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Hamilton's other
Murrayfield home,
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Keeping an eye on work



The view of Murrayfield was too tempting for a rugby star, writes **Kirsty McLuckie**

While most of us would be happy to live within easy commuting distance of our place of work, actually being able to see it from our home's windows might have its downsides. For Scotland International rugby player James Hamilton, the view of the Murrayfield stadium from his home was a major plus when he and girlfriend Rebecca Clutterbuck moved to Edinburgh from Leicester two years ago – or, to be more exact, to the first-floor roof terrace at the double upper conversion in Murrayfield's Saughtonhall Drive. That was the main selling point as far as they were concerned.

James says: "The flat needed plenty of work. We had to re-plaster the walls, which were crumbling; we replaced the floors and there were some very strange holes which may have been made by a cat, which needed fixing. But the views of the Castle and the Edinburgh skyline to the east and south towards the Pentland hills were spectacular, and we were happy to carry out the work; we could live here while it was going on, so it wasn't really a problem."

As well as doing the essential work to the building they redecorated throughout, which was no small feat – the size of the flat was also something they were impressed by; it has a dining room adjoining the separate kitchen, a large bay-windowed sitting room, two bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor and the master bedroom suite, plus a fourth bedroom, on the second floor. The terrace, which is

much larger than just a balcony, is accessed by French windows from both the master bedroom and the upper landing, making it a perfect place to host guests for drinks. James says that parties always seem to end up out on the terrace, whether that is in the summer evening sunshine or to watch the Hogmanay fireworks or the pyrotechnics that go off all over the city at this time of year. They now have an overflow area if too many people show up. "When we moved in, the garden was totally overgrown, but it is now paved and we go out there if the party is too big for the terrace."

The location is not just convenient for the rugby ground but suits Rebecca who works nearby as an accountant. The couple have a dog, Bruce, and so they like the close proximity of Corstorphine Hill and the Water of Leith for walks. James says: "We also wanted to be this side of the city for the airport – both our families are down south and we fly down to see them, so it is handy to be close."

They now plan to move to Stockbridge but think that the weather will play a huge part in how quickly they sell here. James says: "The first person to come to see it on a crisp Autumn day will fall in love with the views from here, but so far viewers have come in torrential rain and haven't even been able to go outside." It's fireworks night tonight, so if it stays clear, scheduling a viewing might just give you the best seat in town.

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Clockwise from main: the rooftop terrace with views to Murrayfield; James Hamilton with his dog Bruce; the exterior; the dining room; the living room.
Cover picture: Jane Barlow