

METRO PROPERTY

WHAT'S UP, DOCS?

House Doctors Jordan and Russell invite us over to check-up on their festive home

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TAYLOR MADE

THE SINGER-SONGWRITER TELLS **OLIVER STALLWOOD** HOW A WEST LONDON DOER-UPPER CURED HER ITCHY FEET...

Home at last: Riva found the former artist's haunt after looking at dozens of properties

DANIEL LYNCH

HAVING spent her life on the move, singer-songwriter Riva Taylor has finally found something that stopped her in her tracks. With a career beginning at age 12 at EMI, as the youngest artist ever to sign to the record label, Riva has performed at the FA Cup final and Six Nations, toured the US and Asia, performed for Prince Charles and counts Elton John as one of her fans.

But it was a Victorian former artist's haunt in west London – painted a funky yellow and with carpets well past their use by date – that has cured Riva's itchy feet.

'When I get up, especially in January, and look out and see the sky from the fourth floor, it feels like a creative artistic haven,' she says of the flat that she found after dozens of property viewings.

'I find it difficult writing songs and I travel often to do it, to put myself in a different situation, but actually this place puts me in a great state.'

Riva bought the two-bedder in early 2020 as a doer-upper. It was tired inside, with mostly off-white and creamy yellow paint, but it had an interesting history and beautiful period features, including an original bay window seat.

A long-time fan of Kate Bush, Riva also found out that her neighbour created Kate's dress in the



MY FIRST
HOME
RIVA
TAYLOR

Wuthering Heights music video and the legendary singer was fitted in the flat next door – it felt like it was meant to be.

It is Kate, along with Janis Joplin and Joni Mitchell, who greet you as you walk into the property. Guided by beautifully thought-out parquet flooring that ushers visitors like runway chevrons along the corridor, this is what Riva refers to as her 'hallway of fame', featuring photos carefully sourced of her musical heroes, flanked by a huge Art Deco-style mirror from an antique car boot sale.

'[Buying the property] has only been a positive thing in my life,' says Riva. 'It has opened my eyes to interiors more as I have created something that puts me in a state of feeling nice and mellow.'

Riva has recently released the second part of her new album and

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