

25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

FRESH THINKING

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REAL FAMILY HOMES

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■ A PRETTY COUNTRY RETREAT

■ BUILDING A NEW HOME IN IRELAND

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25 owners created their dream home

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AN OAST
HOUSE**

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April 2015

SI

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WELCOME

When the team and I talk about *25 Beautiful Homes*, we always describe it as a magazine of stories. Every home is different, every story is different, but the outcomes are similar in that the people involved are creating a home they love and want to share with their friends. Whether it's a first-time owner's apartment or downsized house with enough room for the family to visit, they all exude their owners' personalities. In each of the houses we showcase, there's usually one room that really catches my eye and will give me the seed of an idea for a project in the future. The notion that every room can spark creativity in any one of us was the inspiration behind our Room Envy blog, at roomenvy.co.uk. Instead of showing every room in a home, we'll showcase one beautifully decorated space. All of the team on *25 Beautiful Homes* write for Room Envy and I love to read what they have to say, as it's their chance to let their personalities shine through. I'm getting quite a sense of their own personal likes and dislikes by looking at the rooms they choose. If you haven't looked at Room Envy before, then do go in and tell us what you think!

DEBORAH BARKER, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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APRIL

TRENDS | WHAT'S NEW | MUST-HAVE BUYS



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

ROOMS IN BLOOM

Revive your home with this season's new look florals. Romantic and feminine, embrace all that flowers and help bring Spring inside

1 BOTANICAL BOTTLE
Forget Me Not Bottle, £3, Wilko

2 PADDED PETALS
Tetbury Meadow Tassel linen cushion, £185, Bluebellgray

3 HANDLE WITH FLAIR
Cora oven mitt, £7.95, Cuckooland

4 WHIMSICAL NOTE

Floral tea strainer, £18, The Natural History Museum Shop

5 PRETTY PRINT

Love Laugh & Be Happy wall art, £9.50, Marks & Spencer

6 BUDDING ROMANCE

Flower print soap dispenser, £18; jar, £20; tumbler, £14, all House of Fraser

7 BEDSIDE BOUQUET

Blossom bedside table, £229, Bhs

8 SWEET TREAT

Single-tier small Cranham cake stand, £20, Cath Kidston

9 BAKING BUDS

Caroline Gardner Ditsy cake tins, £33.99 for set, Lakeland



2



3



1



4



5



6



7



8



9

MONO LUXE

For a sophisticated scheme mix black with metallic accents in copper or brass. A story of dramatic contrasts, this luxurious look signals a return to glamour

1 IN THE HOT SEAT

Armchair, £795, Jonathan Adler

2 CUSHION THE IMPACT

Chevron print cushion, £35, House of Fraser

3 LIGHT AND SHADE

Oslo ceiling pendant in Burnished

Copper, £119, Atkin and Thyme

4 TRAY MAGNIFIQUE

Mirrored Tray in Hammered Antique Gold, £139, Fishpools

5 REFLECTED GLORY

Bronze flower mirror, £30, HomeSense

6 GRAND TOUR

Antique wall clock, £225, Furniture Village

7 BLACK BEAUTY

Black glass decanter, £30, Biba Home at House of Fraser

8 DRAWERS DARKER

Mandel chest of drawers, £339, Swoon Editions

9 GOLDEN FLAME

Black and gold-effect taper candle holders, from £4, Sainsbury's

Q&A

Our resident interiors expert Rachel Leedham is on hand to answer all your decorating queries

DYEING LOOSE COVERS

I have a sofa and armchair with loose covers and I would like to dye the material a different colour, if it's possible.

Do you know of any firms that will do this?

LINDA FAIR, NORTH WALES

Prestige Dyers (01279 416710, prestigedyers.co.uk) works primarily for the fashion industry, but does also offer a soft furnishings dyeing service. They tell me that most sofa covers can be dyed if they are made of cotton, linen or viscose – any fabrics with a high polyester content do not dye successfully. They can work from a colour swatch (such as a Pantone card) but you'll have to go darker than the current fabric shade. Call to discuss your colour choices before sending in your covers. As a ballpark figure, the cost of dyeing loose covers for a sofa and armchair would be around £250 plus postage.



PENDANT LAMP KITS

I wonder if you could tell me who sells kits for pendant lights? I have a lovely vintage metal shade I would like to install above our dining room table.

JENNY LAKE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

I suggest you try Urban Cottage Industries (020 7193 2119, urbancottageindustries.com), which sells all the components to complete your pendant. Under the Made For You section of the website, you can put together your bespoke kit, which is then assembled and tested; prices start at £57.36. You can also find a wide range of shades – pictured here is the Coolicon by Factorylux, dia 28cm, £76.80 for the shade only. Dyke & Dean (01424 429202, dykeanddean.com) is another great source for lighting fixtures, and also offers an assembly service.

GLASS AND METAL COFFEE TABLE

Could you let me know where I can find a coffee table like the glass and metal one in Breda Clifford's sitting room (p26, July 2014)?

PAULINE LETTEN, BY EMAIL

Being predominantly glass, this coffee table is an extremely versatile piece. The closest I have found to the design is the Pompidou rectangular table, H45cm x W150cm x D90cm, £465 by Oka (0844 815 7380, okadirect.com). Tom Faulkner (020 7351 7272, tomfaulkner.co.uk)

has a number of glass and metal tables in a selection of finishes, and bespoke sizes can also be specified. This Albany table comes in two square and three rectangular sizes as standard, prices start at £879 for a rectangular design measuring H42cm x W110cm x D55cm.



VIBRANT STRIPES

Could you tell me where I can source the beautiful multicoloured stripe used for the Roman blinds in Anne-Marie and David Taylor's sitting room (p34, February 2015)? The colours in this fabric are just what I have been looking for.
CARITA KEOGH, BY EMAIL

This striking design was from Romo (01623 756 699, romo.com) but it has now been discontinued; I have found some similar stripes

although they don't run horizontally, so if you plan to use this fabric for a window treatment, the stripe will be vertical unless the length of your blinds can be made out of the width of the fabric. Have a look at these designs, from left, Babushka 4847, cotton, £34m, by Harlequin (0845 123 6815, harlequin.uk.com), or Havana 08, cotton, £35m, by Malabar (020 7501 4200, malabar.co.uk) or Piemonte in Rosehip, viscose mix, £125m, by Romo.



RAIN SHOWER BATH

I wonder if you might be able to tell me where Valerie and David Creane bought the beautiful freestanding roll-top bath with shower (p97, October 2014) they chose for their bathroom?
FRANCESCA SMITH, BY EMAIL

A statement piece like this deserves to take centre stage in a bathroom. This design is the Calvari Rain bath by Sottini (01482 346 461, sottini.co.uk) and it comes as a right-hand or a left-hand version, depending on which side you would like the tap deck.

The bath is made of Idealcast (a dense mineral resin composite), and it has a choice of three styles of feet. It is supplied in a finish that the customer can paint themselves and measures H245.8cm (maximum) x W184.5cm x D104.5cm, £8,422.

FAUX PLANTS

Can you suggest some good artificial plants for my windowless bathroom? The ones I have looked at so far haven't been very realistic.
JACQUELINE GERARD, LINCOLNSHIRE

Some of the most realistic-looking faux flowers and plants I have come across are sold by Abigail Ahern (020 7354 8181, abigailahern.com); she has recently added a number of new plants to the collection, with prices starting at £12.50 for a small succulent. Pictured below is the Tonto succulent, H43cm, £93.50. Bloom (0844 482 2332, bloom.uk.com) also sells a few faux plants including a number of ferns. Have a look at the potted Maidenhair fern, H36cm, £69, which even has roots showing in the pot for authenticity.



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EMAIL RACHEL LEEDHAM at 25_beautiful_homes@timeinc.com or write to her at 25 Beautiful Homes, Time Inc. (UK) Ltd, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU

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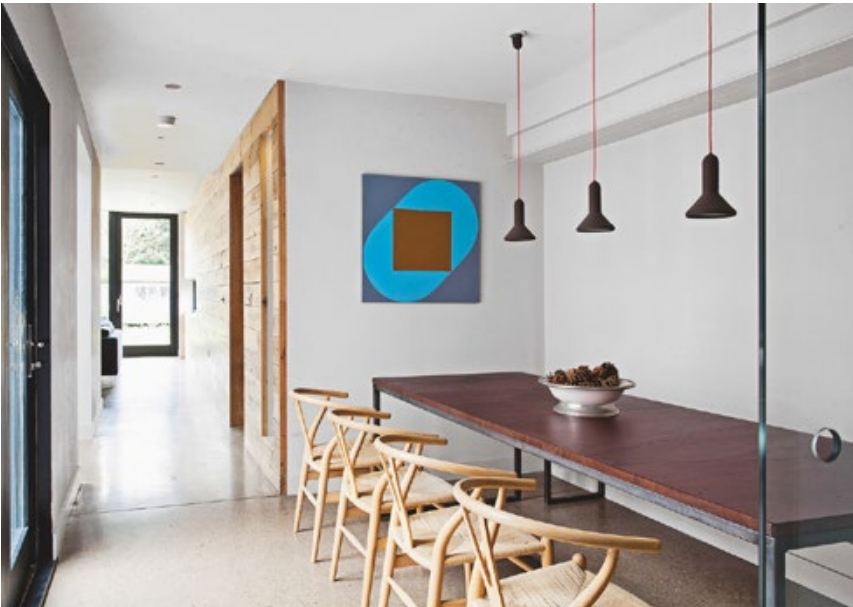
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Unique You'll love our selection of homes where owners have put their own personal stamp and individual tastes into place



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Distinctive Each issue will feature a variety of overseas homes that display interiors with a difference, to help inspire you

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Deborah

DEBORAH BARKER, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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TALENT SPOTTER

FEATURE ALIX BATEMAN | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH



SITTING ROOM (LEFT)
 'The curved sofa was the starting point in this room. I took a punt on it and designed everything around it,' says Harriet.
 Arne sofa, from £5,230, B & B Italia. Curtain and small sofa fabric, from £98m, Felix Spicer



INSPIRING

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Terraced house built in 1878

LOCATION South London

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, family room, kitchen-diner, cloakroom, five bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms, studio

PURCHASED 2006

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We were renting a flat nearby,' says Harriet.

When it came to furnishing their new home, Harriet Young and Chris Cahn called on the skills of some up-and-coming designers

DINING AREA
Family portraits are
displayed in vintage
frames painted to match.
 Find similar frames at
 Heal's and paint in Railings
 estate eggshell, £21 for
 750ml, Farrow & Ball.
 Zanotta Raw dining table,
 £5,175, Nest



Trying to find a house that has enough space to accommodate a growing family and which fits into the right price bracket, is an all-too-familiar dilemma for househunters. And Harriet Young and Chris Cahn were no exception. So when they came across a Queen Anne Revival terraced house in south London they were pleasantly surprised. Set

in a conservation area of streets not far from one of Britain's oldest lawn tennis clubs, the house impressed Chris and Harriet with its elegant proportions and sense of space. The location also ticked the right boxes and the couple loved the sense of community. 'We met some of the neighbours early on,' says Harriet, 'and they all seemed to be friendly, down-to-earth people.' Though

they had initially been looking for somewhere that needed renovating, the couple were attracted to the unusually wide, open-plan ground floor, plus original features that included the stained-glass window.

With no structural work to do, they wasted no time in planning the decor. 'One of the issues we had to contend with was the sheer scale of the place,' says Harriet, 'with

FAMILY ROOM

'I've kept to neutral shades for this room, but explored different textures to add extra interest,' says Harriet.

Arco floor light, £1,565, The Conran Shop, is similar. Notonthehighstreet.com sells knitted cushion covers, from £29 each

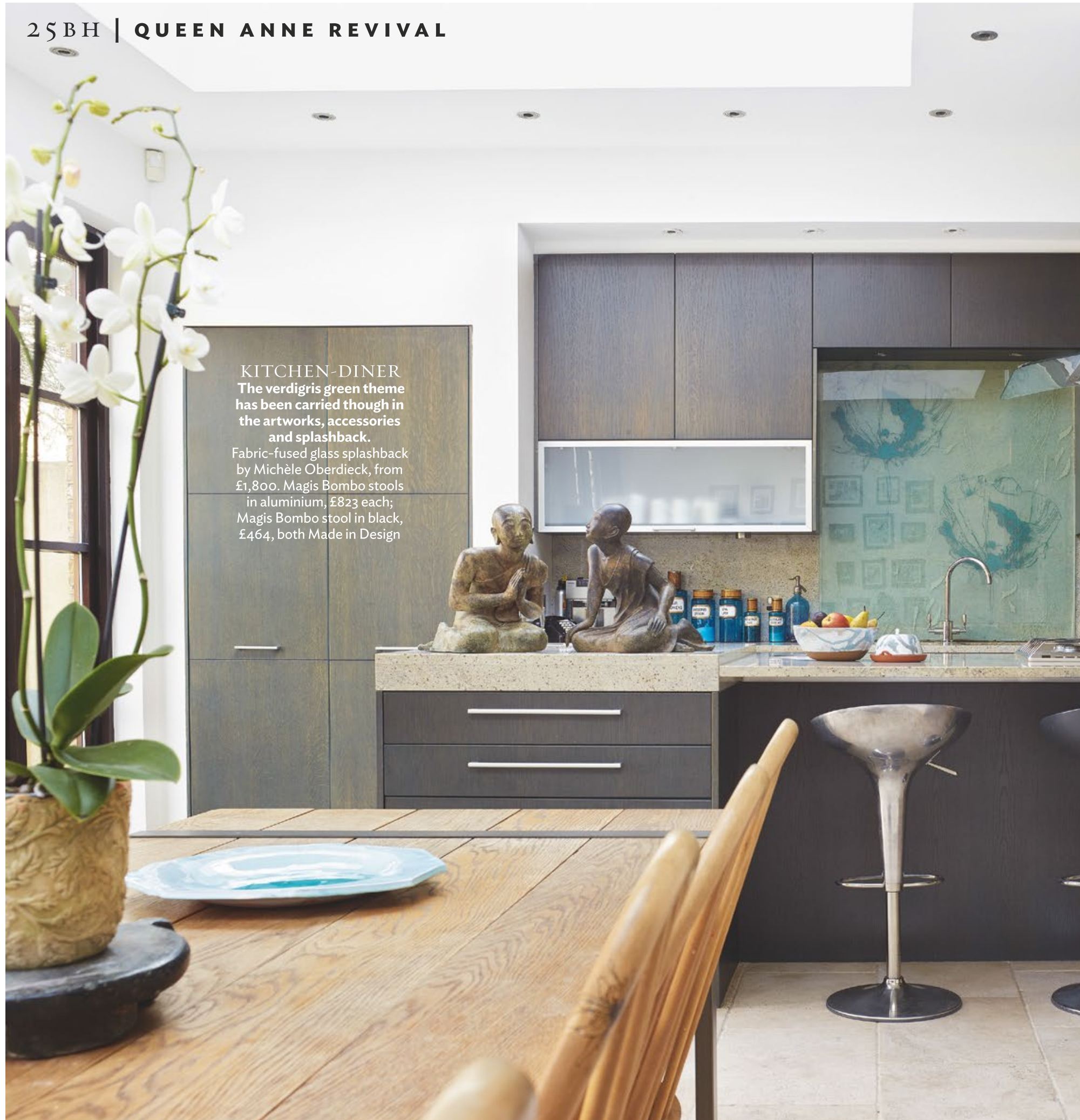


the high ceilings it just felt so much bigger than our last home and all our old furniture seemed to get lost.' This is where Harriet's design expertise came in, as she set about choosing pieces suited to the proportions of the house. One of her first purchases was the large curved orange sofa. 'It was a bit of a risky choice,' she says, 'I was hoping to pull it off by tying the orange into aspects in the

rest of the room so I asked textile designer Felix Spicer to create fabric for the curtains and small sofa in there. Actually I think it's worked out really well.'

Another issue was that the house had what Harriet considered to be far too many spotlights. 'The kitchen looked like a starry, starry night,' she laughs. So they replaced the majority with far softer lighting. 'It was quite

FAVOURITE SHOP
'The Old Cinema in Chiswick is like an Aladdin's cave of antique, retro and industrial. I always find pieces I've never seen before'



KITCHEN-DINER

The verdigris green theme has been carried through in the artworks, accessories and splashback.

Fabric-fused glass splashback by Michèle Oberdieck, from £1,800. Magis Bombo stools in aluminium, £823 each; Magis Bombo stool in black, £464, both Made in Design

harsh having all that down-lighting and quite expensive to power all the halogens.'

Displayed everywhere is artwork from designers that Harriet has met during her career. 'I've enjoyed commissioning pieces for the house. As well as being a home, I saw this as a potential space that would enable us to exercise our passion for discovering exciting new talent,' she explains. 'The ceramicist

Lou Rota designed stencils for our dining chairs and, having seen Michèle Oberdieck's fabric designs on a skirt, we asked her to create a splashback for our kitchen.'

Harriet often travels to the continent sourcing vintage pieces for clients under the name Studio Curios. On her visits to France she's been impressed with decorative schemes which use salvaged and antique items. When

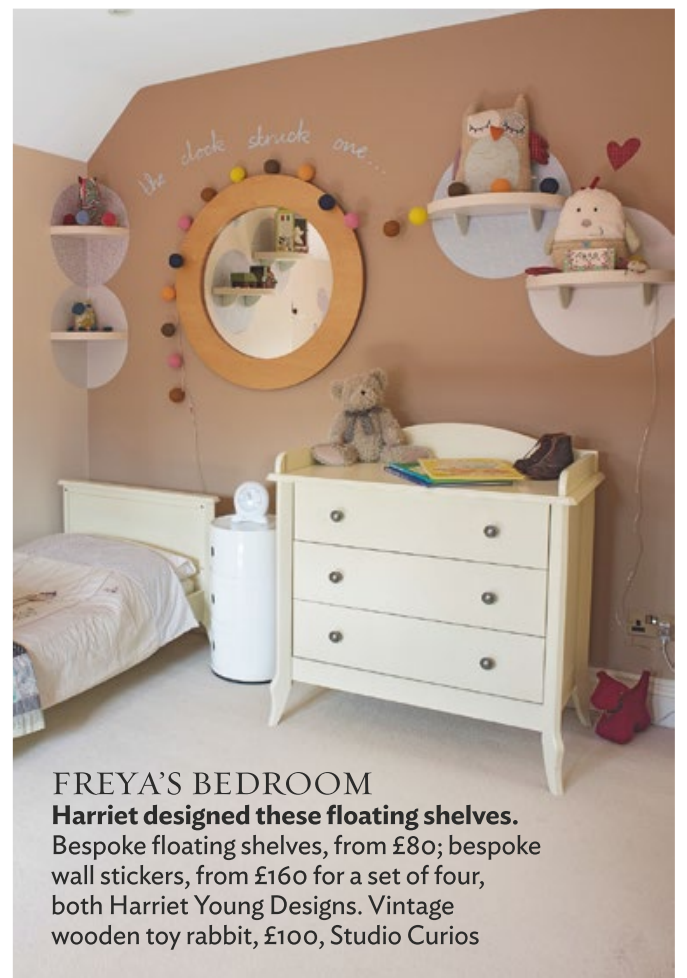
it came to her own house she used similar combinations. 'I like the mix of vintage and contemporary,' she says. In the kitchen, antique statues from a trip to Thailand sit alongside streamlined bar stools, while in the sitting room, a family heirloom piano is paired with Harriet's striking sofa. Items are altered or embellished to suit the scheme and sometimes given a new purpose such



MASTER BEDROOM
The large image adds drama to the space and sets the tone for the colour scheme. Bespoke wall mural, from £60sq m, Surface View. Lampshades, £59, Clarissa Hulse



BATHROOM
An inset mirror makes the bathroom appear larger. Similar limestone tiles, £36sq m, Mandarin Stone



FREYA'S BEDROOM
Harriet designed these floating shelves. Bespoke floating shelves, from £80; bespoke wall stickers, from £160 for a set of four, both Harriet Young Designs. Vintage wooden toy rabbit, £100, Studio Curios

as a vintage drinks cabinet which has been converted to house the couple's stereo system.

Now the property is finished, the couple love living here, as do the rest of their large family – Chris's three older children, Robert, Tom and Sophie, plus their own two young daughters, Freya, 6, and Skye, 4. In creating room schemes for the children, Harriet became inspired to launch her own versatile

room concepts which can be adapted as a child grows. Working from a studio in the garden, her designs include a window seat that converts to a desk and space-saving bunk beds that can sleep either a toddler or a teen.

The house now looks perfectly finished, however Harriet is tempted by the idea of a less 'fitted' kitchen. But for now, she is happy to enjoy her vibrantly stylish home. ²⁵

LESSONS LEARNT
'Include some storage in every room – you can never have too much, especially with children'

Open MINDED

Carolyn and Dominic Valder bought a seemingly nondescript townhouse and turned it into a fashionable, free-flowing family home

FEATURE KAREN JENSEN-JONES | PHOTOGRAPHY NICK SMITH



MEZZANINE
The garden provides a great backdrop to this relaxed area.

Hudson leather tub chair, from £460, The Chesterfield Company, is similar. Puro glass side table, £179, Dwell, has this look

Carolyn Valder's excitement was tinged with some reservation when she first viewed the property that would become her home. 'My husband Dominic, who's an investment manager, takes a keen interest in property and is always looking at what's on the market,' explains Carolyn. 'Eight years ago, he noticed a rather tired-looking Victorian terrace for sale, close to where we were living in west London. We hadn't been seriously

looking to move and we didn't view anything else because he was so confident that he'd found something special.'

But Carolyn admits that when she first saw the property, it wasn't quite what she was expecting. 'My heart sank when I walked in,' she says. 'It had been converted into two flats and needed a significant amount of work. And, because we'd refurbished our last house, I wasn't too keen on going through that process again. But once I had a proper

look around, I knew we could turn it into a lovely home. So we decided to buy it, spruce it up, install a new kitchen and bathroom, and live there while we saved and planned for the major refurbishment,' explains Carolyn.

When they were ready, the Valders enlisted the help of Felix von Bechtolsheim of ColladoCollins Architects and interior designer Clare Gaskin to bring their vision to life. The house was transformed beyond recognition with an airy kitchen-diner in



DINING AREA
Timber accents add warmth and maintain the bright look.

Dining table, from £4,180; sideboard, from £4,840; chairs, from £940 each, all SAGA at Roche Bobois. Secto Kontro 6000 pendant light, £690, Twentytwentyone

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian terrace

LOCATION West London

ROOMS Hall, sitting room/study, kitchen-diner, mezzanine, utility room, cloakroom, playroom, four bedrooms (one en suite), dressing area, two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2007

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here, we lived in a mews house nearby,' says Carolyn.



KITCHEN-DINER

Light-reflecting glossy surfaces and accessories create a chic, modern look.

Kitchen units, price on application, Eggersmann London. Pendant lights in brass, copper and steel, from £255 each, Tom Dixon. Fruit bowl, £35, John Lewis



PLAYROOM

Having the children's zone near to the kitchen was crucial to the design of the basement.

