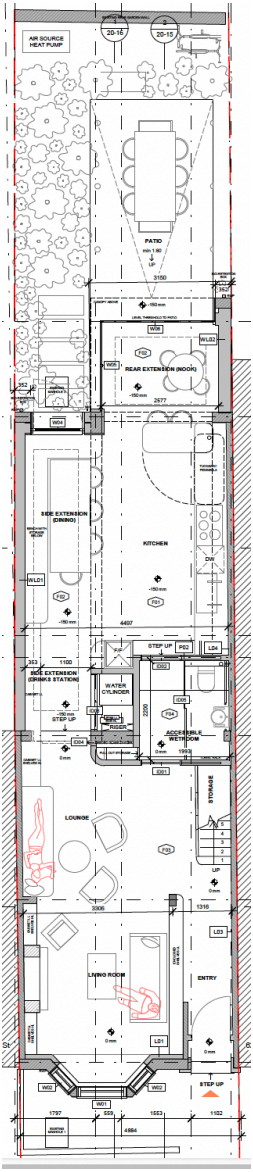
So living there -has it made, you think about things you'd really like to do to it?

Yes it's been helpful because we used to be south facing in our old place, and we never had to think about light. But (with) this place being eastwest and deeper in the middle, I do want to lighten the walls.

I get a kick out of the character of the wallpaper, but in the rooms where the wallpaper is darker it's very dim. So we want to lighten everything: - first a whitewash with ashy wood or oak wood that's light and then add the colour back in. Rather than starting with colour and taking it away - just so that we get more reflecting light, bouncing around inside.

I also really like (something I hadn't thought about until we moved in) is that, as you come up the stair from the ground floor, you can look through the door out the window in that other bedroom, and then you switch to come up this stair to this bedroom and you see out this window. So it's like: stair with a view, stair with a view, each way, which is a nice feature.

Layout - how it is now



Layout - future plans