Roman blind in Butterfly Parade Opalin fabric, £98m, Designers Guild. ELC foam alphabet play mats, £20, Mothercare. Jungle table-and-chair set, from £145, Kids' Rooms



BEST BUY 'I think spending our money on fitting a new kitchen was such a good decision as it's a fantastic family space, it looks great and will definitely add value to the property'



STUDY

'A neutral wall colour throughout integrates the rooms, and I used vibrant window dressings to add some panache,' says Carolyn. Amazonas Rosario curtain fabric, £98m, Nina Campbell. Chair, from £800, Antiques Atlas. Suzani rug, from £1,750, The Rug Company, is similar

the basement leading up to a mezzanine sitting room, and two further floors above.

'At first, Dominic and I couldn't quite decide how to lay out the living space, but we knew we wanted a good-sized kitchen and dining area for entertaining,' says Carolyn. 'We visited quite a few houses in the street to see how people had used their space, but it was Felix who came up with the idea of a mezzanine level to allow light to flood into

the basement. The double-height glazing affords us wonderful natural light.'

Sleek white kitchen units also add to the overall brightness of the lower-ground floor, while making the space feel larger than it is. Especially important now that the couple have two children Isabella, 5, and Benjamin, 3. 'So that the house would have a natural flow and rooms would integrate seamlessly, Clare suggested using the same

neutral base colour throughout the house,' says Carolyn. 'We also used natural wood to link the mezzanine with the kitchen because we didn't want them to feel too separate.'

Beautiful parquet flooring in the sitting room and wooden handrails on the contemporary staircase provide a neat visual link with the kitchen, which has a central island with an elegant walnut base. 'I'm not too keen on everything matching, but



MASTER BEDROOM
This Asian-inspired wallpaper adds a glamorous feel.
Mikado Nickel wallpaper, £53.50 per roll; blind in Linara Rice Paper fabric, £34.50m, both Romo. Blind border in Mezzola Nougat, £45m, Designers Guild. Romo Juliette headboard, £599, Feather & Black



BENJAMIN'S BEDROOM
Fun fabrics and a quirky rug inject vibrancy. Blind fabric in Parade Multi, price on application, Schumacher

it was very important that the rooms had a subtle cohesion,' reflects Carolyn.

Upstairs, the bedrooms are equally bright. The master bedroom with its dressing room is one of Carolyn's favourite spaces. 'It wasn't crucial to carve out the dressing area but I wanted somewhere to put everything in its place,' she says. 'We considered lots of ideas for storage but this solution combined function and style.' The addition of feature wallpaper and tactile fabrics lends a soft

and sumptuous element. The couple's en-suite bathroom is just as attractive, complete with glistening mosaic wall tiles, streamlined fittings and stylish accessories.

'After such a long time, it's so rewarding to have a home we absolutely love and where the children are happy, too,' says Carolyn. 'I did have doubts about our plans, especially during the basement work, when there was a gaping hole in the wall. But it turns out that Dominic's initial instincts were spot on.' 25

1 ISABELLA'S BEDROOM Pink is perfect for this little girl.

Beatrice blind fabric, price on application, Sandberg. Daisy Chain rug, £124, Great Little Trading Co, is similar

2 GUEST BEDROOM 'I like how strong greens and blues work so well with black,' says Carolyn.

Lamp shade, from £45, Graham and Green

3 MASTER EN SUITE Shimmering mosaic tiles add gloss.

Mirror, £239, Notonthehighstreet.com



AMAZING SPACE

WHEN KEITH DUDDY AND ALISON REEVES CREATED A VERY CONTEMPORARY INTERIOR WITHIN AN OLD STRUCTURE, IT WAS SO INNOVATIVE IT EVEN IMPRESSED THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

FEATURE VICTORIA JENKINS | PHOTOGRAPHY WILLIAM GODDARD



REPLANNED

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Converted Victorian barn, granary and two cottages
LOCATION Herefordshire
ROOMS Hall/lounge, Great Room (kitchen-diner/sitting room), study/cinema room, second office, study, four bedrooms (two en suite), bathroom, gym
PURCHASED 2001
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'A four-bedroom Victorian terrace in Birmingham,' says Alison.



When Keith Duddy and Alison Reeves bought a plot in Herefordshire 13 years ago, they acquired two cottages and two separate huge properties – one was a semi-derelict Elizabethan farmhouse, the other a Victorian barn and granary. The family, including daughters Georgia, 21, Harriet, 19, and Charlie, 14, moved into the most habitable side of the farmhouse, renovating it over the next 10 years.

Keith, who back then ran a TV production company, came up with an innovative restoration idea for the barn: ‘I was using it as my business premises,’ he says. ‘So not only did I install bathrooms and a contemporary kitchen, I used the opportunity to make a TV series documenting the conversion.’ Originally just a shell with a compacted earth-and-manure floor, the barn’s structure was sound.

‘Farmers looked after their agricultural buildings as that’s where the money lay,’ says Keith.

His team undertook all the interior joinery including maple kitchen units and staircases and floors, for which he used several thousand feet of engineered oak bought cheaply as a result of a cancelled hotel contract. ‘Back then, planners felt that you should be able to re-convert a building back to its original use,’ he explains. ‘So we suspended the upper floor by using stainless steel rods attached to the roof timbers. In fact, the planners liked the contemporary interior so much that our home became something of a benchmark for them.’

Three years ago, Keith’s far-sightedness paid off after he sold both his TV company and the farmhouse and the family moved into the barn. ‘There was very little to do as the structural work had been completed years before,’ he

LIVING AREA
Keith and Alison kept the walls neutral to show off the pitch pine roof beams and carpentry. Sofas, from £2,000 each, Duresta. Rockit coffee table, price on application, Paul Bradburn

FAVOURITE ROOM ‘I really like the feeling of the Great Room – it’s very unusual to have a space that size in a house.’



SMALL SITTING AREA

This peaceful spot contains family heirlooms and collectibles to create a cosy feeling.

Sofas £5,500 each, William Yeoward. Sputnik coffee table, price on application, Paul Bradburn

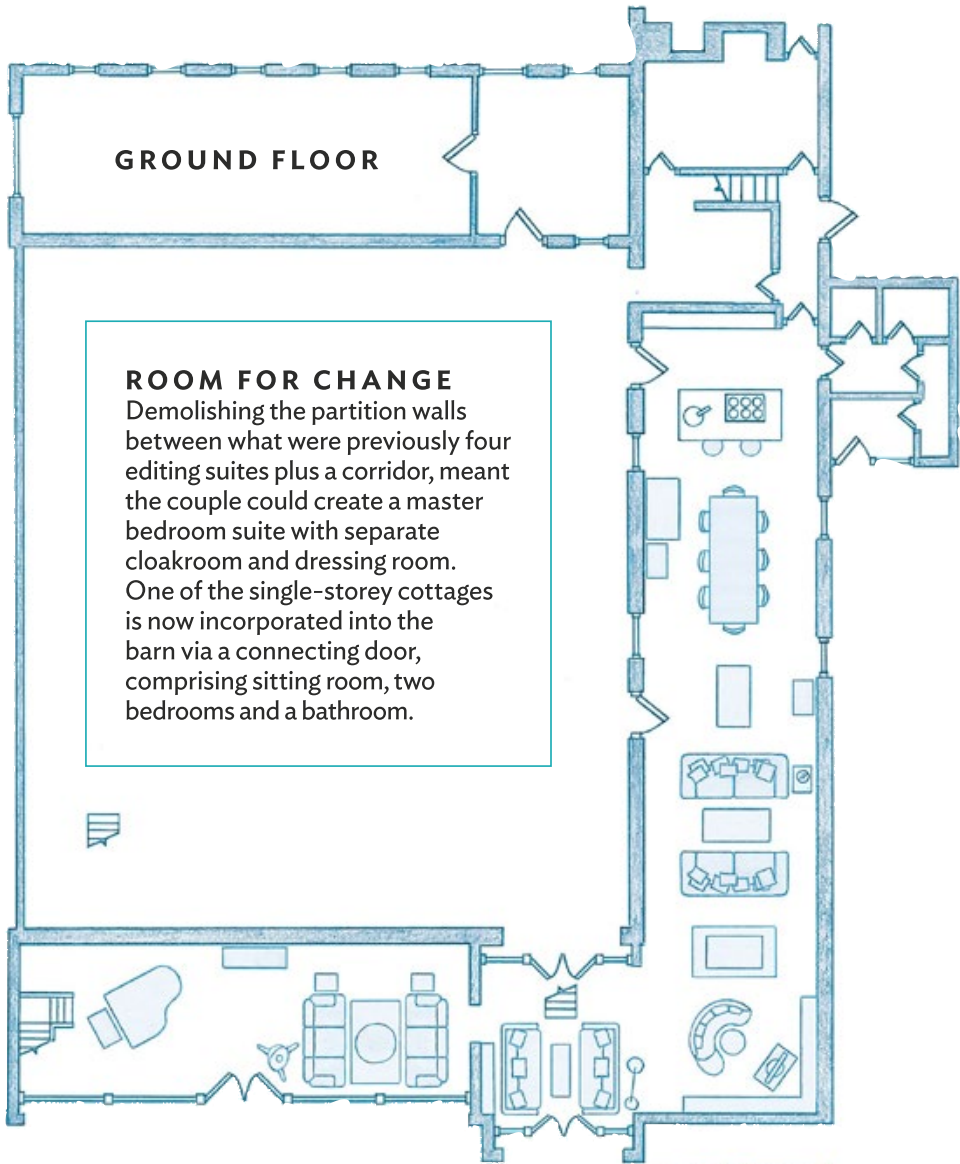


KITCHEN-DINER

The rough-edged granite worktop and red flexi-MDF tube on the island work as a good contrast against all the wood.

Rockit bar stools, price on application, Paul Bradburn. Try Makers Bespoke Furniture for an oak dining table, from £2,690. Orange Varier Peel chair (plus stool, just seen), £1,865, Back In Action. Rondo dining chairs by Danerka, £125 each, Purves & Purves

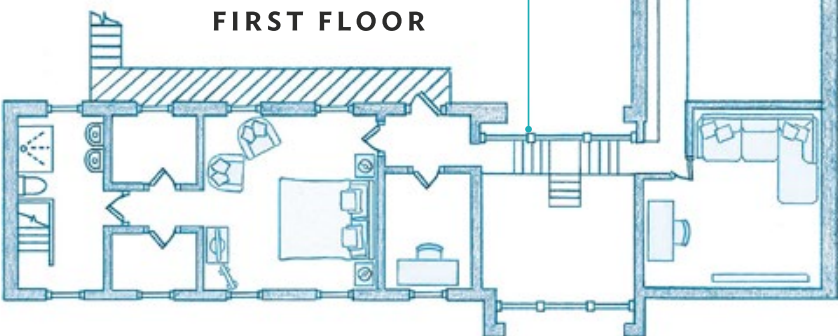
AFTER



ROOM FOR CHANGE
Demolishing the partition walls between what were previously four editing suites plus a corridor, meant the couple could create a master bedroom suite with separate cloakroom and dressing room. One of the single-storey cottages is now incorporated into the barn via a connecting door, comprising sitting room, two bedrooms and a bathroom.



OPEN
Double-converging stairs in engineered oak, glass and steel float against the solid structure of the barn. An elevated walkway was also added high along one side of the Great Room.



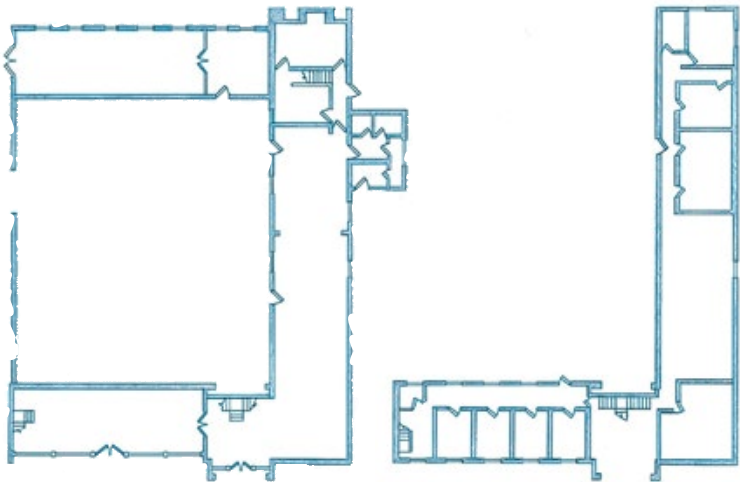
FIRST FLOOR

says, 'even the offices were easy to turn into bedrooms.' The most striking area is the 70ft Great Room which can easily hold up to 200. 'We held both Georgia's and Harriet's 18th birthdays in here which, with all the live music, were like mini Glastonburys,' says Alison.

Striking features are the original pitch pine roof timbers and the new pitch pine joinery. 'Pitch pine was once nearly logged out, but after much replanting in the 1920s the first timber became available just when we needed it,' says Keith. 'We kept the colours neutral except for the small sitting room so the beauty of the building showed.' Much of their furniture was sourced by interior designer Claire Davies-Hobbs and the couple particularly like pieces made by Paul Bradburn.

'It's been an adventure doing up these properties but Alison and I are considering downsizing,' says Keith. 'I think we can sit back a bit now – or maybe build from scratch, although the jury's still out on that one!' 25

BEFORE



GEORGIA'S BEDROOM
A Welsh wool bedspread teams well with car-boot-sale furniture finds. Find a similar woven throw, from £230, at Trefriw Woollen Mills. Leather lamp, £127.50, David Hunt Lighting



GREAT ROOM
 The huge sofa creates a separate TV zone. For a similar sofa look at Funky Furniture and Stuff. Billy bookcases £35 each, Ikea. Find a model yacht at Premier Ship Models. TV bench, price on application, Paul Bradburn. Ligne Roset Night Floor Lamp, from £440, Heal's, is a good match

LAST WORD 'Barn conversions really don't have to mean corndollies and hop bins – keep the spaces open, flexible and uncluttered'



MASTER BEDROOM
 The couple's bespoke handmade bed is crafted in oak and leather. Bed, price on application, Alan Eldridge Cabinetry. Wooden bedside tables and chest of drawers, price on application, all Paul Bradburn



MASTER EN SUITE
 Unusual objects such as fossils add interest to a functional room. Orthoceras fossil plate, £200, eBay. For a similar wall-hung basin, try the Senso, £119, Roca UK Bathrooms

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Farmhouse, built in 1897

LOCATION Sweden

ROOMS Hall, cloakroom, sitting room, drawing room, dining room, kitchen-diner, pantry, five bedrooms (two en suite), sewing room, upstairs sitting room, two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2011

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before we moved here, we were living in a city apartment in Malmö,' says Anna.

FARM CHARM

ANNA GULLIKSSON AND HER FIANCÉ GUSTAV HAVE RESTORED THEIR 19TH-CENTURY FARMHOUSE TO ITS FORMER GLORY, IN CLASSIC COUNTRY HOUSE STYLE

FEATURE JANE BOWLES | PHOTOGRAPHY CECILIA MÖLLER/LIVING4MEDIA FEATURE

DRAWING ROOM

'The inspiration for this scheme came from old historical Swedish films,' says Anna.

The Lady May four-seater sofa, from £2,445, Sofa Workshop, is similar. Willis & Gambier's Lille oval coffee table, £879, Furniture Village, would work well here. Mulberry Home's Rossini Velvet in Plum, £135m, Tangletree Interiors, are a good match for the curtains



SITTING ROOM

Dark walls and polished wood give a masculine feel. Sanderson Marney wallpaper in Dove/Cream, £40 per roll, is similar. Reindeer antlers, from £69, Graham & Green



DINING ROOM

A pink and blue scheme creates a welcoming feel in this elegant space.

The Aubusson rugs, from £850, John Lewis, are a good match. The Yasmina dining chair, £225, Sweetpea & Willow, is similar



HALL

'We love the elegant proportions,' says Anna.

Georgia Lacey sells antique chandeliers, from £1,875. Zoffany's Drottningholm wallpaper, price on application, Boråstapeter, is a good match

FAVOURITE ROOM *'I love our revamped kitchen, because it feels so fresh and light – I spend so many happy hours there cooking for the family'*



KITCHEN-DINER

Fresh white-painted Shaker-style cabinetry works well in here. The Shaker cream kitchen, from £5,273, Magnet, is a match. Quirky Interiors have reclaimed wood tables from £420. The PH5-4½ pendant lamp by Louis Poulsen, £1,475, Skandium, is a match. Pale Powder estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, is similar. Try Metro white gloss tiles, £11sq m, Tons of Tiles



VERANDA

The painted table and chair give this light-filled space a vintage feel.

Annie Sloan's chalk paint in Greek Blue, £18.96 per litre, would give a similar effect



CLOAKROOM

A family-sized coat rack keeps this area neat and tidy.

For a similar flooring, try Buxton unglazed black and white tiles, £79sq m, Topps Tiles.

The Charleston coat rack, £50, The Cotswold Company, is similar



**MASTER
BEDROOM**
Crisp linens, and
classic Gustavian-style
wallpaper create
a fresh feel.

Sophia wallpaper
in Duck Egg from
Zoffany's Gustavus
collection, £59 per roll,
would work in this
scheme. The Skansen
bedframe, £1,650, Sasha
Waddell, has a Scandi feel

Moving to the Swedish countryside four years ago was a huge leap of faith for Anna Gulliksson. 'My fiancé, Gustav, asked me if I would consider moving to the country,' she says. 'He was thinking of taking over his parents' farm, as they wanted to retire. I'm a city girl, born and bred in Stockholm, so it was a huge decision.' But Anna decided to take the plunge. 'As I knew and loved the house, I said yes straight away,' she says. 'We knew it would be a wonderful place to bring up our daughter, Alma, and sons, Axel and August. We liked the idea of keeping the house in the family.'

Having visited the house frequently for family gatherings, Anna knew exactly how much renovation work would be required. 'It had last been decorated in the 1980s when Gustav's parents moved in,' says Anna. 'As there are so many rooms, the redecorating alone would be a huge undertaking. But we both loved the light feel, the high ceilings

and great sense of space.' The couple decided to recreate a traditional Swedish country interior, in keeping with the age of the farmhouse, opting to do much of the work themselves. The existing layout worked well, and didn't need reconfiguring.

'The biggest structural job was the kitchen,' says Anna. 'We stripped out the old units, replastered the walls, and installed new cabinetry. Luckily, we were sold a vintage cast iron stove by a neighbour.' The couple chose new stone flooring to replace old vinyl floor tiles in the kitchen, and many of the rooms feature original wood flooring that they sanded and revarnished. 'It was hard work, but restoring the five original ceramic tile stoves was even harder,' says Anna. 'They hadn't been used since the 1970s and when we opened them up, soot went everywhere! We finally got them working, though, and they heat the house up beautifully in winter.'

With the heavy tasks accomplished, the pair turned their attention to the decor,

choosing a palette of varying muted pastel shades, rather than white. 'White can be quite harsh, and we wanted a softer, more traditional look,' says Anna. 'We also sourced Gustavian-themed wallpapers to use in the bedrooms.' In the downstairs sitting room, deeper tones of sage wallpaper and burnished wood and leather furniture add texture and contrast. In the larger sitting room, cream upholstery, flowing voile sheers and velvet curtains enhance the period feel.

The outbuildings were a treasure trove of items ripe for upcycling. 'We rescued lots of china, mirrors and candlesticks that had been stored and forgotten about, and even an old laundry mangle that Gustav's father had intended to chop up for firewood,' says Anna. Gustav stripped it down, found some new legs and transformed it into the kitchen table. 'Moving to a farm has meant big changes,' concludes Anna. 'But it's great to watch our children growing up here, and spending time outdoors. We love our new lifestyle.' 25



DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Detached Victorian lodge, built in 1859

LOCATION Hertfordshire

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, music room, four bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2007

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We had a Victorian townhouse in north London,' says Amanda.

Balancing ACT

Amanda and Ian Holly transformed a period house into a modern home while retaining its integrity

FEATURE VICTORIA TUNSTALL | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RACHAEL SMITH

DINING ROOM

A round, starburst-shaped table made of oak strips, positioned in the centre, echoes the circular space.

The Maurits dining table would work well in this scheme, price on application, Fred&Juul. Leather and chrome Eleganza dining chairs by Tim Bates, £950 for set of six, Pieff. Val St Lambert crystal glass purple vase, £280, Ruby in the Dust. Chest of drawers, £900, French Finds



HALL

'The gilt and glass table and crystal lamp illuminate under the stairs,' says Amanda.

Black snakeskin armchair, £500, Heal's. Crystal and gold Lobmeyr table light, £1,950, Ruby in the Dust

Driving home after a party, Amanda and Ian Holly, who were looking for a property to modernise, saw a picture-postcard house, complete with white picket fence, for sale. 'From the outside, it ticked all the boxes,' says Amanda. The detached Victorian lodge had plenty of period charm and it occupied a large plot on a common. 'We thought it would be a renovation project to sell,' says Amanda, 'but, the longer we lived there, the more it became our dream home.'

'As the house was an old property, it needed updating,' says Amanda. 'Plus there was a sloping upstairs landing, and some rotten window frames.' The couple



KITCHEN

A soft eau de nil tiled splashback adds colour, while displaying ornaments on a high shelf, draws the eye up and visually heightens the room.

Existing kitchen units painted in Pavilion Gray estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Green metro tiles, £70sq m, Croft Tile Centre. For a similar range cooker try Leisure Cuisinemaster, £1,290, Kensington Appliances. Black and white Etched Peony dinner plates are comparable, £6 each, Marks & Spencer



SITTING ROOM

A walnut veneer wall unit hides all the media equipment while the large grey L-shaped sofa is perfect to slouch on. For a sofa like this try Vita right-hand corner sofa, with Porcelain Diego linen upholstery, £4,900, Heal's. Large turquoise cushions, £40 each; blue print cushion, £50, all Zara Home

FAVOURITE ITEM *'My Blüthner piano is a real talking point – it used to belong to a member of the band Pink Floyd'*

planned to open up the downstairs to make a large living area, but realised that if they did, the house would lose part of its charm. 'We had big, lofty rooms in our last house,' recalls Amanda. 'Here, we have the best of both worlds – the kitchen and dining areas flow in an open-plan design, but we've kept two reception rooms, with two distinct moods.' The sitting room has a TV with built-in surround sound and a slouchy sofa, while the other room is for playing the piano, reading and relaxing.

The couple started by replacing the electrics and plumbing. They ripped out the main bathroom and airing cupboard and levelled the landing floor. As winter was coming, Amanda also wanted the house to be watertight and draughtproof. 'The wooden uprights in the bay windows had some rot, but we hadn't realised that these uprights were structural,' says Amanda. To fix the problem within the



MUSIC ROOM Amanda's beloved Blüthner piano takes pride of place in here.

Black grand piano, £20,000, Blüthner. Picture with bevelled mirror frame, £750, Ruby in the Dust



MASTER BEDROOM

Muted Egyptian cotton and a modern oak bed give a calm feel to the room.

For a similar white cotton eiderdown try The White Company. Radius oak bed, £750, Habitat. Wall mirror, £800, Ruby in the Dust. Orange silk cushions, £25 each; purple plain velvet cushion, £25, all John Lewis



GUEST BEDROOM

Amanda has kept the furniture simple and the ornaments strong with a palette of blue and brown.

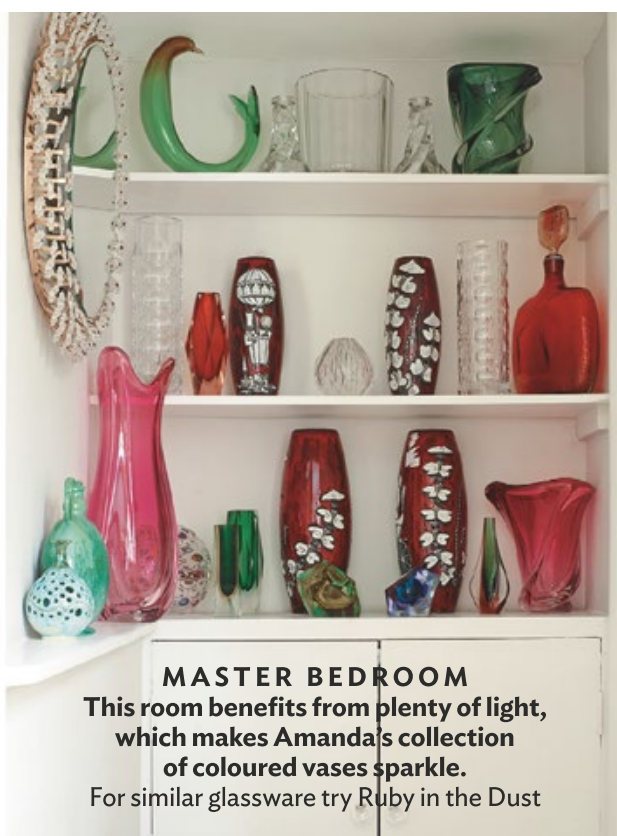
Wooden dressing table by Alain Delon for Salbot, £2,500, Ruby in the Dust. Try The Old Cinema for similar retro ceramic vases

DESIGN ADVICE *'Don't rush in, try to take the time to feel what works naturally'*

budget, builders replaced old sections of the oak supports. The couple added underfloor heating in the bathrooms and air conditioning in the dining room.

Once the structural work was finished, decorating could start. Amanda wanted to modernise the look so her Art Deco and Mid-Century furniture and ornaments would work together. 'It was a question of balancing old with new,' she says, 'I used greys and off-whites for the walls, as these work with gilt vintage mirrors and lights.' As an antiques dealer, Amanda was keen for her vintage finds to fit in with her home, as clients sometimes visit to see her pieces. 'If an item looks good in a home, it inspires people to try it for themselves,' she says.

Now the house is finished, Amanda and Ian have no intention of moving. 'It's more about what we would lose rather than gain,' she says. 'Coming here has really been the best move for us.' 25



MASTER BEDROOM

This room benefits from plenty of light, which makes Amanda's collection of coloured vases sparkle.

For similar glassware try Ruby in the Dust



BATHROOM

A false half wall hides the cistern and makes a useful shelf, while thin cream wall tiles add texture.

Floor and wall tiles, £25sq m, Croft Tile Centre. Bath, £700; wall-hung WC, £280, both CP Hart

**SITTING ROOM**

Isabelle chose autumnal colours with rustic browns and added a large stool to provide extra seating. Similar footstools from £235, Hide Nor Hair. Madison round rug, £239, Marks & Spencer. Incandescence watercolour by Nathalie Maquet, Catharine Miller Gallery. Walls painted in Dove Tale estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

PERIOD PEACE

When Isabelle Caprano and her husband Gareth decided to look for a relaxing country retreat, they were delighted to find an ideal spot in Cheshire

FEATURE PAT GARRATT | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RACHAEL SMITH

**ORANGERIE**

In place of blinds, Isabelle installed heat and glare reducing window film. Window film, price on application, The Window Film Company. Pompidou metal and glass coffee table, from £395, Oka

**INSPIRING****HOME TRUTHS**

THE PROPERTY Detached country house built in the 1930s

LOCATION Cheshire

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, snug, study, boot room, orangerie, five bedrooms, all en suite

PURCHASED 2013

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We also have a Victorian home in southwest London,' says Isabelle.

**SNUG**

This cosy area is adjacent to the kitchen and the painting over the fireplace can be removed to reveal a television. Portabella sofa, from £1,239, Marks & Spencer, would work well here. Randle rug, £250, Ikea, is similar



KITCHEN-DINER

Isabelle had the table made by adding new legs to a door from a reclamation yard and had covers made to fit the dining chairs.

Units painted in Ammonite and Purbeck Stone modern emulsion, £42 each, for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball.

Reclaimed door, Lassco. Try the Henriksdal chair, £90, Ikea, for a similar style. Milnsbridge is a similar wooden chandelier, £200, Laura Ashley



Seeking a rural retreat from their busy London lives, Isabelle Caprano and her husband, Gareth, automatically looked northwest to Cheshire, where they have friends and family. ‘We wanted somewhere completely different from our home in the city, a place we could walk our miniature schnauzers Wellie and Truffle, and see only fields and sheep from the windows,’ says Isabelle.

After looking at more than 50 properties and discarding new-builds and homes that were either too dark or too big, the couple opted for a detached 1930s country house in its own grounds, complete with a striking orangerie.

‘The previous owners had already done a fantastic job in extending the house to virtually double its size from a two-bedroom to a five-bedroom property,’ says Isabelle. ‘The kitchen was bespoke and had been installed by a local joiner; the bathrooms were also new, although we have since changed some of the baths and basins.

Basically, our only job was to redecorate and tone down the colours to make the interior feel more restful.’

Because 1930s houses are not renowned for their architectural elegance, Isabelle admits that she wouldn’t have naturally gravitated towards that era. But the extension had been built so well and sympathetically that, as she says, ‘it was love at first sight.’ Having recently finished renovating their Victorian home in London, she was relieved to find that her task in Cheshire was mainly decorative. ‘I really wasn’t ready to take on another significant project, especially as we don’t spend the whole week here,’ she explains.

Isabelle, who took an interior design course to prepare for revamping her London home, also applied her knowledge to the new Cheshire property. ‘There were several mismatched wallpapers in different styles,’ she says, ‘so I substituted them with my favourite palette of neutral paint colours on the walls, particularly shades of grey.’ In



LESSONS LEARNT 'I was designing the interiors for this house while I was in London, so found shopping online for furniture invaluable'



HALL

Sunny in summer, with a roaring log burner in winter, this space is welcoming all year round

Try the Stockholm flatwoven rug in yellow, £160, Ikea, for a similar look. The Beaumont wood-burning stove, £895, Chesneys, would work well here. Giant rattan log basket, £105, Garden Trading, is comparable



MASTER EN SUITE Sophisticated shades and a crystal chandelier give a luxurious feel.

Walls painted in Manor House Gray estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Shamley 12-light chandelier, £500, Laura Ashley. Landmark bath in gun metal grey, £2,299, Bathstore, is similar

DESIGN ADVICE “I like the use of contrasting materials in a room. Here, draped curtains and a sheepskin rug on the chair soften the hardness of the marble tiles’



MASTER BEDROOM Sophisticated grey, gold and white shades were chosen for this room.

Dulwich headboard, from £850, The White Company. Grey herringbone alpaca throw, £129, The Wool Company, would look cosy here. Oblong gold cushions, price on application, Fermoie

the darker rooms, she opted for pale hues, brighter rooms feature more dramatic shades, plus white woodwork as a contrast.

To draw attention to the enormous inglenook fireplace in the hall, Isabelle painted the back wall a matte charcoal shade to match the woodburning stove. Meanwhile, the freestanding double-ended bath, which she had installed in the master en suite, has a similar, dramatic, dark grey finish. This is certainly a bathroom with real wow factor, as it also features an eye-catching crystal chandelier that hangs over the bath, plus an armchair with a sheepskin throw. The whole design is finished off by graceful grey voile drapes framing floor-to-ceiling windows. ‘My aim was to make this room luxurious yet still cosy,’ says Isabelle.

Choosing paint shades and fabrics is what Isabelle enjoys most of all, and her technique of combining three colours in the Roman blinds works well in several

rooms. In the kitchen, for instance, she chose black, lime green and grey shades for the blind above the sink; while in the master bedroom, she opted for dark and light grey with mustard – contrasting shades which have been picked up in the throw and the cushions on the bed.

The view of the lovely garden dictated the height of several of the chairs and sofas, particularly in the orangerie. ‘I wanted to make sure that the furniture we chose in there was low and wouldn’t distract from the view of the outside when we were sitting down,’ says Isabelle. To this end she has also eschewed blinds in this room.

Much thought and care has gone into the interior of this elegant property, although Isabelle admits she was very happy not to have to take on anything structural. ‘Because all the groundwork had already been done for us before we got there, it was nothing but sheer pleasure to decorate it,’ she smiles. 25

EXTERIOR

Leonora's mountain retreat is a mix of traditional materials with an airy modern layout.

For Adirondack chairs like these, from £147, try Adirondack Outdoors



A view for **ALL SEASONS**

WITH TERRACES OPEN TO THE MOUNTAIN AIR AND ROOMS FILLED WITH NATURAL LIGHT,
THE ALPINE HOME OF LEONORA BEAUBOIS HAS A MODERN YET RUSTIC FEEL

FEATURE SERENA FOKSCHANER | PHOTOGRAPHY MARK LUSCOMBE- WHYTE



Leonora (shown right with daughter Chiara) relaxes on the terrace with her mother and two nieces, Pauline and Capucine



Leonora Beaubois designed her chalet near Megève, in the French Alps, as a home to suit all seasons, come snow, rain or shine. Soaring windows and sheltered terraces allow the family to enjoy the great outdoors all year round.

Leonora and her husband, Jean, built the chalet six years ago. 'We were inspired by Italian contemporary mountain homes, where architects experiment with materials, mixing finishes,' she says. 'French planning restrictions meant we couldn't be too radical, but we've found ways of including modern features in the design; the large terraces, for instance.'

When she's not enjoying her new home, Leonora runs her own interiors shop in London, selling linen made by her family's 150-year-old textiles business. 'I used to come to the Alps as a child and, now I have my own family, we spend our holidays here,' says Leonora, who has three children – Chiara, 8, Luca, 7, and Léa, 10 months. 'It feels like our London flat, but in the mountains.' The house – with its mix of small and large windows – is at once old and new. Inside, Alpine wood is offset by pale walls, stone floors and Corian surfaces. Salvaged



2



3



1 SITTING ROOM
With views out across the terrace and to the mountains beyond, this lofty space is well used.

Bespoke Leo coffee table, £1,000; grey and white Kose vases, from £690 each, all L&B

2 KITCHEN
Light oak floors and pine cabinetry help to create a modern aspect.

The Sophie oak dining chairs would work here, £50 each, Habitat. Walls painted in Plume, £89 per 2.5 litres, Flamant at McGlashans

3 DINING ROOM
Reclaimed wood mixed with glass was used to construct the sliding doors that lead from the dining room to the kitchen.

Luz dining chairs and dining table, price on application, all L&B. Similar French oak flooring, price on application, Solid Floor

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Contemporary chalet

LOCATION

South-east France

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen, dining room, studio, six bedrooms (all en suite)**PURCHASED** 2008

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We also own an apartment in London,' says Leonora.

materials are cleverly used – the sliding doors connecting the main living areas are made of old timber and glass, which saturates the house with light.

Breaking with the traditional layout of conventional Alpine architecture, the open-plan interior has the feel of a modern barn conversion. The focus of the house is the sitting room, where a striking, double-height space is crowned by a canopy of golden beams. A confident mix of textures and finishes is a strong element. 'The palette is neutral, but we love to mix things up, so you'll find rustic with modern; steel with stone and new with antique,' says Leonora. In the bedrooms, throws and cushions change according to the seasons. 'In winter I use more earthy tones, while summer is a great time to play with colours and lighter fabrics,' Leonora explains.

It is not until you step out on to the terrace, however, that you discover the pièce de résistance. Sink into a banquette and let your eye be drawn to the view of Mont Blanc. Crystalline with snow in winter or brooding against summer skies, this is truly a view for all seasons. 25



HALL

Pine may be traditional in chalets, but the angular lines lend a distinctively contemporary feel.

For a similar table, try the Ninix range, Royal Botania. For flooring like this, try Pietra d'Avola, £177.11 per sq m, Surfacetiles



GUEST BEDROOM

A pair of aluminium wall lights provide a modern focal point in an otherwise calm and composed space.

Lamps, Tolomeo mini with wall bracket, price on application, Holloways of Ludlow

EN SUITE

This sanctuary is a mix of Alpine wood and modern Corian.

Bath, Starck 3, £661, CP Hart. For a similar blind fabric, try Wisteria, from £120m, Chelsea Textiles. Corian, £310 per sq m, Corian



INSIGHT

Working with wood

Love Leonora Beaubois' sleek chalet style? Whether building an all-wood home or using wooden elements, bear this advice in mind

The chalet look is popular among new-build houses in the UK. It takes its cue from modern European design, fusing the warmth of wood with generous glass windows to create an airy effect.

IN THE GROOVE

Eco-friendly and entirely natural, wood is a flexible element to work with, whether you're incorporating it into an interior, using it as an exterior façade or refreshing original wooden features. But it can also present challenges – internally, an overabundance can darken a scheme, while externally, the look can be heavy on the eye. Combining wood with materials such as stone, steel, render or glass will ensure the overall result is a home that is more likely to blend with its environment. This is a popular approach for new-builds, creating an organic, weathered look. Internally, stick to one type of wood, preferably with a light patina. An untreated finish will create a rustic look, while a lime wash will add a fresh note.

SUBTLE APPROACH

If your interior is predominantly wooden, like Leonora's, opt for sleek accessories and fittings to contemporise the look. Slim Anglepoise lamps, marble counters, oversized pendants, streamlined units, stainless steel and reclaimed materials all work well in this setting.

The variety of timber now available is vast and includes oak, walnut, ash, beech, ply and stained options. If you're going for a cool, contemporary look, light timber such as ash flooring will evoke a calming Scandinavian feel; and, if you have a small space, it's great for creating a sense of light. 'Alternatively, if you want to create a 1950s, sophisticated scheme, try walnut,' advises Habitat's Creative Director, Polly Dickens. 'It's a dark wood with traditional associations but, paired with materials like brass, copper, mirror and glass and especially with black, it looks very contemporary.'

Try adding tactile pieces, too, to introduce warmth to the scheme. Deep wool or silk rugs work well on wooden floors while faux fur throws or cashmere cushions will add a touch of luxury. Soft lighting – warm yellow rather than cool white – creates a sense of cosiness. To keep the scheme modern, try graphic patterns for a striking look.



EXPERT EYE

'Avoid mixing different timbers in a scheme as it can be confusing on the eye. A single timber with other finishes, textures and colours creates a more visually coherent look.'

POLLY DICKENS, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, HABITAT

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE...



- 'Using a light shade of wood internally enhances a sense of space, particularly with light decor.'
- If you are building from scratch, prefabricated timber-framed homes can be custom designed and manufactured before being constructed on site, and can be watertight within a few days.'
- Wood is also 100% natural, and therefore a very healthy building material. Similarly, wood-shaving insulation is a natural, breathable and extremely effective insulating material.'
- Remember that untreated wooden exteriors will weather. Spruce, for instance, will take on a beautiful silver-grey shade.'
- There is a huge variety of timber cladding available. Timber boards can be used for a traditional or contemporary effect, while shingles (lightweight overlapping slates) can be beautiful and very striking.'

ANTHONY COOPER, THE HOUSE DESIGNERS

ADDRESS BOOK

● BRITISH INSTITUTE OF INTERIOR DESIGN

020 7349 0800, biid.org.uk

Professional organisation for interior designers in the UK.

● THE HOUSE DESIGNERS
01223 235632,
thehousedesigners.eu

High-end, contemporary eco-house designers.

● JULIAN COWIE ARCHITECTS

020 7253 6333,

jc-architects.co.uk

Award-winning practice with a sensitive approach.



KITCHEN
 'Bespoke luxury units enabled us to specify what we wanted,' says Gretchen. Bespoke units, Shake the Sky. Cabinetry painted in Venetian Crystal 2 eggshell, £30 for 2.5 litres, Dulux. For lime-washed oak engineered floorboards like this try 3 Oak, price on application

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian town house

LOCATION London

ROOMS Hall, drawing room, sitting room/kitchen-diner, snug, study, wine cellar, cloakroom, four bedrooms, two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2011

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived a flat in South Kensington,' says Gretchen.

AMERICAN BEAUTY



SITTING ROOM

A new cover has revived this old sofa.

The Carrick sofa is similar, from £620, Sofa.com.

Bespoke rug, £1,800, Bowloom

California natives Gretchen and Jos Trusted opened up a dated end-of-terrace to fill the house with the sunlight they were used to back home

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN

PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON



DINING AREA
Part of the new extension,
this light-filled space opens
on to a walled garden.
Zinc-topped dining table,
£6,000, I & J L Brown. Tiffany
dining chairs, £495 each, Oka



1 DRAWING ROOM
A well-used nautical theme stops the space feeling too formal. Mirrored frames of coral watercolours, £450 each, Trowbridge Gallery

End-of-terrace corner houses are like gold dust in a city – highly sought after and passionately fought over. So Gretchen and Jos Trusted were thrilled to find one in southwest London, near the river, where they could bring up their two daughters, Madeleine, 8, and Summer, 6. ‘Coming from California, we had to live near water,’ says Gretchen.

Fortunately for the couple, other prospective buyers were put off by the state of the property, which hadn’t been touched for 40 years. ‘It was dark, poky and needed a lot of work,’ says Gretchen. ‘An old latrine was still housed in a shed at the end of the garden! But we had carte blanche to adapt the house to our needs.’

With several years of experience renovating London houses, Gretchen was well qualified to see past the dated interior and poor layout. Although the garden was tiny, the bones of the house were good, and she realised that if they installed new windows and doors into the external walls of the property, it would fill the house with natural light from three sides.

Excavating the basement was the first job, which involved dropping the floor and making the ceiling



2

2 HALL
‘I installed a fireplace to welcome guests on a cold night,’ says Gretchen. Alhambra marble fireplace, £4,000, Chesney’s

DRAWING ROOM

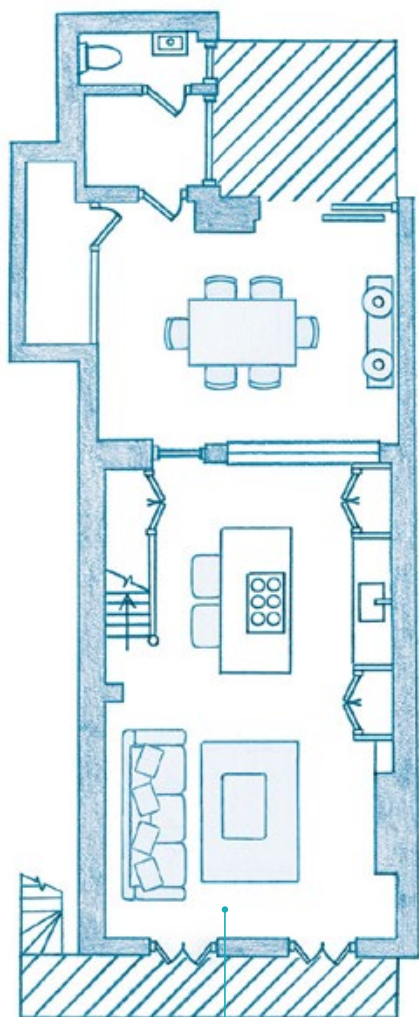
Mirror and glass surfaces increase the proportions of this room. Cream sofa, The Sofa and Chair Company, price on application. Chiron Indigo curtain fabric, £45m, Designers Guild. Glass-topped coffee table, £1,600, Kinky Roots





AFTER

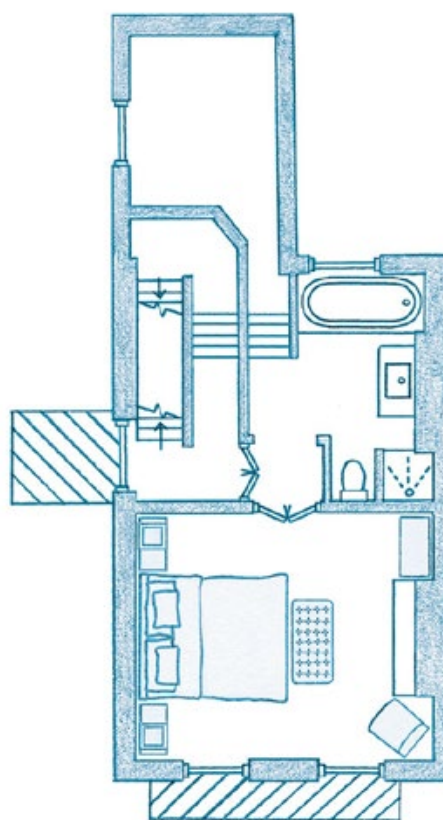
BASEMENT



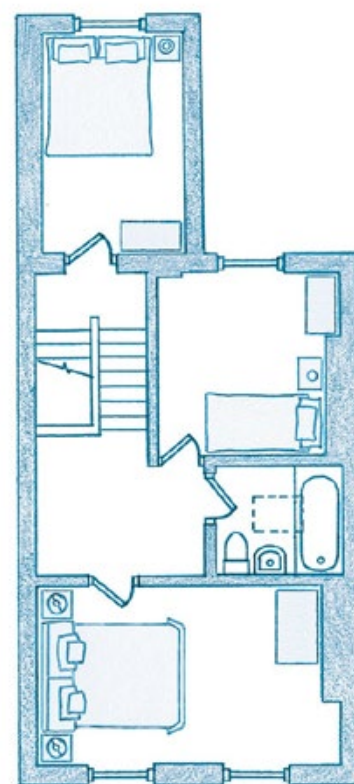
GROUND FLOOR



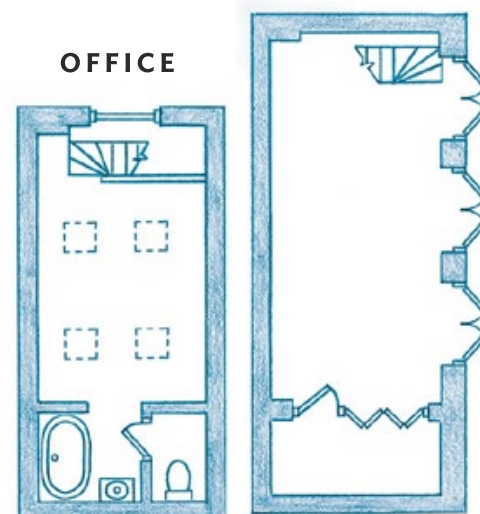
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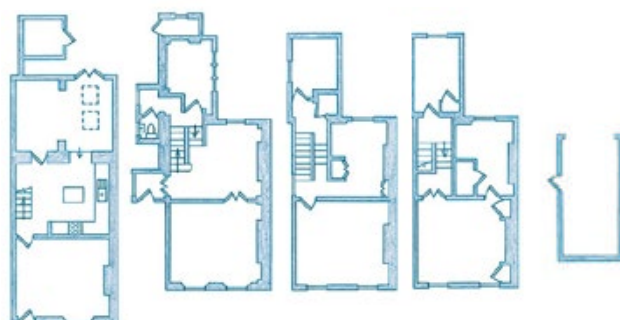
SECOND FLOOR



OFFICE



BEFORE



CREATING HEIGHT

The basement floor was lowered and the ceiling was raised by 40cm to increase space. The internal walls were demolished to form one open-plan living, cooking and dining area, and a small patio garden area was created.



DECORATING TIP 'When a house is well thought out, you can interchange its elements spontaneously and they will suit any room'

1



2



3

1 MASTER BEDROOM
This elegant room's floor-to-ceiling double windows open onto the balcony. Stool, price on application, Chelsea Upholstery & Interiors. Walls painted in Elephant's Breath estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Bedspread fabric, Brick Antique Paisley, £90m, De Le Cuona

3 GUEST BEDROOM
Here, there is just enough space for a bed and bedside tables. Beauvais bedside table, £235, Oka. Baldwin nickel lamp, £75, India Jane

40cm higher to increase the space. At the same time, internal walls were demolished to turn four tiny rooms into one big living area for sitting, cooking and dining. To provide an attractive outlook, a patio garden was also created. 'Having an outside space to walk out to through sliding doors totally revolutionised the feeling of this basement room,' says Gretchen. 'In winter, under snow and lit by spotlights, it looks so romantic. In summer, it feels quite Italian, especially now the vines Jos planted have begun to fruit. He trained them across the back wall, like a mini vertical vineyard.' The wine cellar is waiting to be filled with bottles from the first batch of Jos's homegrown produce. 'He designed the wine cellar himself,' Gretchen says proudly.

Meanwhile, on the ground floor, opening up and linking the snug to the back garden through French windows has had a transformative effect. There was a derelict vegetable stall at one end of the garden, accessed only from the street. 'We think the previous owner might have grown and sold vegetables from here. But whatever it was, it has made a perfect office for me,' says Gretchen. Next to her office is the snug, which benefits from the corner location. 'I got the idea for a raised glazed roof section from a design in a nearby property I saw while cycling around here,' she says. Upstairs, the feel of the drawing room and hall is glamorous and ordered, distinguished by Gretchen's combinations of navy, red and white – reminiscent of a nautical, yachting scheme. The architect describes her interior style as a mix of classic chic and colourful contemporary. 'For me colour and a relaxed atmosphere are the characteristics needed to make a home feel good and family friendly,' she explains. 'I opted for practical surfaces throughout, such as the zinc-topped dining table that the children can scribble on without lasting damage and, of course, washable covers in the rooms they occupy.' This, together with a unifying thread of colour and charm, has created an unmistakable and unique sense of joie de vivre in her home. 25



4

2 HALL
Taking advantage of the corner location, a window in the sidewall fills the scheme with light. Black console table, £1,200, Rebecca Scott. Kate table lamps, £330 each, Circa Lighting

4 MASTER BATHROOM
A wall of mirrors adds light here. Vanity unit, price on application, Shake the Sky. Carrara marble floor tiles, price on application, Stone Circle. Swivel wall lights W6-001, £600 each, Besselink and Jones

WORTH THE WAIT

Georgie and Charlie Rudge found taking their time to renovate a dated period property gave them exactly the home they wanted

FEATURE BEVERLEY BYRNE | PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE

SITTING ROOM

Splashes of bold colour and pattern lift the neutral backdrop and introduce a sense of fun.

Buttoned linen three-seater sofa, £1,250; cushions in Manuel Canovas Caravane fabric, £178m; red chair in Moon Melton Wools II in Trafalgar, £49.95m, all Town House Interiors

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian terrace

LOCATION London

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner/snug, four bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2009

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'When we first married, we lived in a small cottage in south London,' says Georgie.



SITTING ROOM
 'I love collecting glass and pottery, and displaying the bottles on the mantel gives this side of the room more colour,' says Georgie.
 Flow coffee table, £245, Guru Furniture. For similar rug try City.Cows, around £200



Buying a home within strolling distance of any London park comes at a premium. So when Georgie and

Charlie Rudge found such a house, they knew that any major renovation plans would have to be put on hold. 'Everything depended largely on the availability of funds,' says Georgie, 'so we were prepared for a long wait. Luckily, the house was habitable.'

Their plans included a loft conversion and roof terrace, plus an extension on the ground floor to create a large kitchen-diner. 'The idea was to work logically from top to bottom,' recalls Georgie, an interior designer. 'After moving in, we had enough spare money to turn a first-floor cloakroom into a bathroom, which was essential when it came to renovating our en suite at a later date. Then, the following year, we began converting the loft.'

Once the upper floors were completed, the couple took a year off to save up for the kitchen extension, which began in 2012. 'We planned to incorporate the side return and remove the wall between the kitchen and the sitting room, which then became the snug,' explains Georgie. 'Although work proceeded quickly, it was the most disruptive part of the renovation – the builders boarded up the stairs and put a lockable door on the bottom to give us some security, while the back of the house was open to the elements.'

'For six weeks we used the bathroom as a makeshift kitchen, living on microwave meals and

FAVOURITE ROOM

'We have two: the kitchen and snug. They've become the heart of the house, where we spend most of our time'



KITCHEN

Extending out into the side return and garden has more than doubled the size of the original kitchen.

Burford Grey units, price on request, Howdens. Ingolf dining chairs, £35 each, Ikea. Reclaimed wood table, £1,995, Town House Interiors



SNUG

Installing glass-paned doors between the snug and sitting room maximises the flow of light.

Karlstad two-seat sofa in Lindo Beige, £410, Ikea. David Hunt's Antler wall light, £105, Love Lights, is almost identical to this one. Lewis Abbott sisal flooring, £27sq m, Wrights Flooring



GUEST BEDROOM

Elegant furnishings and sumptuous fabrics create a relaxing retreat for family and friends.

Oka's faux mohair throw in Teal, £44, has the same look. Iona headboard, £369, The Headboard Workshop, is similar. Cushions, from £50 each, Town House Interiors

LESSON LEARNT

'Next time, we'd consider renting a place while work is being carried out. It was good to be on site to oversee the builders but it was difficult living in such a dusty, dirty environment'



MASTER EN SUITE

Georgie upcycled an old cabinet and added a marble top and splashback to create the vanity unit.

Cambridge bath, £599; Beta basins, £99 each; Bensham taps, £159 each, all Bathstore

washing up in the bath. It was the lowest point of the whole project.'

When the major ground floor structural work was completed, Charlie, who works in product design, tackled most of the fitted carpentry, including the cupboards in the sitting room. 'He's also great at wallpapering, while I'm terrible,' admits Georgie. 'I'm better at creating the overall design and organising the contractors – DIY is not my strong point.'

The decorating process took place over a five-year period, with Georgie sticking to a cohesive paint scheme. 'I soon get bored of the same colour so I've kept walls and flooring fairly neutral, adding interest through soft furnishings, lighting and accessories,' she says. 'I like to create a carefully balanced mixture of pattern and texture.'

It was also important that the rooms were practical as well as attractive. 'We wanted family and friends to feel relaxed, and not be worrying about children spilling a drink or breaking something,' says Georgie, who used Ikea furniture in the snug and kitchen as it's not too expensive to replace.

'We're thrilled with the finished result,' she concludes. 'The house is perfect for entertaining friends and family. Charlie and I love having dinner parties and barbecues, and sitting out on the roof terrace on warm summer evenings. We achieved all that we set out to and created a bright spacious home with the park on our doorstep.' 25



MASTER BEDROOM

Elegant pelmets and curtains frame the windows beautifully. Laura Ashley's Freshford red floral curtain fabric, £35m, and The French Bedroom Company's Provencal chest, £499, would work here



DINING ROOM
Inherited items, including a beautiful table, chairs and Arts & Crafts dresser (below), create an elegant setting. Card Room Green estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Coir Bouclé rug by Crucial Trading, from £88, Crucial Rug Store, is similar

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Georgian former rectory, with two wings added in the 1970s

LOCATION Leicestershire

ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, snug, snooker room, utility room, cloakroom, five bedrooms (two en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2002

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here, we lived in a cottage in a neighbouring village,' says Sarah.

DIVINE inspiration

Sarah and Peter Boddy remodelled a dark and austere former rectory, giving it a cosy country-cottage feel more suited to their laid-back lifestyle

FEATURE BETH ROBERTSON | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RACHAEL SMITH



SITTING ROOM
 An old kitchen table was cut down to create this charming coffee table. Cornwall coffee table, £395, The Furniture Barn, is similar. Notonthehighstreet.com sells willow wreaths like this one,

DECORATING TIP *'Never rush into decorating a room before you've lived with it for a while to see how the light changes throughout the day'*



SNUG
 'This has a lovely feel,' says Sarah. Paula wicker chair, £200, The Furniture Barn, is similar. Alseda stool, £20, Ikea



I



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3

Sarah Boddy had driven past a characterful hillside property on her daily school run for years without ever taking much notice of it. That is, until she and her husband Peter began to think of moving to a home with more space for their three growing children – Hannah, now 20, Phoebe, 19, and Henry, 17, along with the family's two dogs. 'We were considering moving to Northamptonshire when a friend told me that the house on the hill was for sale,' recalls Sarah. 'I picked up the particulars but almost dismissed it right away because I somehow felt it was far too grown up for me!'

Peter, however, fell for the spacious former rectory on seeing the pictures, and after a couple of viewings Sarah also warmed to its charm as she began to picture her own possessions there. 'It was the fact that it felt very big and austere compared to the cottage we lived in that initially put me off,' she explains, 'but I decided I could give it the same cosy, welcoming feel.'

Structurally, the house was sound, as it had been reconfigured in the 1970s with wings added on either side of the original Grade II listed building. Having stretched themselves financially to secure the property, Sarah and Peter waited a few years before tackling the bulk of the refurbishment. Original features, such as cornicing and architraves were eventually restored, after a consultation with a local expert to ensure everything was true to the period of the house, wooden floors were reinstated downstairs and the bathrooms replaced. 'Then it was just a case of putting our stamp on the house by updating the decor,' she adds.

The couple also extended above the garages to create an office and studio from which Sarah runs her business The Skinny Card

Company. Drawing inspiration from the flock of chickens and ducks that happily roam the lawns and scratch around the swimming pool, she has created a collection of greeting cards, textiles and ceramics featuring humorous animal characters.

Sarah's eye for style and flair for design is evident throughout the property. A soothing palette of muted paint shades teamed with comfy furnishings now imbues the house with the inviting, homely feel that she craved. 'Living in a very modern house wouldn't suit me,' says Sarah. 'Although I love the minimalist look, I like having an eclectic mix of things around that mean something to me, including pieces made by the children and bits collected from places that we've visited.'

Instead of immediately installing a new kitchen, the couple were happy to bide their time and simply update it for the time being. 'The room featured good German dark-oak cabinetry that was built to last, but it made the kitchen look a little too crowded,' explains Sarah. 'We removed some of the units and gave the rest of them a new lease of life with a fresh coat of paint and granite worktops.' Rustic flagstones replaced the old carpet, completing the kitchen's transformation from dull and dated to modern country, at minimal expense.

As the kitchen is the room the family now uses the most, Sarah and Peter plan to add a conservatory extension and replace the cupboards with hand-built Shaker-style cabinetry. 'I'm so excited about doing it but nervous at the same time, as I want to get it just right,' says Sarah. But looking around the relaxed and welcoming family home that they have already created, it's clear that with Sarah's talent for interiors, she needn't be concerned. 25

1 & 2 KITCHEN

Painting cabinetry in shades to go with existing splashback tiles gave this room a quick and easy update, while tying the scheme together. Walls and cabinets painted in Matchstick estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres and estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres; island painted in Arsenic estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, all Farrow & Ball

3 BREAKFAST AREA

Everyone gathers in here for casual family meals. Sarah's hen artwork and colourful

homeware designs add fun and vibrancy.

White dining chairs with rush seat, £119 each, Casafina, have this look. Masada limestone floor tiles, from £146.11sq m, Classical Flagstones. Ceramics, from a selection priced from £5.95 for an egg cup, The Skinny Card Company

4 MASTER BEDROOM

Dual-aspect windows create a light space.

Manoir sleigh bed, from £4,300 for a double, And So To Bed. Charlotte toile stripe quilted bedspread, from £65, Marquis & Dawe, is a good alternative

5 GUEST BEDROOM

Soft shades of eau de nil and cream lend a tranquil ambience.

Coleton quilt, £180; Nigella cushions, £40, both Laura Ashley, would work well. Large wicker love heart, £69, Amazon, is similar

6 & 7 MASTER EN SUITE

The couple opted for timeless fittings.

Victoria console on legs, £1,550; Le Thermo exposed shower, from £1,200; Le Grand Bateau bath, £5,000, all Catchpole & Rye





DISTINCTIVE

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

16th-century Italian Renaissance-style apartment

LOCATION

The historical Saint Georges district of Lyon

ROOMS Open plan sitting room/dining area, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom

PURCHASED

2012

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in the same district, along the Saône River in Lyon,' says Pierre.

SITTING ROOM

Plain walls provide the backdrop to quirky furnishings, from the giant lights to the stately dining chairs.

The Z2 sisal net tea-dyed knitted pendant lamp is similar, from £535, Ay Illuminate. Find rattan plates like these, from £5.41 for five, Etsy.com. The Old Cinema sells upcycled French-style tables, from £500



FRENCH COLLECTION

Design duo Pierre Emmanuel Martin and Stephane Garotin have used finds from their travels to give their compact apartment a big personality

FEATURE JENNY COAD | PHOTOGRAPHY FELIX FOREST/LIVING INSIDE



One way of keeping the holiday spirit alive is to bring a little of your trip home, whether that means a bottle of the local liquor, pebble-coloured French linen or perhaps a hand-turned ceramic. It's a philosophy that Pierre Emmanuel Martin and Stephane Garotin have certainly adopted in their French apartment. The interior design duo, who set up the specialist boutique Maison Hand in Lyon, love to travel and gain inspiration from their forays around the world. 'We often return with something special,' says Pierre. 'The large rattan plates from Burma, hung in a group on the living room wall, are a perfect example.'

The pair love to visit local flea markets to source unique pieces that give their home character, texture and a sense of history. When it comes to finding something unusual, Lyon offers rich pickings – from



KITCHEN

Simple white tiles with black grouting has a graphic look.

Plain white tiles from £24.75sq m; black tile grout, £17.99 for 2.5kg, both Topps Tiles. The Arena Black tap is a good match, £480, Paini

FAVOURITE FEATURE
*'We love the light, location and
white backdrop of the flat'*



DINING AREA
**Mismatched wooden pieces lend warmth
and character to the elegant panelling.**
Arne Jacobsen Series 7 dining chair,
£331; Tab white LED floor light, £238, both
The Conran Shop. The Lynn antiqued pine
stool is a good match, £59, Swoon Editions



BEDROOM
An arrangement of starburst mirrors adds depth to this compact bedroom. Set of five rattan wall mirrors, £315, Graham and Green are a good match. For handira blankets like this, from £225, try Beyond Marrakech. Lampe Gras 304 L40 Satin wall light, £310, Heal's

antiques shops to the market at Les Puce de Canal, which specialises in arts, antiques and decorative ware. The pair have an eye for an interesting flourish and don't shy away from a bold display. 'We've chosen a clean, white background so favourite objects speak for themselves,' says Pierre.

Pierre and Stephane's biggest challenge was working within their modest-sized apartment. 'Our solution was to rearrange the layout to make the most of the space,' says Pierre. Every spot has a purpose – a place to relax, somewhere to eat or work and a retreat in which to sleep or bathe. A giant mirror against the sitting room wall gives the illusion of space, and airy pieces like the glass floor lamp and ethereal pendant light have reflective qualities.

Storage was integral to keeping clutter hidden. 'That's where we made use of the room beneath the bedroom – which is elevated, rather like a split-level apartment,' says Pierre. The detritus of modern life is tucked away behind white painted doors, which echo the elegant panelling throughout the apartment.

The pair's desire to create a fresh, welcoming home has remained top of the agenda. 'We've stuck to a simple, clean palette, alleviated by warm materials, including the textured wood of the dining table, natural fibres and fabric pendant light shades,' says Pierre. 'The rustic rug in the sitting room and a soft, shaggy throw on the bed add texture.' The colour palette is predominantly white and black – including the bathroom and kitchen tiles, which, as a result of black grouting, have a graphic feel. Small details in softer grey appear, but keeping everything pared down in this way gives a sense of unity between each room.

So having created an intriguing yet restful space, where next for the duo? 'New Zealand, Australia and Uruguay are all on our list,' says Pierre. And you can be certain their luggage will be full of precious finds. 25



BATHROOM
This neat space demonstrates how slick design can make the most of the tiniest spot. Adnet hanging mirror, from £450, The Conran Shop. Eden Bath offers a similar single handle wall-mounted rubbed bronze tap, from £185

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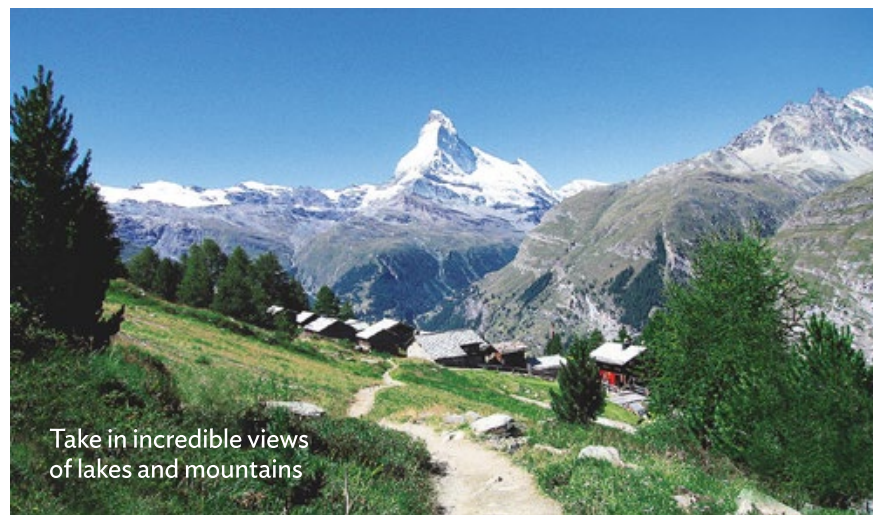
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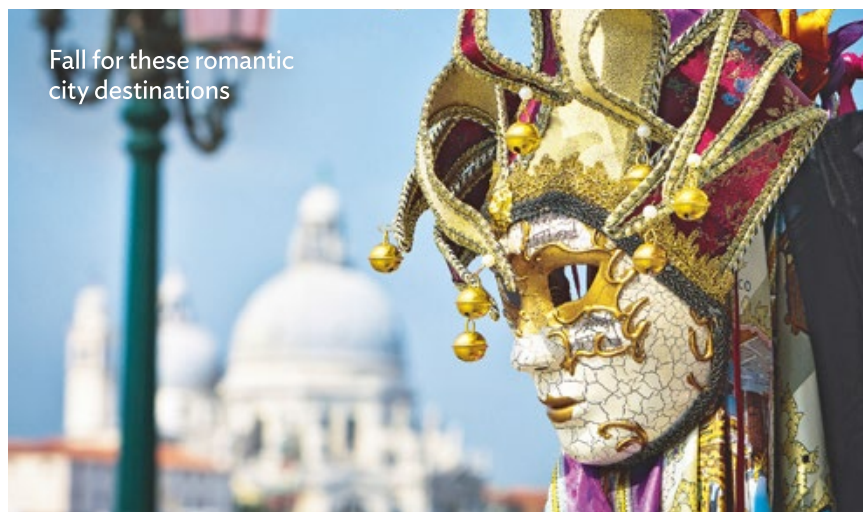
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SUN ROOM

Brenda upcycled the mirror, which was originally part of a sideboard.

Farmhouse dining table with drawer, £379, Oak & Pine Cabin Furniture, is similar

PICTURE THIS

Brenda Harris has designed a stunning, light-filled home to match its breathtaking location

FEATURE AND PHOTOGRAPHY BARBARA EGAN/REPORTAGE

NEW-BUILD



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Detached new-build

LOCATION

County Waterford

ROOMS Hall, kitchen, utility, sitting room, sunroom, three bedrooms (all en suite), studio, office and cloakroom in the loft.

BUILT 2006

PREVIOUS HOME

'We lived in a three-bedroom detached home in County Wicklow,' says Brenda.





KITCHEN

'I chose freestanding pieces to give the room a more relaxed feel,' says Brenda.

Bespoke units, price on request, The Victorian Kitchen Company. Dining table and chairs, £1,300, Tom Curran Homestyle

Brenda Harris and her husband, David, had spent many happy years living in rural County Wicklow, Ireland. But as time passed, the open countryside, which is within commutable distance of Dublin, was diminishing as more homes were built. So, in 2005, they decided that the time had come to try and find a new area to live.

Having both grown up by the sea, the couple were keen to return, and their search took them south to Wexford and Waterford. Brenda and David drove along the coast in search of a new location, and soon came across a beautiful fishing and holiday village located near the Waterford and Cork county borders. Although they were looking

for a house, they decided to view a plot of land that was for sale. 'We weren't thinking of building, but when we stood in this stunning location and saw the amazing views and path down to the sea, we knew this was the place we wanted to be,' says Brenda. The site already had outline planning permission for a conventional single-storey dwelling, but Brenda decided to redesign the layout of the house, within the footprint that had already been approved.

As the site was right on the coast and exposed to the elements, Brenda started researching ways to insulate the property and make it as eco friendly as possible. 'I looked at solar panels, solar gain, triple-insulation methods and triple glazing, and even ended up

SITTING ROOM

'A U-shaped sofa arrangement is very sociable,' says Brenda.

Sofa.com's Carrick, from £1,030, is comparable. Walls painted in Fawn modern emulsion, £42 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Coffee table, £325, Strawbridge



MASTER
EN SUITE

Brenda bought the antique claw-foot tub in France and had it reconditioned. Bath painted in French Grey estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Try Catchpole & Rye for antique baths, from £4,500



GUEST BEDROOM

'My aim was to provide a calm, inviting place to rest,' says Brenda. Feather & Black's Canterbury bed, £849, would work here



ordering some products from Austria, as they weren't available in Ireland at that time,' she explains. 'Internally, what I really wanted to do was open up the layout, as the original design had a series of long unlit corridors and small rooms with tiny windows.'

Brenda reworked the plans, combining the compact rooms and corridors to give the house a more spacious feel. Double doors were installed in all the south-facing rooms to bring in more light and make the most of the fabulous sea views. Although the rooms are a good size, they have standard, modern-height ceilings, so Brenda chose large windows with tall, narrow panes to help increase the impression of height. Finally, Brenda, an artist, turned her attention to the loft area, which had been ignored in the original plans, creating a large,

bright studio with office space, which doubles as a fourth bedroom, and a guest cloakroom. It was when the building work was underway and the loft was being clad that Brenda had the idea to leave a part of it open. 'I loved the light and the view so much that I decided to create a minstrel-style gallery, which overlooks the sunroom,' she explains.

Brenda and David are now reaping the rewards of living in a house they designed themselves. 'We had never thought of building a property, but I'm so glad we did as it has everything we need in one of the most beautiful locations I've ever lived in,' says Brenda. 'We love to welcome guests that I've met on my travels from all over the world, and they always comment on the connection between our home and the magical landscape that surrounds us.' 25



MASTER BEDROOM
The bed has been positioned so the couple can enjoy the sea views.

Chandelier, £120, Hicken Lighting. Alvine Kvist quilt cover set, £30, Ikea. Highgrove painted chest of drawers, £399, Wood Furniture Shop, are similar

INSIGHT

Building around a view

Planning to build your dream home in a rural area, as Brenda Harris has done? Be sure to make the most of the surrounding views

Having managed to secure the perfect site for your new-build project, you'll certainly want to incorporate as much of the landscape as possible in the design. Using full-length glazing, verandas, balconies and terraces are all ways to bring the outside in.

THE PERFECT PLOT

First make sure you gain relevant planning and building regulations approval (planningportal.gov.uk) before undertaking your project. Site your new home carefully, bearing in mind the plot's orientation and exposure to the elements – a southwest-facing spot will help maximise your property's insulation. Be aware, though, that full sunlight can be uncomfortable and hot in glazed structures, so allow for shade with the inclusion of a veranda or balcony. Consider sight lines, ensuring that spaces such as bedrooms and bathrooms incorporate low windows, in order to maximise the view. Sitting rooms and kitchens often benefit the most from floor-to-ceiling glazing, but if you're using a lot of glass, ensure you have an efficient heat and ventilation system.

CAREFUL PLANNING

It makes sense to arrange rooms where you'll be spending most of the time during the day in the part of the house that offers the best views. Main living and entertainment spaces, for example, come to life when they have a great backdrop. And while looking for the perfect site, don't be tempted to disregard a plot just because it has an unattractive or derelict property on it, or has existing plans in place that don't chime with your own

design ideal. Brenda Harris tweaked the building plans that she inherited to eliminate several corridors in favour of larger, free-flowing rooms. In doing so, she maximised far more of the inspiring view in the design. Look at other properties in the area to find out what style of house will be acceptable. Stringent rules apply to areas of outstanding natural beauty, and often if you're rebuilding a property, you'll need to be faithful to its original footprint.



PROFESSIONAL ADVICE ...



● 'If you have a view, do all you can to use it. Think carefully about how you live your life at home when considering the layout with your architect, to make the most of the opportunities to enjoy the view throughout the day.'

● Private or intimate spaces such as bedrooms or bathrooms can be situated elsewhere, and it makes

sense to place the rooms that are used mainly at night away from a view. But many people love being able to look outside from their bed or bath – if you're one of them then why not? Use an architect who can take advantage of the view in many different ways.

● Consider your internal layout, too. If you're lucky enough to have a picturesque site, then an open-plan scheme means it can be enjoyed from more parts of the house. Full-height glazing opening onto a view will create a sense of space and light, and a more pleasant environment, while also minimising the necessity for artificial lighting.

● You can also bring the inside and the outside together by thinking beyond full-height windows and looking at how outside spaces, such as terraces and balconies, can be designed alongside the main rooms. With care, this approach can also make the elevation facing outside more architecturally interesting.

● An architect will listen carefully to your brief before working with you on a design that does justice to the views and suits the way you use your home. They will also help you address any planning issues that may arise such as overlooking neighbouring properties.'

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STABLE INFLUENCE

Reflecting their lifelong love of horses, Claudia and John Roche have made a comfortable home from a former equine building

FEATURE AND PHOTOGRAPHY BARBARA EGAN/REPORTAGE



SITTING ROOM
An eclectic mix of items fills this homely space, including Claudia's painted artwork hung on the wall. Cotto del Sole floor tiles, price on application, Cotto d'Este. Curtains in Sanderson Porcelain Garden fabric, £48sq m, Collette Ward Interiors. Try City Cows for similar rug, from £119. Plaid lambswool throw, £55, Avoca



UNIQUE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Converted modern stable block

LOCATION County

Carlow, Ireland

ROOMS Hall, open-plan kitchen/dining/sitting room, wet room, sun room, two bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2003

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before we married, I lived in Somerset and John in County Wicklow,' says Claudia.



KITCHEN

John's cousin made the island unit, which divides the sitting and kitchen areas. Island painted in Skimming Stone estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. For similar lighting, try Lighting Direct's Dynamo pendant, £69.50



HALL

Antique pieces add interest and character to the full-height space. The Chandelier & Mirror Company's Adele chandelier, £265, would work here. Table lamp, £75, Collette Ward Interiors

Brought up in an early 18th-century manor house in Somerset, Claudia Roche is used to generous Georgian proportions and high ceilings. Translating her ideas to suit a compact converted stable block in County Carlow would, understandably, have been a challenge. However, Claudia, an equine and human sports masseuse, found it a simple process. 'It's not a large home,' she says of the property, which she shares with her husband, John, an equine and human chiropractor and acupuncturist. 'But as the ceiling in the open-plan area is so high, it feels very spacious. And there's just the two of us, so we don't need more room.'

Claudia is a strong advocate of the William Morris school of thought. 'I like simplicity rather than clutter, so I do subscribe to his ideas about beauty and usefulness,' she reflects. The couple's first decision was to lay tiling in soft terracotta throughout their home. 'When I was younger, I took a job as a mother's help in a medieval castle in Umbria,' she says. 'The advertisement said that they kept horses and you could ride out every day. The terracotta tiles remind me of that time in Italy, plus they're a practical choice in a home which has to cope with muddy boots and dog's paws. Using them throughout the house has simplified the interior.'

In addition, deep skirting has been used in every room, while lift-latch doors give a farmhouse feel to the interior. 'I wanted an old-fashioned setting for the lovely items that came from my previous home in Somerset, such as the chandelier and

DESIGN TIP *'One of the best space-saving bedside tables. They leave the floor area clear*



BEDROOM

Claudia made the headboard from marine plywood and covered it with a Venetian damask fabric.

Get the look with Lewis & Wood's Venetian damask in Corn, £84m. Wardrobe, £950, Collette Ward Interiors. Double leaf wall light, £72.50; candle shades, £13 each, all Jim Lawrence

the gesso-work mirror in the hall,' says Claudia. Such attention to detail gives scale and character to the former stable block.

The open-plan living space was the most difficult area to decorate, Claudia found. 'It's very large, so it was important to keep the openness and light, but I didn't want to see the workings of the kitchen every time I walked in,' she explains. So wall cupboards were eschewed in favour of functional freestanding pieces, with an island to provide the majority of storage and work surface. 'It allows the kitchen to blend into the room and I can move things around occasionally,' adds Claudia.

To help make the space feel more intimate, the two sets of facing walls were painted in different colours, Farrow & Ball's Elephant's Breath and Skimming Stone. The difference is subtle but gives depth to the room. 'Initially, I wanted to warm the interior up with fabrics in rich tones of mulberry and burgundy with tweed accessories, but it just didn't work,' she says. 'The colours looked flat. I finally realised that it needed to be brighter rather than warmer, so I switched to florals with lots of green leaf patterns to echo the landscape outside and draw it in.'

The couple's efforts have ensured that their unique property is both beautiful and functional – just as Claudia wanted. 'We aren't precious,' she says. 'This is a country home and we like to be outside as much as possible. When we get back, we relax on the sofa with the dogs, so the covers are washable. The house functions perfectly and, as long as it's attractive to our eyes, that's all that matters.' 25

ideas I came up with was the wall-mounted and allow me to use the bed-base drawers'



BATHROOM

A bespoke cupboard provides storage for towels.

Linen cupboard, price on request, Vernon Walker Furniture. Wall painted in Emperor's Silk chalk paint, £18.85 per litre, Annie Sloan

NATURAL FLOW

Danielle Tolson has combined warm woods with a gentle colour palette so rooms blend effortlessly together in this historic property

FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH



INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Cotswold stone former farmhouse

LOCATION Oxfordshire

ROOMS Sitting room, family room, dining room, kitchen, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2009

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

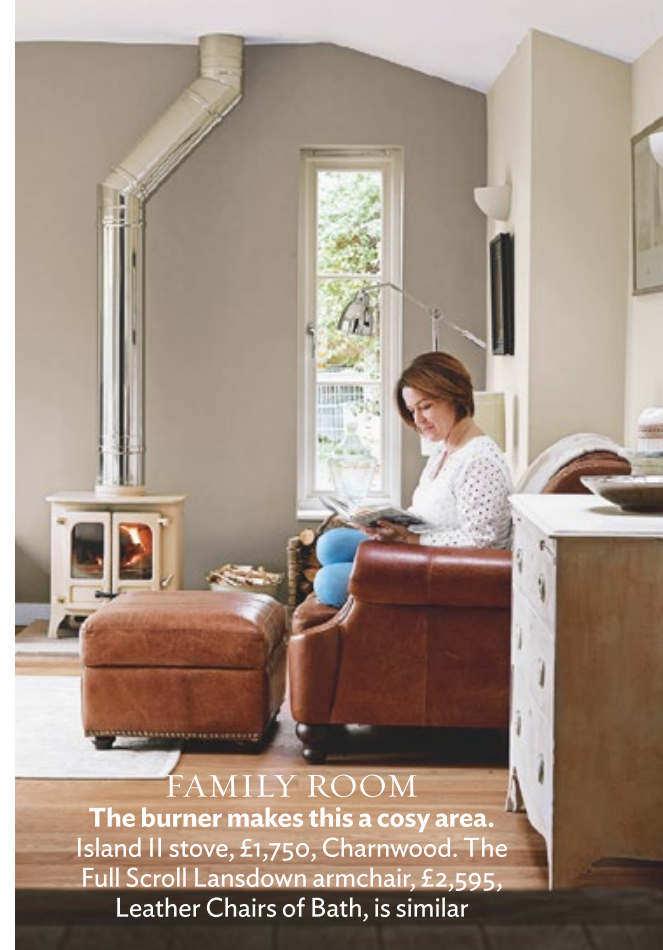
'We lived in a five-bedroom new-build in Bicester,' says Danielle.



DINING ROOM

Danielle introduced panelling to visually widen the space.

Isabelle dining table, £735, Loaf. Oka's Tigris table lamp with natural shade, £183, is a good match for these. Walls painted in Old White matt emulsion, £35.50 for 2.5 litres, Fired Earth



FAMILY ROOM

The burner makes this a cosy area. Island II stove, £1,750, Charnwood. The Full Scroll Lansdown armchair, £2,595, Leather Chairs of Bath, is similar

BEST BUY 'Replacing all the mock Georgian windows took up a big chunk of the budget, but it has absolutely transformed the whole look and feel of the house'



KITCHEN
Shaker-style units and tongue-and-groove panelling give the room a relaxed, modern country feel. Lansdowne oak painted kitchen, from £2,858, Kitchen Collection. Retro Metro crackled glaze tiles, £74.98sq m, Fired Earth. Nantes pendant lights, £45 each, Willow & Stone



I soon after Danielle Tolson, her partner, Bobby Din, and children Adam, 14, and Alex, 8, moved into this farmhouse in an Oxfordshire village, they were treated to an intriguing part of its history. 'I'd asked a chartered surveyor to come and assess the rebuild value, and he discovered "witchmarks" carved into the stones by the inglenook fireplace,' recalls Danielle. 'These probably date back to the late 1700s, and were intended to ward off evil spirits.'

Today, the cottage appears to be blissfully free of any black magic, and is instead a cosy, welcoming home – a credit to Danielle, who has sensitively steered it into the 21st century. 'When we bought the house, it hadn't been touched since 1979, when it had been renovated from a derelict shell,' she explains. 'Everything was very tired and the original beams were covered in layer upon layer of dark brown gloss paint.'

STEP BY STEP

As the property needed such a huge amount of work, the couple tackled it in phases. First, they replaced the heating system and mock Georgian windows, then both staircases were reconfigured to improve the layout and flow. Next, the kitchen and bathrooms were replaced and the loft area was divided into two bedrooms and a play space for the children. The last big structural change was the addition of a family room, situated where there would have once been a dairy linked to the farmhouse. 'This has really opened the cottage up to the garden,' says Danielle. 'It's a lovely room in summer, but it's also great to light the stove in here on a chilly winter's evening.'

Like many people who undertake a major renovation, Danielle had to make a number of compromises, but she chose to spend on fixtures, such as the windows, tiles and a log burner. 'My

advice would be to decide at the start of the project what you won't compromise on, ideally buying these items first,' she says. 'There were various furnishings that I wanted but couldn't afford, so I found workable alternatives, knowing that I could replace them relatively easily at some point down the line. It's much harder to re-tile or get a new fire installed once the room has been completed.'

PERFECT PALETTE

As co-founder of Tolly McRae, a home textiles business selling luxury blankets and bedlinens, Danielle confesses to a passion for interiors and is constantly tweaking her home. 'Some of the rooms are already on their third scheme,' she says. 'When we first did all the work, it was a case of painting everything white but, little by little, I have introduced different shades.' These span warm greys and greyish beiges, all of which work together beautifully. 'I learnt the importance of creating a natural flow the hard way, when I painted the living room duck egg blue,' admits Danielle. 'It didn't last long because I realised that with a semi open-plan layout like this, the wall colours shouldn't jar too much.'

Many of the pieces of furniture in the home exude a French country style, including a set of four dining chairs that Danielle bought for a song on eBay and repainted. Another upcycling success is the chest of drawers in the family room, which she painted in a distressed off-white.

True to form, Danielle has already begun contemplating her next project: plans are afoot to repaint the kitchen island in the same earthy mushroom shade used for the open shelves, which are by the oven. 'I don't think that I will ever stop and say the house is completely finished,' she reflects. 'This is what I enjoy doing, and it means I never tire of the interior.' 25

1 & 2 SITTING ROOM

An original inglenook fireplace is the star of the room. The elm beams, which had been covered in dark brown gloss paint, have been painstakingly restored.

Taylor coffee table, £299, Swoon Editions. Skinny Striped blanket in Pink, £139, Tolly McRae. Footstool in Remi check fabric, £60m, Harlequin. The Charlotte large leather sofa, £2,000, John Lewis, would work here

3 ALEX'S BEDROOM

Framed pictures and a fun felt stag's head provide pops of colour against the taupe wall.

Ronnie the Reindeer head, £45, Sew Heart Felt. Fat Striped blanket in Grey, £139, Tolly McRae. Ludde sheepskin rug, £30, Ikea

4 GUEST BEDROOM

Danielle found the printed cushions in an end-of-line shop. 'They add an edge to the floral wallpaper,' she explains.

Sandberg's Liljekonvalj wallpaper, £84 per roll, Wallpaper Direct. Get the look with Feather & Black's Highgrove bedstead, from £599

5 FAMILY BATHROOM

Travertine tiles add texture to this otherwise simple space.

Suede brushed travertine tiles, £24.99sq m, Mandarin Stone. Tavistock's Lava two-door basin unit, £480, Branded Bathrooms, is similar. Walls painted in Joa's White estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

MASTER BEDROOM

A painterly floral wallpaper is the focal point of this pretty room.

Porcelain Garden wallpaper, £60 per roll, Sanderson. Linen duvet set in Pure White, £190; Reversible linen throw in Lime White/Natural, £175; Herringbone throw in Old Rose, £99, all Tolly McRae



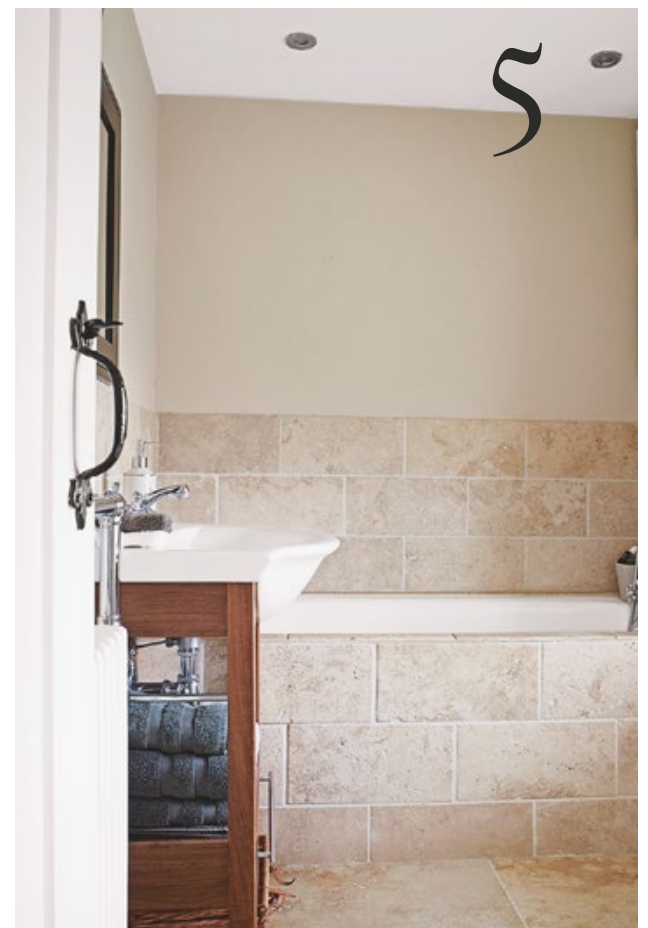
DECORATING TIP 'Everything is designed to work together so that if I fancy a change, I can switch the accessories around. Likewise, if I get really bored, I can introduce new throws and cushions and achieve a whole new look'



3



4



5

HOUSE OF BEAMS

UNIQUE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

1920s cottage built in 17th-century style

LOCATION Sussex

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, study, utility room, cloakroom, three bedrooms, dressing room, bathroom, two wet rooms

PURCHASED 2014

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a 1930s country house in Surrey Hills,' says Lynne.

Lynne and John Holmes injected new life into their historic thatched cottage without diminishing any of its innate charm

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN
PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON

HALL

An original brick floor is lined with old-fashioned built-in benches, leaving room for a neat log store below.

For cushion fabric like this try Clarke & Clarke English Rose, £6.99m, The Curtain Factory Outlet. For a selection of vintage-style umbrellas, from £19.95, try Notonthehighstreet.com



SITTING ROOM

As the 1920s solid wood floors and beams are prominent, Lynne injected a lighter touch by reupholstering the existing sofas in pale colours.

For comparable sofa styles try Dashing Duke, from £2,500, and Dillon, from £1,160, both Sofa Workshop. Latika curtain fabric, £69m, GP & J Baker



DESIGN TIP *'To complement the sitting room's*

Looking to downsize to a home with character, Lynne and John Holmes found just what they were searching for in a thatched cottage nestled in a friendly Sussex village. 'We both instantly fell in love with its pretty façade, large garden and sitting room, which proved big enough to house my much-loved baby grand piano,' explains Lynne.

At first, John was sure nothing needed altering but, as the weeks went by, interior designer Lynne convinced him otherwise. 'Often, you bring your old furniture to a new place and it just doesn't look right,' she says. 'So several of our pieces went to charity shops before we had even moved.' Lynne's greatest challenge was the predominance of wood mixed with exposed brickwork. Conversely, the combination was also her favourite feature. 'Original oak beams, wood panels and



DINING ROOM

'The bleached-oak table was chosen to work with the kitchen island,' says Lynne. Drift dining table, £3,500, Halo. Chairs covered in Manuel Canovas Marmande pink fabric, £85m, Colefax and Fowler.

dark window panes, we chose black curtain poles'

wood floors made it feel homely, but overall the house needed lightening up and balancing out,' she explains.

The idea of painting the beams in some of the rooms was discussed, but eventually turned down. 'The cottage has a very interesting history linked to the Arts and Crafts philosophy, in which natural materials play a major role,' says Lynne. 'Instead, we were keen to work with the wood out of respect for the original architect, Reginald Fairfax Wells, who was also an artist.'

In the 1920s, Wells built 70 of these 17th century-style cottages in the area for his bohemian friends. He took his quest for back-to-nature authenticity to extremes, making no provision for electricity, but every room was generously proportioned. 'Thank goodness they are as John is over 6ft tall,' laughs Lynne. 'The architect also installed

KITCHEN

Pink upholstery and accessories brighten this modern monochrome scheme.

Bleached oak island, price on application, Aspect Kitchens. Walls painted in Slaked Lime 105 emulsion, £34 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene





BATHROOM
Lit by a skylight, this space is elegant and minimal. Richmond roll-top bath, price on application, Victoria and Albert range, Sanctuary Bathrooms

wells in every garden.' Painting the walls white and keeping rooms clutter-free, Lynne's new schemes inject vitality and avoid the sometimes obvious choice of chintzy florals. Instead, contemporary designs in soft, zingy colours combine with modern lamps, while in the bedrooms, romantic French toile and feminine wallpapers have a starring role. Fortunately, the couple nearly always see eye to eye on aesthetics. 'I choose and John agrees,' smiles Lynne.

Their best joint decision was the redesign of the kitchen, where they installed a new long island unit in bleached oak creating extra storage and a breakfast bar. The kitchen-diner area is now their favourite room. 'I love being able to fling open the doors to the garden in the spring,' says Lynne. 'Sharing breakfast on the decked area together is brilliant and we plan to extend the decking this summer.' Tweaks having been made and a touch of colour added, the couple are revelling in their new home. 'The cottage is now brilliantly suited to our lifestyle,' says Lynne. 25



MASTER BEDROOM
A blue-and-white toile wallpaper sets the tone in this feminine room. La Musardiere wallpaper, £63 per roll; Lucerne white silk curtains, £38m, both Colefax and Fowler

FAVOURITE SHOP 'Looking for inspiration, I often drop into La Residence Interiors in Alfold – it's full of unusual decorative French pieces'

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ARTFULLY RESTORED

A collection of her favourite paintings inspired the muted colour schemes of Karen Thompson's elegant period home

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN
PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON

SITTING ROOM
Venetian-style mirrored chests, cream sofas and armchairs complement Karen's Victorian oil paintings. Mirrored chests, £369.99, Casa Fina. Flueless gas fire, £2,237, CVO Fires. Noctis wallpaper, from £50.35 per roll, Brian Yates at Samuel Charles Interiors



As someone who noticed beautiful houses even as a child, it's no surprise that Karen Thompson's keen interest in architecture eventually became a career. Now, she runs her own property business and her passion has extended to creating her perfect home.

Two years ago, she discovered a terrace in a leafy corner of London. The house had barely been touched in 50 years but, unfazed by the work needed, Karen put in an offer only hours after first viewing it. 'I intended to take out all the floors and start again, so the state of the house wasn't really an issue,' she says. 'I knew just what I wanted to do.'

Working with builders she had used before, Karen felt confident she could turn the house into a bright, less pokey space. Decisions were made at the planning stage to scoop out the basement and extend into the



REPLANNED

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian terrace

LOCATION SW London

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen/dining/seating area, bar, cinema room, study, two cloakrooms, four bedrooms (all en suite), dressing room

PURCHASED 2012

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a terraced house five minutes' walk away,' says Karen.



DINING AREA
Karen groups dinner party guests around a circular table, 'where conversation bounces between people'.

Bonaldo Surfer dining table, £2,740, Go Modern. Baltimore dining chairs, £45 each, Lakeland Furniture

KITCHEN
The glossy white tiled floor reflects light even on dull days.

White gloss floor tiles, Manhattan Blanco, £54.34sq m, Porcelanosa. Fabio white leather bar stools, £60 each, Atlantic Shopping



SEATING AREA
The L-shaped seating by the garden is Karen's favourite place to relax.

White leather L-shaped sofa, £2,250, DFS



STUDY
The curved desk with a white smoky glass top was designed by Karen.

Eames reproduction desk chair, £179, Milan Direct. For red curved shelves just like these, try Tesser, £50, Aspace

attic, which doubled the square footage of the property. Doing so meant Karen acquired her own separate bedroom floor, plus a basement bedroom and bathroom for her son, Sam, 22, and a cinema room, which 'is a family favourite on rainy days.'

The basement links to the garden via a glass door opening onto a flight of exterior steps, which made a huge difference to the amount of light channelled into the basement. Karen's decision to remove the ground floor walls has resulted in an airy, largely open-plan living space.

She also had the stairs replaced with a contemporary alternative, and hid them from sight behind a narrow wall. 'I didn't want a view of the staircase from the front door,' she says. 'Now, from the front, you can see right through the kitchen and sitting room into the garden beyond without any visual interruption.'

One of Karen's toughest decisions was how to incorporate modern technology into a period setting. 'I included all the latest systems to control security, light, heating and audiovisuals,' she says. 'I enjoyed experimenting

with new ideas like LED strips on the underside of the staircase. When they're switched on, the stairs sparkle and "float" like a sculpture.' The lights in the kitchen can be programmed to discreetly change colour while, in the sitting room, lighting showcases Karen's collection of artwork. 'My previous sitting rooms have always been part of a kitchen-diner,' she says. 'So having a separate living area is a first for me and a real luxury.'

Colour schemes were inspired by Karen's paintings, which she has collected over the years. 'They're always a good source of inspiration,' she says. 'I like to pull out a dominant colour used by the artist and match it in cushions or other accessories.' Now, having applied her magic throughout her home, Karen is reaping the rewards of her replanned scheme. 'Coming home lifts my spirits,' she smiles. 'I can't ask for more than that.' 25

HALL
'I'm not keen on a view of a staircase,' says Karen. She installed new stairs with a turn so they could be concealed by a small wall.
 Glass balustrade, price on application, European Glass



DESIGN TIP 'Basing a colour scheme on a favourite painting is a failsafe approach as the artist has done the work for you'



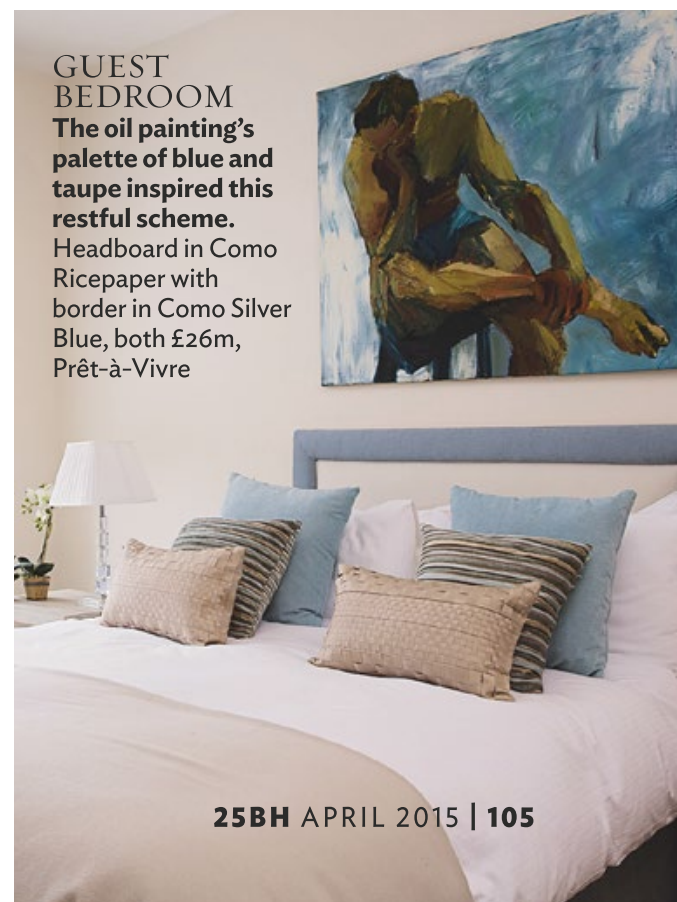
MASTER BEDROOM
Two delicate floral paintings, which are painted onto glass, frame the bedhead and provide the colours in this restful scheme.
 Paintings, £350 each, Marshall Art. The Mizan stripe cushion in Duck Egg would work well in this scheme, £25, John Lewis. Walls painted in Heathcliff's Castle matt emulsion, £19.50 for 2.5 litres, Crown



EN SUITE
This space is designed as a luxurious retreat.
 Hydrotherapy bath, price on application, Better Bathrooms



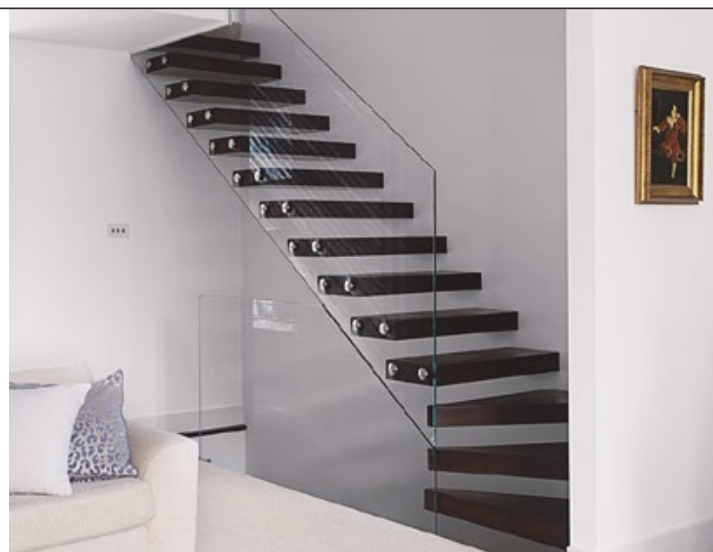
GUEST BEDROOM
The oil painting's palette of blue and taupe inspired this restful scheme.
 Headboard in Como Ricepaper with border in Como Silver Blue, both £26m, Prêt-à-Vivre



INSIGHT

Incorporating a modern staircase

Keen to pack a punch with a flight of stairs like Karen Thompson's? Take these steps first



A new staircase can transform a hallway. Modern choices such as floating or cantilevered designs look great in new-builds as well as period settings and will increase the sense of space and light, too.

STEP UP

Whether you're considering replacing an existing staircase or are at the planning stages of a new-build, look at the space as a whole rather than just the immediate vicinity. If you have an open-plan layout, remember the staircase is on view from other areas, very often including your living room. Think about direction of traffic, too – what rooms do you approach the staircase from most frequently? Would a curved staircase or directional bottom treads be an option? Karen's new staircase incorporates a directional tread at its foot and is neatly concealed behind a wall area.

However, a well-executed design in glass, timber, stone, marble or even Corian can be a style statement in its own right, while open treads let light into the area. When it comes to balustrades, popular choices include glass, timber, steel or plaster. Position, family needs and budget are all important factors to consider. Glass is perhaps not the best option if you have a young family; timber spindles will give a more traditional effect, and forged or machined steel balustrades can be simple or ornate, creating a contemporary look.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

When planning a bespoke staircase, try to resist the temptation to choose materials first, starting instead by looking at the available space. A floor plan may indicate direction of travel and most frequently used access points, but you also need to take into account head heights, fire distances and escape routes. Scale is also important

– leave generous room for an entrance space to avoid opening the front door and tripping over the bottom tread of your staircase. If you're planning a build, it's also worth allocating a separate budget for your stairs. Prices for a complete staircase and balustrade vary from as little as £400 for a basic MDF option to £20,000 for a fully bespoke design.

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE ...



● 'With a bespoke staircase, well-thought-out fixtures and fittings make a huge difference. Being involved early with the architect on a self-build opens up every option of material and style.'

● It's worth consulting a specialist, as a staircase is part of the architecture – not something you will want to rip out in a few years.

● In listed buildings you have to be prepared to work around protected structures like old beams. Helical staircases that require only connections at foot and head often work well in these instances.

● It is perfectly possible to use contemporary materials in period properties – and vice versa – the clever part about design is achieving a seamless cohesion between old and new.'

RICHARD MCLANE, DESIGN DIRECTOR, BISCA

EXPERT EYE

'Contemporary glass staircases can transform period properties, especially where there is a lack of natural light. The latest innovations can also include integrated storage, such as cupboards, runner rail drawers or luxury open units'

SCOTT STOREY, MANAGING DIRECTOR, JAMES GRACE

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FRENCH POLISH

Edward Church used his design experience to help turn his French townhouse into a slick and stylish home

FEATURE ALICE WESTGATE
PHOTOGRAPHY MARK LUSCOMBE-WHYTE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A four-storey townhouse

LOCATION Paris

ROOMS Sitting room, study, kitchen, three bedrooms, two bathrooms

PURCHASED 1997

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I also have a home in London,' says Edward.



SITTING ROOM

Elegant furniture dictates the tone of this room.

Armchair Barbuda in tinted wood and leather, from £5,610, Christian Liaigre. Kalos chairs from Maxalto collection, from £1,850 each, B&B Italia. Coffee table and floor lamps, price on application, Christophe Delcourt



KITCHEN

This basement space is designed with a central oak table that doubles as a work station.

Bertoia chairs in black, £555 each; Bibliotheque oak dining table, £3,775; all The Conran Shop. Tolomeo Mega 420mm suspension lights, from £227.95 each, Artemide. Walls painted in Stock absolute matt emulsion, £37 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene



SITTING ROOM

Edward plays with symmetry in this area: 'Everything has a place and a reason for being there.'

Console table, around £1,800, Edward Church. Moghul Flower silk panels in Chilli (on chairs), from £150 each, Peachoo & Krejberg



STUDY

Edward made his own desk, placing a sheet of safety glass atop two trestles. EA217 Eames chair, £2,583.60, Vitrapoint. The Covet desk by Shin Azumi would work in this space, £915, Heal's. Walls painted in Stone-Pale-Cool absolute matt emulsion, £37 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene



MASTER BEDROOM
The bespoke four-poster bed has no curtains to interfere with the serenity and simplicity of the space. The Canton black lacquer four poster, from £1,295, Lombok, is similar. The Albany Alabaster bedspread, from £275, would work here, The White Company



STAIRWELL
A roof light in the stairwell, which is lined with family photographs, allowed Edward to decorate in deep shades of grey. Walls painted in French Gray Mid, absolute matt emulsion, £37 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. Woodwork painted in F2.05.55 oil-based gloss, £19 for 1 litre, Sikkens

DESIGN TIP 'When selecting fabrics, I choose only plain linen and cotton – no prints, apart from embroidery'

When moving to Paris in 1997, Edward Church was adamant he wanted a house rather than an apartment – a tall order in the French capital, even for the creative director of an architecture and design company. 'Friends thought I was mad even to entertain the idea,' he laughs.

But then he found a property in the 19th arrondissement, in an enclave now inhabited by writers, artists and musicians but which was once a site of industry, where gypsum for plaster of Paris was quarried. Due to subsidence risk, the quarry's labyrinth of underground tunnels precluded the building of large apartment blocks when it closed, so instead, clusters of smaller workers' houses sprang up during the late 19th century. 'I was immediately drawn by the spirit of the place,' says Edward, 'and I bought this house the day I saw it. Its architecture and original features were incredibly pleasing and its front garden

wrapped you up in greenery. It is a green lung in the city, just one minute from the Metro.'

The house is four storeys and had lots of small rooms. 'I decided to open it up and make it more contemporary,' says Edward, gesturing to the large living space, which he created by knocking the three ground floor rooms into one. He also moved the kitchen into the basement. On the upper floors there are three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a study. 'It was a massive refurbishment,' admits Edward. 'It took a year to complete.' Now, however, it is the perfect showcase for the many aspects of Edward's creative life.

Its slick spatial planning is a reflection of his training as an architect at London's Royal College of Art, but its strong visual impact is the result of his work in retail. 'I witnessed the beginning of what we now call lifestyle trending, or the creation of different looks, from Americana to traditional English country style,' he says. 'I wanted to get away

from that fantasy element in my home, and focus on creating my own style.'

Accordingly, Edward takes a linear approach to interior design. 'I like single objects that make a statement, instead of a layered look,' he says. He prefers natural materials, including unfinished hardwood furniture and flooring that ages well. The space is drawn together by shades of grey – pale in the basement, where light is low, and progressively darker as you work your way up through the house. 'Grey is the most dynamic colour,' says Edward. 'It is warm in winter, cool in summer and evolves with the light.'

Best of all, Edward hasn't had to change anything since he first redesigned the house. 'The basic design has been there a long time,' he says. 'And though I've repainted the odd wall in the interests of maintenance, my original ideas still look perfectly fresh after all this time.' It seems that this house really is trend-proof, just as Edward had planned. **25**

HOME *from* HOME

With help from her family, Catherine Jane O'Rourke had the vision to transform a modest period terrace into a bright future-proof home

FEATURE & PHOTOGRAPHY BARBARA EGAN /REPORTAGE

SITTING ROOM

'This room's north-facing and I wanted to keep it light, so the walls are painted in a true white, with no blue or yellow in it, with pops of colour here and there.'

All White estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball.
Dimplex Clova wall-mounted Pebble fire, around £200, Power City. Winter Sales poster, £9.95 unframed, London Transport Museum. Red Reactive bottle vase by John Rocha, £26, Debenhams

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Terraced stone cottage, built in the 1870s

LOCATION South Dublin

ROOMS Entrance lobby, sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, shower room, utility room, three bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2013

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I lived with my parents in their Victorian property nearby,' says Catherine Jane.



It was all down to timing when trainee solicitor Catherine Jane O'Rourke ventured into the property market in 2013. 'I wanted to buy a house as soon as I could,' she explains. 'Property prices in Dublin had dropped considerably from their high in 2006, but it was becoming clear that they were starting to recover. Luckily, my parents

also thought that it was the best time for me to buy, and agreed to help me out.'

Catherine Jane was looking for a two- or three-bedroom home in South Dublin where she had grown up, and where her family live. 'I wanted it to have enough room for a lodger to help with the mortgage,' she says. 'When I saw this sweet little period terrace, I liked it from the start. It's in the area I wanted, with off-street parking. Although it was dated and



KITCHEN LIVING AREA

'My kitchen is south-facing and a really pleasant place to be, so I wanted to be able to sit and read, or relax and chat in here too,' says Catherine Jane.

Karlstad sofa in Lindo Beige, £360; Byholma/Marieberg armchair, £93; Lack coffee table, £16; Samtid lamp, £35; Bild poster, £8, all Ikea



DINING AREA

This area was kept sunny, light and simple with natural tones.

Sliding doors and Skyframe roof light, prices on application, both The Folding Door Company of Ireland

FAVOURITE ITEM 'The limed-oak flooring has completely transformed the rooms. When it was laid, everything seemed to appear much more spacious'



GARDEN

‘This is a really low-maintenance space with simple raised beds ready for planting. The decking area at the back catches the evening sun.’
Kungsholmen table (left), £60, Ikea. Find similar outdoor chairs at B&Q.
Gold granite paving slabs, price on application, Roadstone

needed a lot of work, that wasn’t a problem.’ Not a problem at all in fact, as her father, Bryan, is an architect and, although officially retired, loves nothing more than taking on an interesting small residential project.

As Catherine Jane had bought during a property slump, she could afford to renovate. In addition, her father was able to draw up the plans and make sure she got excellent value for money. In the existing layout, there was a front sitting room, large hall and a tiny

rear dining room. A long, narrow rear extension contained a galley kitchen with a bathroom. The original windows had been replaced with aluminium, and the exterior had been clad with stone. Bryan made plans to strip it all back and add a new roof, new plumbing, wiring and joinery.

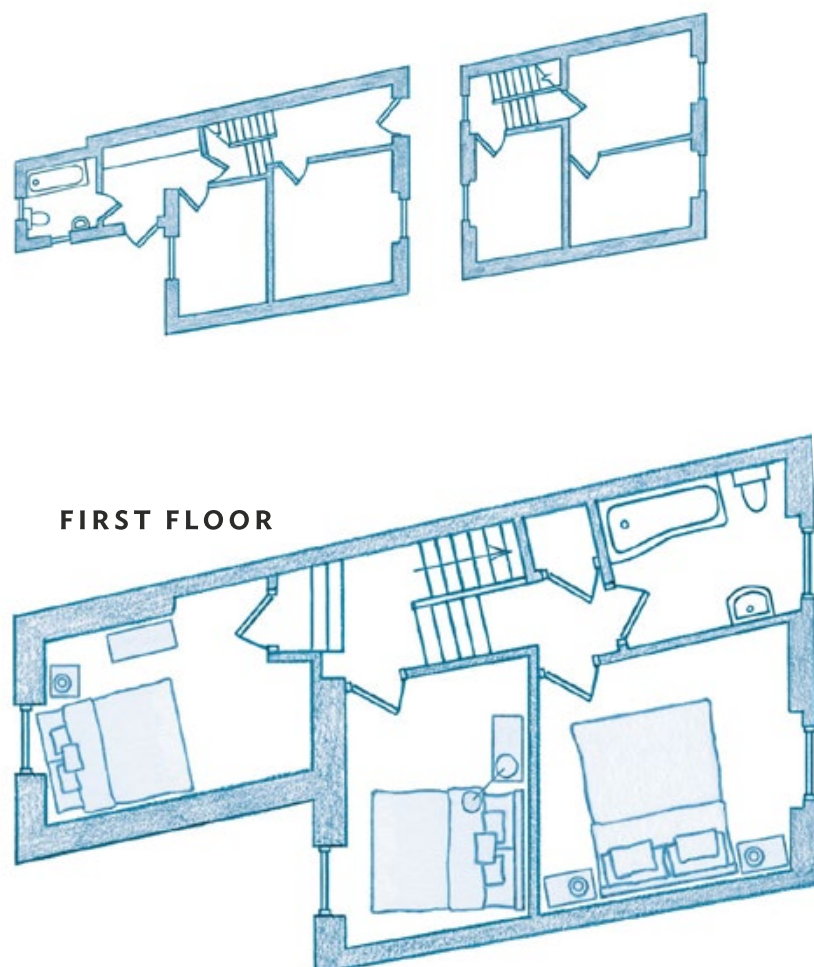
‘My idea was to open it up at the back, as it’s south-facing and sunny all day,’ says Catherine Jane. ‘I love the solidity and character of a period house, but I wanted

an open, free-flowing interior. It had to be simple, contemporary, and low-maintenance.’

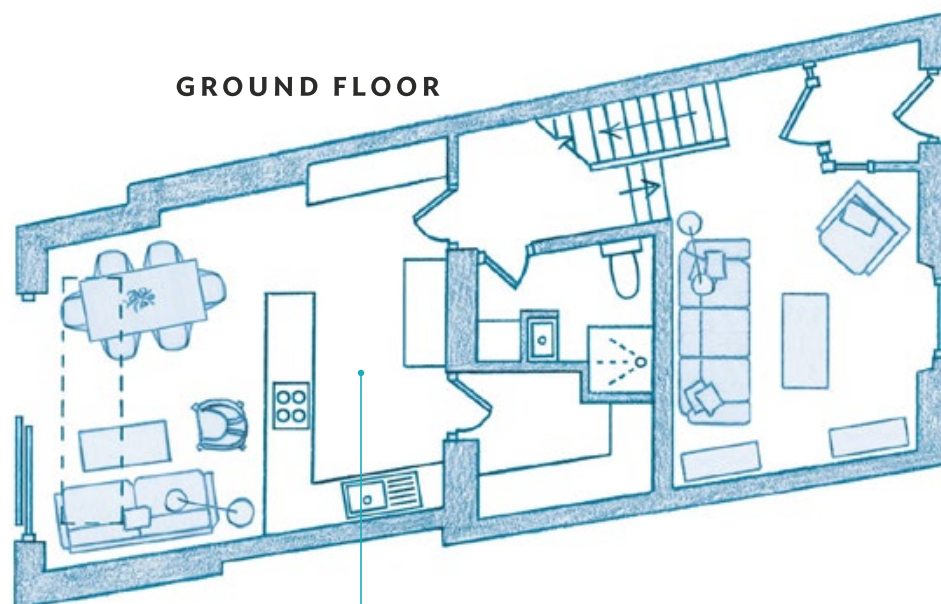
Bryan first suggested removing the hall and replacing it with a lobby to increase the area of the sitting room. A fully glazed door to the kitchen area now gives a lovely view from the front right through to the garden.

Extending the rear of the house to create the bright open-plan kitchen-diner/living area that Catherine Jane wanted resulted in the existing small dining room becoming an

BEFORE



AFTER



MAKING THE SPACE WORK

Replacing the large hall with a small lobby opened up the sitting room and extended the area considerably. Moving a partition in the front bedroom created a master bedroom and bathroom. The house was extended at the rear to create a kitchen-diner/living space and bedroom on the floor above. The original dining area became a shower/cloakroom and utility room off the kitchen.



LOBBY
The reconfigured layout makes best use of this space. Valley Oak laminate in a lime-washed finish, £16sq m, Noyeks



MASTER BEDROOM
Catherine Jane opted for a restful colour scheme. All bedlinen, from a selection, TK Maxx

internal room with no windows, a problem that was cleverly solved by dividing it into a downstairs shower room and utility room.

Upstairs, there had originally been a large front bedroom and a small rear room. At some stage the front bedroom had been divided into two small rooms. A better use of the space was to move the partition and create a reasonably sized bedroom and a bathroom at the front of the house, and build another bedroom on the rear extension.

‘I wasn’t sure about the extra bedroom but, on balance, we felt that it would make the house more flexible for the future,’ says Catherine Jane. The one proviso she made

was that the bedroom size be determined by the positioning of the largest ceiling window that she could fit into the flat roof of the kitchen extension to bring in more light.

The build started in January 2014 and was hampered by heavy rain throughout February but was finished by September. ‘We were lucky to have fantastic builders, GC Construction, and kind neighbours who brought out cups of tea when the house was being gutted,’ says Catherine Jane. ‘It was so exciting to see the spaces that I had imagined in my head taking shape in reality.’

When it came to decorating, father and daughter agreed that it would be best to paint

the whole house white. Simplicity was also the case when it came to furnishings. ‘I needed to rent out the spare rooms quickly, so I had to fully furnish the house almost immediately – everything’s fairly inexpensive, but I can change things as I go,’ explains Catherine Jane.

There are splashes of colour though which add those all-important personal touches, such as Catherine Jane’s collection of art posters. ‘They were often inspired by spending family holidays together and going off to visit local art galleries,’ she says. ‘In many ways, this house has so much to do with my family, and I love that.’ 25

DESIGN TIP *‘I didn’t have a big budget, but I realised if you have one or two really good quality objects or features in a room they will draw the eye, and the rest can be as cost-effective as you like’*



NEW BEDROOM
This sunny room soaks up bright accessories. ‘With a twist’ teacup, £10, Anthropologie. The Domecq poster and scarf are holiday finds



NEW BATHROOM
Tongue-and-groove lends a rustic feel. Ragno Seasons Beige floor tiles, price on application, Tubs and Tiles. Sanitaryware, all by Nico, price on application, Plumb It



WELL rounded

Katy and Jim Donaldson have added plenty of charm and curve appeal to their characterful period home

FEATURE CAROLINE FOSTER | PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID MEREWETHER

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Converted oast house, built in the 1880s

LOCATION

Kent

ROOMS

Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom, garden studio

PURCHASED

2007

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in Brussels before moving back to the UK,' says Katy.



I STUDIO

Formerly a cowshed, Katy's studio is located in the garden.

1930s vintage machinist's work chair, £295, Ormston Saint, would suit this scheme

2 & 3 KITCHEN-DINER

Custom-made curved cabinetry and furniture maximises space. Bespoke units, dining table and bench by Millside Joinery. Bench painted in Normandy Grey intelligent eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. Scaramanga sells old school chairs like these ones, from £27 each

4 SITTING ROOM

The previous owners' curtains were the inspiration for this cosy scheme. 'They're such great quality that I couldn't bear to get rid of them,' says Katy. Kentwell sofa, from £1,198, Sofas & Stuff. The Ivory dressing table, £149, Melody Maison, is similar





HALL
A fresh palette ensures the entrance is always bright and welcoming. The Fifty Three leather armchair in olive green by G Plan, £1,199, John Lewis, is comparable. Cubby storage unit with hooks, £110, Store, is a good option

Photographer Katy Donaldson, her husband Jim, and their children Tom, 15, and Daisy, 13, had for some years enjoyed the expatriate life, which meant living in Dubai, Athens and Brussels. 'We decided to move back to the UK for the children's education, and looked for properties in an area that had good schools,' recalls Katy. 'Kent was our county of choice and we rented while looking for a suitable family home to buy.'

Although the couple were open to the idea of a modern or period property, it was important for Katy that there was an outbuilding she could use as a work studio. 'We liked oast houses, but they had always seemed too dark inside and the roundels struck us as fiddly to furnish, because of their shape,' she says. 'However, I remember the first time we went up the driveway of this house – it was flanked by cherry trees, creating a beautiful tunnel of pink, and we all fell in love with it there and then.'

The oast had not one, but three roundels, and had been converted in the 1980s. 'Structurally, there was nothing to do, but the interior was old and tired and so we updated everything, from the flooring, staircase and bathrooms to the windows, electrics and plumbing,' says Katy. 'We also converted a cowshed into my studio.'

One of the last jobs was to relocate the existing kitchen from one roundel to another,

which benefited from being interconnected with the third. 'We removed the door so that the kitchen and dining area flowed together,' says Katy. 'The old kitchen is now a utility room.'

Finding furniture that would work within the roundels was always going to prove challenging, but Katy overcame this by including a mixture of bespoke and handmade pieces. 'We employed local joiner Dave Newing to build the kitchen and dining furniture,' explains Katy. 'And we made some pieces ourselves using thick plywood, which we hand-cut into curves.'

After years of work, the Donaldsons' home is a delightful mix of country style and modern comfort, though Katy isn't one to rest on her laurels. 'You can never say that an old property is completely refurbished, as there's always something to do,'

she says. 'For example, last year in the storms, the flashing was damaged on the roundel roof cowl, and we've just received planning permission to replace a dilapidated car port with a garage in a weatherboard style.'

Transforming this characterful property has given Katy an idea for a future project. 'My dream is to build a little cricket pavilion-style house with a covered veranda and a tiny walled garden,' she reveals. 'But for now, we're all extremely happy here.' 25

DESIGN ADVICE
'Roundels are never true circles so have bespoke pieces made instead of using standard-shaped furniture, or you'll lose a lot of valuable space'



MASTER BEDROOM
A bespoke iron bed, made in Dubai, adds a touch of luxury to this simple, neutral setting. Walls painted in Khaki Mists 4 silk emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5 litres, Dulux. Emmie Ruta bed linen, £45, Ikea. Revival iStream 2 DAB radio, £200, Roberts Radio

1 GUEST BEDROOM
Space-saving coat hooks were chosen instead of a wardrobe in this roundel bedroom. Try natural iron double coat hooks, £4.50 each, Willow & Stone. Blinds made up in Clarke & Clarke Dotty Taupe fabric, £9.50m, My Fabric Place

2 & 5 TOM'S BEDROOM
The couple's teenage son used vintage magazines to create a cool piece of artwork. V Red shaggy rug, from £74.95, Land of Rugs, is comparable. Helmer drawer unit, £25, Ikea

3 BATHROOM
Muted tones add a calming vibe. White floor paint, £24.98 for 2.5 litres, B&Q. Amazon stocks Salter bathroom scales, £24.99

4 DAISY'S BEDROOM
This room's designed to dazzle. Try Swallows wall stickers, £24.99, Notonthehighstreet.com. Orla Kiely Scribble Stem pillowcase, £30 set of two, Amara



KITCHEN-DINER
 'I love the galley-shaped kitchen,' says Joanne. 'It's a very social room. Kitchen designed by Messana O'Rourke architects. Units painted in Manor House Grey estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Stone worktop in Pietra Cardosa, 385sq m, Roma Marble. Caravaggio pendant lights, £178 each, Skandium



REPLANNED



OPPOSITES ATTRACT

Joanne Bernstein and Robert McNab rescued a dark, divided house and merged their different styles to make a harmonious home

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ROBERT SANDERSON

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A semi-detached Victorian villa built in 1870

LOCATION North London

ROOMS Hall, snug, sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility, two offices, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, two cloakrooms

PURCHASED 2011

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before we got married, we both lived in North London,' says Joanne.



TERRACE

The terrace is covered in stone to match the floor of the extension and minimise the transition between indoors and outside.

Sawn York stone, £81sq m, Stone Heritage. Sliding doors, price on application; IQ Glass. Garden by Joanne Bernstein Garden Design



SITTING ROOM

'This room is a beautiful marriage of our possessions,' says Joanne.

Alfa sofa, £5,045, by Zanotta; Fronzoni '64 coffee table by Cappellini, £1,115; CH25 chair by Carl Hansen, £2,115, all Viaduct. Pendant light PH 50, £555, Louis Poulsen, Skandium. Ikat cushion, £260, Yastik by Rifat Ozbek



The view of tall grasses dancing in the breeze against a backdrop of London plane trees creates a magical entrance to Joanne Bernstein and Robert McNab's newly transformed home. With the flats behind almost entirely screened by trees, the area feels astonishingly rural.

'We opened up the wall that divided the hall and kitchen,' says Joanne, explaining how they made sure that the first view from the front door was all about the garden. As a garden designer, Joanne was immediately drawn to the large, south-facing outdoor

space when she and husband Robert, a former documentary filmmaker, writer and illustrator, first came to view the property. 'We saw more than 50 properties before viewing this one,' she recalls, 'and, although this one was split into eight dingy rooms that had been let out as bedsits, the 36m long garden was too good to turn down.'

When it came to fulfilling the property's full potential, Joanne and Robert knew exactly what would work. 'We didn't want to just ape the house's Victorian origins, so we thought a simple modernist design for the extension would be best,' says Joanne. 'Our first port of call

was to an architect friend in New York. We had total faith in them and knew that, although they are dedicated minimalists, they'd love the challenge of mixing modern and traditional. Touchingly, they offered us the new design as a wedding present.'

Working in conjunction with a London-based architect, a 'genius scheme' was drawn up, with sliding glass walls enclosing the dining room extension on two sides. 'On hot days, we can slide back the doors so that the dining room becomes one with the garden,' says Joanne. The uncompromisingly modern style of



WORKROOM
Robert's study is filled with his own artwork and souvenirs. For a similar plan chest, from £1,285, try the Old Cinema



BATHROOM
An all-white space feels light all year round. Bath B1, £886 by Aston Matthews. Walls painted in All White estate emulsion, £34.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



MASTER BEDROOM
Calm shades of turquoise and lime create a restful atmosphere in here. Bedhead, £475, Sofa.com. Hemnes bedside tables, £40, Ikea. Walls painted in Pavilion Grey, £34.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball; French chair upholstered in Glacier vintage linen, £55m, Prêt à Vivre

DECORATING TIP *'We chose to paint the walls, ceilings and woodwork all one colour, as together, the shade creates a restful cohesion'*

the architecture is softened by the Shaker-style kitchen. The idea of what the architects call 'an apron', enveloping the kitchen island unit to hide work surface clutter was inspired. 'When guests arrive for dinner, they can sit at the bar and can not see my mess,' says Joanne.

She says she would have chosen a more minimalist look, but the Shaker style units were a happy compromise. 'As far as tastes go, Robert and I are from different planets,' says Joanne. 'I'm a minimalist and he's a "maximalist" as he likes to call himself! Left to his own devices, he'd have many more pictures on the walls and objects on display.'

Their home now is a harmonious blend of contemporary design, soothed by the age and personality of carefully chosen antiques and

original features. The cornicing and fireplaces in the ground-floor living rooms and hall survived the bedsit years, and these spaces are filled with an eclectic but elegant mix of furniture. Robert's antiques contrast with the stark sleek lines of Joanne's minimalist Italian and Scandinavian pieces. Meanwhile, the Victorian windows are of such pleasing proportions that, as Joanne says, 'even a hardened traditionalist would find it difficult to hide them behind curtains.'

The design of the garden was naturally left to Joanne, whose garden has subsequently been awarded a BBC television prize. She began by removing decades of wilderness, replacing it with a new layout. A band of billowing grasses and perennials

immediately outside the kitchen partially screens the rest of the garden from view and a path cuts through this and leads the eye towards the shady, more informal woodland beyond. 'It is an unusually long garden,' says Joanne, 'so I was able to create separate spaces. Robert loved the garden in its untouched state and sulked when it was cleared. But now there's nowhere he enjoys more on a summer's afternoon,' says Joanne, with a hint of triumph in her voice.

For her part, she says she has surprisingly grown fond of Robert's varied antiques. 'They add texture and colour to rooms that might otherwise look clinical. We both love this house and the way in which both of our characters are expressed.' 25

THE SOURCE

Erica Miller shows how you can achieve the style secrets seen in this issue's homes

DESIGN IDEAS



TRICKS WITH MIRRORS PAGES 137 – 140

The McKinleys have positioned a large mirror directly opposite the door in their hallway – an ingenious design trick. The mirror perfectly captures the beautiful views beyond, which the owners can appreciate twice over. This is a great way of bringing the outdoors in and of reflecting and increasing the incoming light. Mirrors are a versatile decorative element, fooling the eye into feeling that the space is larger. To create a sense of balance, the depth of the mirror frame has been matched to that of the door frame. Pale walls, floors and ceilings further accentuate the feeling of light, allowing the eye to enjoy the breathtaking landscape.



DOUBLE DOORS PAGES 84 – 86

Elegant double doors lead through to the sitting room in the stylish Harris home. Panelled and part glazed, they lend a sense of grandeur to the space. Pale tones and the light wood flooring give an air of calm and create an easy flow between rooms. Double doors work particularly well in homes where space isn't an issue. Bespoke and ready-made options are available. When choosing internal doors, opt for a design in keeping with your property's age and style. The trick is to choose something that looks as though it has always been there.



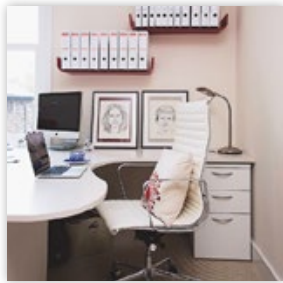
ZINC-COVERED ISLAND PAGES 88 – 91

Good looking and practical, an island can really transform your kitchen space. The Roches have taken this design classic a step further by adding a zinc worksurface to create a real style statement. The island also incorporates a wealth of painted cabinetry and plenty of storage space. The contrasting zinc worksurface is ideal for food preparation or for displaying favourite pieces. A characterful material, zinc has anti-bacterial properties but it does scratch and mark easily and develops a characteristic patina over time and with use.



SHELVING IDEAS

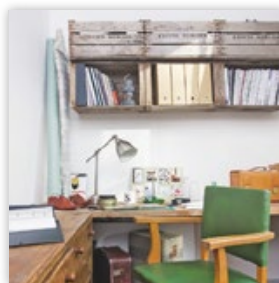
Practical and functional, carefully thought-out shelving can really enhance your space. There's no need to compromise on style either, with our selection of original shelving ideas for all around the home.



READY-MADE SHELVES PAGES 102 – 105

A well-organised space is crucial when working from home. To help achieve this, simple yet contemporary, curved shelves have been used in the Thompsons' home office where essential files are stored. The key is

to minimise clutter to keep the look streamlined and orderly. Powder-coated steel shelves are perfect for an uncomplicated look. In this contemporary kitchen, below, shelves have been used to showcase favourite items of kitchenware. Botkyrka wall shelves in powder-coated steel, £20 each, Ikea.



FOUND OBJECTS AS SHELVING PAGES 147 – 149

Following the trend for using recycled or salvaged pieces in the home, the Deans have hung worn antique wooden fruit crates (left) on the walls of their study in place of the usual shelving. Not only do they give

the room a singular sense of style, but they are also the ideal place for keeping notebooks, magazines and files close at hand. Find similar crates from Vintagecratesuk.co.uk. Wire wall units (above) are also a great way of creating an industrial, pared-down aesthetic. To capture this look, try the Chook wire shelf, £115, Loaf.



SHELVING FOR CHILDREN'S ROOMS PAGES 20 – 25

A highly original yet easy-to-achieve decorative idea, this series of semi-circular shelves (left) have been hung by the Youngs in their daughter's bedroom. To add further visual intrigue,

each shelf has been hung against its own circle of wallpaper. This design is as unique as it is versatile, since the objects on the shelves can be changed as tastes change. Simple yet clever, these colourful tongue-and-groove shelves (right) would work beautifully in a child's room. They can be hung with either the brackets up or down. They're perfect for toys, books and other paraphernalia, and they come in a variety of colours, too. Any Which Way Shelves, from £25 each, Great Little Trading Co.



INSPIRED SHOPPING



TRADITIONAL FIRE GRATE PAGES 137 - 140

Recreate the look of the elegant fire grate in the McKinleys' family kitchen with this Dorchester fire basket, £835, Chesney's.



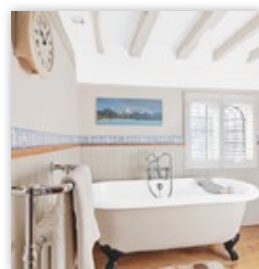
PIERCED METAL LIGHT PAGES 69 - 72

If you admire the pierced metal pendant lights in the Ridges' home, try the Moroccan ceiling pendant light, £79.95, bouf.com



CORAL PRINTS PAGES 60 - 64

Striking framed coral prints make an eye-catching feature in the Trusteds' sitting room. Try the Lulworth print, coral, 51cm sq, £60, Neptune.



WALLPAPER BORDER PAGES 150 - 152

A charming wallpaper border adds a decorative touch in Jane Wagstaff's bathroom. Equally graceful is the Rousseau border by Cole & Son, £75 for 10m, wallpaperdirect.com



WHITE VESSELS PAGES 78 - 81

A group of white vessels create an interesting display in Pierre Emmanuel's home. For an original vase try Muse Misia vase, £98, Jonathan Adler, or Crispy I vase, £29, BoConcept.



APPLIQUE WORK PAGES 69 - 72

Vibrant cushions featuring embroidery and appliqué take pride of place on the Ridges' sofa. Try this beautiful Isfahan Tulip fabric, £159 per m, Osborne & Little.



RATTAN TABLE PAGES 130 – 132

A woven coffee table with a glass top creates a relaxed, country look in the Rollands' sitting room. For something akin to this, try the Four Seasons Brighton coffee table in Hularo rattan, suitable for outdoor use, £499, White Stores.

5 OF THE BEST HANDPAINTED TILES

Individually handpainted tiles are ideal for adding character in the kitchen or bathroom. The beauty is that no two tiles are exactly the same – this is the charm of all things handmade.



Chicken tile, 13 x 13cm, £17 each, the Farm Animals collection by Art on Tiles



Robin tile, 10.5 x 10.5cm, £35 each, Tiles of Stow Ltd



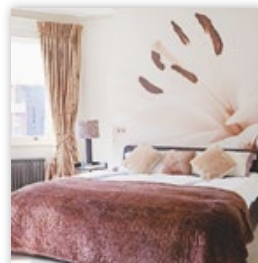
Packwood Delft Lake and House tile, 12.5 x 12.5cm, £31.94 each, Fired Earth



Painted Lady tile, 10 x 10cm, £14.45 each, Original Style



Daisy tile, 11 x 11cm, £19 each, the Dogs collection by Maggie Mumford



BESPOKE MURAL PAGES 20 – 25

A sepia photographic mural forms a feature wall in the Youngs' bedroom. Try Eddie's White Wonder Mural by Clive Nichols, from £60sq m, Surface View.



SLIM FOOTSTOOL PAGES 60– 63

Stylish, slim and distinctive, a buttoned footstool adds elegance at the end of the Trusteds' bed. For something just as tasteful, try the Milton Bench, from £1,570, The Sofa and Chair Company.



SITTING ROOM

'I opted for shutters at the windows because curtains would block out too much light,' says Gillian.

Cath Kidston's Clifton Rose cotton duck fabric, £20m, is similar to the sofa upholstery. Croft Collection William glass bottle table lamp, £95, John Lewis, is comparable

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Late-18th-century Grade II listed, former blacksmith's forge

LOCATION Rutland

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, two bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2006

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I also own a ground-floor Victorian flat in north London, where I work,' says Gillian.

FORGING AHEAD

GILLIAN ROLLAND UPDATED THIS FORMER SMITHY TO
CREATE A COSY AND COLOURFUL WEEKEND RETREAT

FEATURE PAT GARRATT | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH



GARDEN
A small courtyard with a few plants requires minimum upkeep – ideal for Gillian. Get the look with the Peru four-seater round furniture set, £269.99, Homebase



KITCHEN
'The table is my best buy,' says Gillian. 'I bought it for £10 in a junk shop and had it sanded and oiled.' Topps Tiles have a selection of slate floor tiles, from £16sq m. Triple frame of Penguin book covers, £25, Snow Designs & Interiors

I have always wanted to live in the country,' confesses Gillian Rolland, 'but as I work in London, I knew it was impractical. A weekend cottage was the next best thing and, as I'd got to know the Rutland area through visiting friends, it seemed the perfect location in which to look. It has beautiful, rolling countryside, plus lovely country pubs and local shops.'

After viewing and dismissing several houses, Gillian, who runs online handbag and accessories company Pepper Alley, fell for the charms of a 300-year-old cottage, which had once been a

blacksmith's forge. 'For such a small place, it was really light inside,' she recalls. Situated up a narrow lane, with a pub nearby, no passing traffic and a small, private courtyard at the back, the property had the potential to be the perfect, low-maintenance weekend retreat.

However, as the previous owners had rented out the cottage for several years, there were areas that needed work. 'The master bedroom had wonderful wide floorboards, but these were covered with a grotty carpet,' says Gillian. 'The layout of the kitchen meant it was impossible to accommodate a table and also the garden wall was falling down.' In



BATHROOM
‘I thought the green tiles worked well with the country feel in the rest of the house,’ says Gillian. Retro Metro Isis green crackled glaze tiles, £74.98sq m, Fired Earth



GUEST BEDROOM
Keeping wall decoration to a minimum helps to make this small space feel larger. Knitted pouffe (left), £99; Fenella Beauchamp painting, £250, both Snow Designs & Interiors



DESIGN ADVICE
‘If you’re organising a house renovation from a distance, ask the builder to email pictures to you regularly so you can see how work is progressing’

MASTER BEDROOM
‘I love this room because it’s so calming, which encourages a lot of Sunday morning lie-ins!’ says Gillian. Cath Kidston’s Rose cotton duck fabric, £20m, is a good match for the blind. Dunelm’s Duck Egg Maison Collection duvet cover set, £200, has a similar patchwork design. Marks & Spencer’s Meadow jug, £17.50, would work here

the sitting room, three walls of exposed stone gave it a cave-like feel, so she decided to leave the chimney wall exposed but have the other two lime-rendered. Upstairs, the bathroom’s white tiles and fittings were plain and functional rather than stylish.

Shortly after buying the property, Gillian hired a builder to start work on the renovation. ‘I’d done up houses before,’ she says, ‘and wanted this place to be bright and modern. I didn’t have any formal plans, but we discussed my ideas, which the builder took on board and I visited the site every couple of weeks.’ The work took five months and included replacing the old windows with double-glazed timber versions, changing the back and front doors and ripping out

the old kitchen. In its place, Gillian chose classic, flat-panelled cream units from Homebase. ‘I replaced the handles with more expensive ones and added a black granite worktop,’ she says. Reworking the layout also meant there was room for a dining table and the boiler, which had, rather inconveniently, been located in the sitting room.

A fresh coat of paint in the bathroom was enough to bring it up to scratch, then, two years ago, Gillian splashed out on a new suite and tiles. For the decor, she took her inspiration from Cath Kidston’s iconic country look, with bold floral fabrics used against a neutral backdrop. ‘The renovation went slightly over budget,’ she admits. ‘But I thoroughly enjoyed doing this house up and friends and family love to visit.’ 25

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4* Hallmark Hotel Manchester	Manchester	£85
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4* Menzies Glasgow	Glasgow	£87
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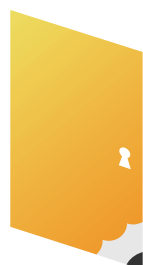
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Into the BLUE

Awash with character, Daphne McKinley's home on Ireland's west coast is a retreat for three generations

FEATURE AND PHOTOGRAPHY BARBARA EGAN/REPORTAGE



VIEW TO THE HALL

Collectibles create an interesting display by the door.

Canonbury Antiques has a similar Art Nouveau bronze figurine table lamps. Watching Clocks has mechanical wall clocks, from £120





Daphne McKinley has loved Connemara since her teens, when her parents bought a house there. 'I've travelled the world, and never found anywhere to match the rawness and pure beauty of this coast,' she says. 'The mood and colour of the Atlantic sea changes constantly with the weather, from pure turquoise to the darkest green.'

When Daphne had her own children, she wanted them to experience the same seaside summers she had enjoyed, and started looking into building her own retreat in Connemara. Luckily, her father found her a site near the family's holiday home, and in 1999 she began the process of designing her house.

'I wanted to build in the traditional vernacular of the west coast of Ireland and create a home that was in keeping with the area,' she says. The orientation of the property was also important because of the exposed nature of the site. Historically, houses were built with the gable end facing the

SITTING ROOM

To give the interior of the cottage character, wooden beams, which were salvaged from a pier in County Kerry, and panelled lift-latch doors were used. Recreate the look with the huge double framed gold gilt Belle mirror, £499, Ayres & Graces. Fit & Furnish's Indian Jali dark coffee table, from £69.99, and Padstow loose cover sofa, from £1,400, and armchair, £950, both John Lewis





DINING AREA
Daphne designed the striking table in this wonderful triple-aspect space. Bespoke table, £1,800, John Nethercott & Co. Ian Mankin's Oban check blue cushion, £55, would work here

NEW-BUILD



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Thatched detached cottage

LOCATION County Galway

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, family room, six bedrooms (two en suite), two bathrooms, shower room

BUILT 1999

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I commute between my homes in France and London,' says Daphne.

FAVOURITE ROOM

'I love the traditional feel and the space in the kitchen. It's a real family room and this is where we usually all congregate'

KITCHEN

The floor is Liscannor stone and came from a nearby quarry.

Bespoke bleached pitch pine and steel kitchen, £9,500, Beola Crafts. The Chair Men's Stick Back Windsor chair, from £355, is a good match



screaming Atlantic winds, a custom that Daphne followed. The front is designed as a traditional Irish thatched cottage, while the rear has modern glazing to make the most of the sea views. It was sourcing the authentic elements that proved problematic during the project, as Daphne had difficulty finding a roof thatcher. Her first choice was a Frenchman, but his thatch blew away in a storm before the house was finished. The next thatcher she found explained that the roof should have been netted to suit local conditions and to prevent crows pecking at the materials for their nests. Fortunately, with a reliable builder on board, the rest of the work went to plan.

Daphne was keen to recreate the traditional Irish ways for her children in the holiday home. 'I wanted a big kitchen with a large open fire, around which we could tell stories and play music, as we're all very musical. I deliberately resisted having a phone line and internet connection installed. The house is



MASTER BEDROOM

'The beautiful French antique bed is my favourite piece in the house,' says Daphne. Antiques Atlas has similar frames, from £395



BATHROOM

Daphne made this a practical space for children, with a smooth timber floor that can easily be swept free of sand. London hand basin, £666, CP Hart. Rectangle Metal Edge mirror, £175, John Lewis, would suit this room



simple and relaxed, with cosy rooms,' she says. The summer of 2000 was the first Daphne enjoyed in the cottage with her children. 'It was magical,' she says. 'I worked on planting the rear garden to withstand the winds, while the children played on the beach. I also had the deck built at the back to cut down on the amount of sand being tramped into the house.'

Fifteen years have passed since then and it is now Daphne's grandchildren who enjoy playing on the beach, but the coast of Connemara still draws Daphne back like a beacon. 'My grandchildren, Flynn and Reilly, love visiting and are now the fourth generation to enjoy the sea and the gentle pace of life,' she says. 'My own children also adored it here and I will always return, no matter where else I go. We do have the internet now, as I eventually relented, but it has allowed me to spend more time here, as I can work from the cottage, even though my business is in London. I sit at the dining table and look out at the sea and I think, could there be anywhere more beautiful?' 25

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian mid-terrace

LOCATION North London

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, conservatory, utility room, bathroom, two bedrooms

PURCHASED 2012

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I lived in an apartment close to Regent's Park, while Jo lived in Willesden Green. This is our first home together,' says Marta.

CONSERVATORY

This glass box-style space ensures that light flows in from above.

Vittorio right-hand facing corner sofa in Pearl Grey, £999, Made.

Reeve Mid-Century coffee table in marble and walnut, £459, West Elm

BRIGHT MOVE

MARTA DE SOUSA AND JO WALLACE TOOK A DINGY VICTORIAN TERRACE AND FLOODED IT WITH NATURAL LIGHT

FEATURE ANNA TOBIN | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH

DINING AREA

The brick around the fireplace was exposed to link the modern kitchen and dining space with the period features in the rest of the house.

Breakfast sign from Battlesbridge Antiques Centre. Natalie Ratcliffe Woodland cushion, £40, John Lewis

I wanted to walk into a place I knew we could easily personalise,' says Marta de Sousa about her search for a new home. So the property expert and her partner, Jo Wallace, knew they had found what they were looking for when they first crossed the threshold of a tired, north London Victorian terrace.

'The layout, original features, and amazing garden made us eager to move in right away,' says Marta. But, while habitable, the place was nondescript and Marta had to muster up all her skills to turn it into a stylish and inviting home, with a clever mix of open-plan entertaining areas and intimate, cosy spaces. 'The whole place was very dated and cried out to be opened up and restored,' she says.

The couple's priority was to filter more light into their home, so they drew up plans for a more modern glass-box-style room in place of the conservatory, which would bring in light from the side and above. They also made a feature of the steps leading down to what would have been a coal cellar at the front, where elegant French windows bring light in from the stairwell. It's easy to forget that this cooking, dining and entertaining space is actually in the basement.

'I love mixing modern with old,' reflects Marta, 'so the challenge was to seamlessly link the new parts of the house, such as the basement and the ground-floor bathroom, with the rest of

the property, which still has many of its Victorian features.' The pair achieved this by exposing the original brick of the basement chimney breast, installing vintage-style radiators and decorating with a stylish mix of art and accessories.

Marta spent a long time choosing paint. 'I wanted a neutral grey tone that would feel warm,' she explains. 'We've added colour to the rooms with artwork and books; elements we can easily change over time.' The master bedroom was inspired by Danish design. 'We opted to strip and then lime the wooden floorboards and to fill up the fireplace with logs, for a simple, rustic look,' says Marta. 'We also chose an accent wall, which gives a nice focal point.'

The second bedroom has been turned into a dressing room with the addition of an Art Deco-style dressing table. As well as a place to get ready, the room is also a spot for the couple to sit and look onto the garden. 'Peanut the Beagle, our newest addition, enjoys hanging out here, too,' says Marta.

The pair have recently been granted planning permission to add another floor to the house to accommodate an additional bedroom, bathroom and roof terrace. But, for now, they are content to enjoy what they have. 'That's a scheme we can simply enjoy planning in our head,' says Marta. 'Right now, it's just great to make the most of what we already have.' 25

1 & 3 REAR SITTING ROOM

Bookcases, a single armchair and a reading light create an intimate space. French studio light, £600, The Old Cinema. French leather club chair, £360, Atomic Antiques. Try the reindeer hide rug, £114, Cowshed Interiors

2 KITCHEN

'I saw the Gatto brand of units in kitchen stores but I decided to go to the factory in Italy direct,' says Marta. For Gatto kitchens in the UK, try Decorium. For similar made-to-measure stainless steel worktops, try s-d-engineering.co.uk

4 DRESSING ROOM

'We collected the picture frames from antiques fairs in the UK, Paris and Portugal and filled them with our family photographs,' says Marta. Marie Galante make-up trunk and vanity unit, £1,995, Starbay



SITTING ROOM

'I bought the Eames chair with me from my previous home,' says Marta.

For a similar vintage armchair try Design Addict. Walls painted in MixLab Night Jewels 5 matt emulsion, £24.99 for 2.5 litres, Dulux. Woven Trees cushion, £30, John Lewis



FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 148



FAVOURITE FEATURE *'I love the view of the old apple tree from the bathroom window – it brightens up my day every time I step into the shower'*



SITTING ROOM

The cool blues, warm wall colours and wood combine to create a serene feel.

Valentin footstool, from £345, Sofa.com. Walls painted in Charleston Gray and Skimming Stone estate emulsion, both £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Styling by Cathy Dean Interior Design



INSPIRING

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Apartment in a Victorian semi

LOCATION

Southeast London

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, office, utility room, two bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2012

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before this, we lived in a one-bedroom flat nearby,' says Cathy.

FULL OF SURPRISES

Cathy and Sam Dean faced some unexpected events during their carefully planned renovation – including a new arrival

FEATURE SEÁN O'CONNELL | PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD GADSBY

BEST BUY 'I only paid £46 for the kitchen table – the top is made from railway sleepers and is very practical'

KITCHEN-DINER

Careful design work and a few embellishments can give a whole new look to a high-street kitchen.

Bodbyn kitchen units, price on request, Ikea. Pewter cabinet handles, £9 each, Finesse. Paris pendant lights, £50 each, Garden Trading



Two years of living in a small one-bedroom flat persuaded Cathy and Sam Dean the time had come to climb further up the property ladder. After scouring the area for several months, they found a home that fitted the bill.

‘The apartment in a Victorian terrace was much bigger than our existing place, but it needed an immense amount of work,’ says Cathy. ‘The rooms were painted burgundy with yellow skirting boards and there was no running water in the kitchen.’ However, the generously sized rooms in this upside-down home – the living and dining areas are upstairs and bedrooms and bathroom downstairs – persuaded the couple to take up the gauntlet.

For the first 18 months, the Deans had little spare money to make the place anything more than liveable. ‘A working shower was one of our few luxuries,’ says Cathy. When they eventually got the contractors in, there were a few unforeseen events in store. After six weeks they replaced their builder, who had been less than ideal. ‘Luckily the team that took over were fantastic on all fronts and over the next six months they steamed through the house, moving walls, replacing the electrics and installing new plumbing,’ says Cathy.

MASTER PLAN

Living amid all this upheaval wasn’t easy, but Cathy had a clear vision in mind. ‘Sam left the designing to me,’ she says, ‘I planned the kitchen layout, the position of the furniture in all the rooms and even the exact colour of every wall.’ The space the couple deem the biggest success is the kitchen. ‘I love the impact it has as you walk in, with its bare brick wall and high-level cabinetry,’ says Cathy.

During the course of the building work, Cathy discovered she was pregnant with Phoebe, now 6 months old, which meant a rethink for the spare room. ‘It had to double as a nursery, so we chose a colour scheme to appeal to all ages. Both grandmas sleep in here when they come to stay and they love it.’

Cathy, who retrained in interior design, and now runs her own design business while looking after Phoebe, explains her thoughts behind the decor in the sitting room. ‘There’s a mix of things that don’t quite match but which still look good together,’ she says.

This may be an upside-down apartment, but the Deans are very happy with the result. ‘We love our topsy-turvy lifestyle,’ says Cathy, ‘and we wouldn’t have it any other way.’ 25



NURSERY

The colours and prints are suitably playful.

Owls in tree decal, from a selection, Etsy. Posh Graffiti sells similar wall letters, £8 each



MASTER BEDROOM

‘I used texture and metallic colours here, which really make the room feel luxurious,’ says Cathy.

Oliver double bed, £525, Feather & Black. For similar bedlinen try Christy Etched Peony, from a selection at TK Maxx



BATHROOM

‘I love that this space is just as cosy as the other rooms,’ says Cathy.

Millbrook double-ended bath, £675, The Cast Iron Bath Company



OFFICE

Old wooden fruit crates make practical and quirky storage.

Original BTC Hector metal table lamp, £130, Heal’s, is similar

LIVING THE DREAM

After an agonising wait, Jane Wagstaff and Ken Weatherstone were finally able to buy and renovate the country cottage they had set their hearts on

FEATURE JANET McMEEKIN | PHOTOGRAPHY BRUCE HEMMING



INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Detached cottage, dating from the 1850s and extended in the 1970s

LOCATION Kent

ROOMS Hall, sitting/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, boot room, shower room, utility, four bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2006

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I lived in an award-winning 1970s house in Surrey, which was designed by an American architect,' says Jane.



SITTING ROOM

Antiques and curiosities collected by the couple create a space full of interest.

Sofa Workshop's Eva design, £1,295, is a good match for the light-coloured sofa. PA Oxley sells antique longcase clocks, from around £3,000. Cushions (on grey sofa) in Colefax and Fowler's Kenrick Silver, £57.50m

BREAKFAST AREA

Garden views make this the perfect place to linger over brunch.

Henley chairs, £295 each; Chichester pedestal table, from £650, all Neptune



KITCHEN

Painted Shaker-style units, a butler's sink and an Aga combine to create a homely, rustic look.

Units and oak worktops, price on request, CJT Bathrooms & Kitchens



DINING AREA

A large mirror helps to increase the feeling of space.

Ayers & Graces has a range of gilt mirrors that would work here. Find replica busts at The British Museum Shop, from £175





MASTER BEDROOM
 'Ken wanted a bed that would complement our Gothic-style windows,' says Jane. Wrought Iron & Brass Bed Co's Sophie bed, £599, is a good alternative. Table lamp, £42, Woodlea Crafts & Design



BATHROOM
 A gentle blue and cream scheme makes for a relaxed feel – ideal for a soak in the tub. Roll-top bath, £699, CJT Kitchens & Bathrooms. Tongue-and-groove panelling painted in Shaded White estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



GUEST BEDROOM
 Hues of red and green give this space a welcoming warmth. Albany's Imogen wallpaper, £8.79 per roll, Wallpaper Direct, is comparable. Dunelm's Louisa cushion, £9.99, would work here



Having lived in a striking 1970s house that had scooped a prize for its cutting-edge design, Jane Wagstaff wanted a change of lifestyle when it was time to downsize. 'I loved the modernity of my Surrey house, but after my daughter moved out, I wanted a cosier place

I could share with my partner, Ken Weatherstone,' she says. 'I'm a country girl at heart, having grown up on a farm, so I had my eye on Kent and found a pretty 19th-century cottage in a delightful woodland setting near Chiddingstone Castle. You couldn't get much more of a contrast between the properties.'

But purchasing the cottage proved more difficult than Jane had anticipated. 'I struggled to sell my place,' she reveals. 'It took around three years to find a buyer. The stumbling block was its indoor swimming pool, which I loved but, clearly, others weren't so keen on.' Meanwhile, the owners of the property that Jane had set her heart on decided they couldn't wait for her any longer and found another potential buyer. All seemed lost until Jane's luck suddenly changed. The cottage's buyers pulled out, and shortly after, she received an offer on her Surrey home, which meant the move was back on again.

Jane and Ken couldn't wait to start stamping their personalities on the property. 'It was lovely but a little dark

FAVOURITE ROOM

'Ken put so much effort into our lovely bathroom. It's now a tranquil, airy space and has beautiful views out of the window towards the woods'

for our liking,' says Jane. 'Our main aim was to inject more light into every room using a subtle palette as a backdrop and incorporating colourful accent shades.'

The first job on the couple's hit list was refurbishing the downstairs cloakroom and installing a much-needed radiator and shower. They then gutted the bathroom to free up space for a new roll-top bath and a walk-in shower. 'Although it's a generous room, it felt rather cramped,' explains Jane. 'So we knocked down the ceiling to expose the rafters and concealed the pipes, which were boxed in, under the floor.'

The couple have gradually worked their way through the whole house, transforming it with carefully chosen paints and wallpapers, plus soft furnishings and new pieces to blend with their existing furniture. Three years ago, the pair decided to update the kitchen. 'There just wasn't enough worktop space,' says Jane. 'So Ken cut some handmade units and oak worktops to size and fitted these, as well as installing a wine cooler. We even treated ourselves to a new, remote-controlled Aga.'

Jane has never regretted her decision to move to Kent and being located so close to the castle has proved to be an added bonus for her business, Jane Wagstaff Interiors. 'I love it there and when an opportunity arose to rent space within it as a showroom, I jumped at the chance,' she says. 'After years of waiting, everything has finally fallen into place.' 25

WHERE TO BUY

April's list of contact numbers and web addresses

A Adirondack Outdoors 01483 489002, adirondack.co.uk
Alan Eldridge Cabinetry 01684 540 213
Amara 0800 587 7645, amara.com
Amazon amazon.co.uk
And So To Bed 0808 144 4343, andsotobed.co.uk
Annie Sloan 01865 803168, anniesloan.co.uk
Anthropologie 00800 0026 8476, anthropologie.eu
Antiques Atlas 0161 613 5714, antiques-atlas.com
Artemide artemide.com
Art On Tiles 01243 552346, artontiles.co.uk
Aspace 0845 872 2400, aspace.co.uk
Aspect Kitchens 01483 277166, aspectkitchens.com
Aston Matthews 020 7226 7220, astonmatthews.co.uk
Atkin and Thyme 0844 409 9834, atkinandthyme.co.uk
Atlantic Shopping 0121 230 1644, atlanticshopping.co.uk
Atomic Antiques 020 7739 5923, atomica.me.uk
Avoca 020 3627 7960, avoca.com
Ayers & Graces 01582 536760, ayersandgraces.com
Ay Illuminate 00 31 33 457 1486, ayilluminate.com

B B & B Italia 020 7591 8111, bebitalia.com
B&Q 0333 014 3098, diy.com
Back In Action 020 7930 8309, backinaction.co.uk
Bathstore 0800 023 2323, bathstore.com
Battlesbridge Antiques Centre battlesbridge.com
Beola Crafts 00 353 95 35854
Besselink & Jones 020 7351 4669, besselink.com
Betterbathrooms.com 0844 484 7678
Beyond Marrakech beyondmarrakech.com
BhS 0344 411 6000, bhs.co.uk
Bluebellgray 0141 221 0724, bluebellgray.com
Blüthner 020 7753 0533, bluthner.co.uk
BoConcept boconcept.com
Boråstapeter borastapeter.se
Bouf.com 020 8816 8284
Bowloom 020 7622 0500, bowloom.co.uk

Branded Bathrooms brandedbathrooms.com

C Canonbury Antiques 01707 644877, canonburyantiques.com
Casafina casafina.com
Catchpole & Rye 020 7351 0940, catchpoleandrye.com
Cath Kidston 0845 026 2440, cathkidston.com
Catharine Miller Gallery 020 7351 1973, catharinemiller.com
Cathy Dean Interior Design 07798 898053, cathydeaninteriordesign.com
Charnwood 01983 537777, charnwood.com
Chelsea Textiles 020 7584 5544, chelseatextiles.com/uk/
Chelsea Upholstery & Interiors 020 7384 1666, chelseaupholstery.co.uk
Chesney's 020 7627 1410, chesneys.co.uk
Christian Liaigre christian-liaigre.fr/en/
Christophe Delcourt christophedelcourt.com
City Cows 020 7099 6616, citycows.co.uk
CJT Bathrooms & Kitchens 01342 821351, eastgrinsteadbathrooms.co.uk
Claire Davies-Hobbs 0121 288 3430, davies-hobbsdesigns.co.uk
Clarissa Hulse 020 7226 7055, clarissahulse.com
Classical Flagstones 0845 308 3030, classical-flagstones.co.uk
Cole & Son 020 7376 4628, cole-and-son.com
Colefax and Fowler 020 7318 6000, colefax.com
Collette Ward Interiors 00 353 40 236585, collettewardinteriors.ie
Corian corian.co.uk
Cotto d'Este cottodeste.it/en
Cowshed Interiors 01789 400575, cowshedinteriors.com
CP Hart 0845 873 1121, cphart.co.uk
Croft Tile Centre 020 8883 5243, www.crofttiles.co.uk
Crown crownpaints.co.uk
Crucial Rug Store 0845 076 0086, crucialrugstore.co.uk
Cuckooland 01305 231231, cuckooland.com
CVO Fires 01325 301020, cvo.co.uk

D David Hunt Lighting 01295 672 200, davidhunt-lighting.com
Deco Dame decodame.com
Decorium 020 8438 8222,

decorium-uk.com
Design Addict designaddict.com
Designers Guild 020 7351 5775, designersguild.com
DFS 0808 159 1613, dfs.co.uk
Dulux 0333 222 7171, dulux.co.uk
Dunelm 0345 165 6565, dunelm-mill.com
Dwell 0845 675 9090, dwell.co.uk

E Eastburn Country Furniture 01535 656297, eastburncountryfurniture.co.uk
EBay ebay.co.uk
Eden Bath edenbath.com
Edward Church 020 7733 7311, tch-group.com
Eggersmann London 020 7371 8800, eggersmannlondon.com
Etsy etsy.com
European Glass 020 8961 6066, europeanglass.co.uk

F Farrow & Ball 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com
Feather & Black 01243 380600, featherandblack.com
Felix Spicer 07972 076809
Fermoie 01672 513723, fermoie.com
Finesse 01207 50050, finessedesign.com
Fired Earth 0845 293 8798, firedearth.com
Fishpools 01992 636465, ishpools.co.uk
Fit & Furnish 01935 412811, fitandfurnish.co.uk
Fred&Juul 00 39 0554 630 709, fredandjuul.com
French Finds 01270 842445, frenchfinds.co.uk
Funky Furniture and Stuff funkyfurnitureandstuff.com
Furniture Village 0800 804 8879, furniturevillage.co.uk

G GC Construction 00 353 1 876 927 498, gcconstruction.ie
Garden Trading 0845 608 4448, gardentrading.co.uk
GEC Anderson 01442 826999, gecanderson.co.uk
Georgia Lacey 07899 632096, georgialacey.co.uk
Go Modern gomodern.co.uk
GP & J Baker 01202 266700, gpandjbaker.com/group/en/
Graham and Green 020 8987 3700, grahamandgreen.co.uk
Great Little Trading Co

0344 848 6000, gltc.co.uk
Guru Furniture 020 8964 1966, gurufurniture.co.uk

H Habitat 0344 499 1111, habitat.co.uk
Halo 0161 923 0500, haloliving.co.uk
Harlequin 0845 123 6815, harlequin.uk.com
Harriet Young Designs 07976 407227
Heal's 020 7896 7451, heals.co.uk
Hicken Lighting 00 353 1 6777882, hickenlighting.com
Hide Nor Hair 07734 724037, hidenorhair.co.uk
Homebase 0345 077 8888, homebase.co.uk
HomeSense 01923 473561, homesense.com
House of Fraser 0345 602 1073, houseoffraser.co.uk
Howdens 0845 006 0006, howdens.com

I I & JL Brown 020 7736 4141, brownantiques.com
Ian Mankin 020 7722 0997, ianmankin.co.uk
Ikea 020 3645 0000, ikea.com
India Jane 020 8799 7166, indiajane.com
IQ Glass 01494 722880, iqglassuk.com

J Jim Lawrence 01473 826685, jim-lawrence.co.uk
Joanne Bernstein Garden Design 020 7697 0660, joannebernstein-gardendesign.com
John Lewis 0345 604 9049, johnlewis.com
John Nethercott & Co 01547 560369, johnnethercott.co.uk
Jonathan Adler 020 7589 9563, jonathanadler.com
Just Like Wendy's 01799 542504, justlikewendys.co.uk

K Kensington Appliances 01435 868586, kensingtonappliances.co.uk
Kids' Rooms 0117 330 2277, kidsrooms.co.uk
Kinky Roots 07815 744573, kinkyroots.co.uk
Kitchen Collection 02380 580235, kitchencollection.co.uk

L La Residence Interiors 01403 752245, laresidenceinteriors.co.uk
L&B 020 7838 9592, london.co.uk

Lakeland 01539 488100, lakeland.co.uk
Lakeland Furniture 0844 870 6961, lakeland-furniture.co.uk
Land of Rugs 01332 294787, landofrugs.co.uk
Lassco lassco.co.uk
Laura Ashley 0333 200 8009, lauraashley.com
Leather Chairs of Bath 020 7731 1198, leatherchairs.co.uk
Lewis & Wood 01453 878517, lewisandwood.co.uk
Lighting Direct 0843 317 7824, lighting-direct.co.uk
Ligne Roset 01494 545910, ligne-roset.co.uk
Little Greene 0845 880 5855, littlegreene.com
Loaf 0845 468 0697, loaf.com
Lombok 020 7736 5171, lombok.co.uk
Lou Rota 020 3740 3340, lourota.com
Love Lights 01642 671725, lovelights.co.uk

M Made 0345 450 6118, made.com
Made In Design 020 7692 4001, madeindesign.co.uk
Maggie Mumford 01372 844586, maggiemumford.com
Magnet 01325 744094, magnet.co.uk
Makers Bespoke Furniture 00 33 243 096370, makersbespokefurniture.com
Mandarin Stone 01600 715444, mandarinstone.com
Marks & Spencer 0333 014 8000, marksandspencer.com
Marquis & Dawe 01925 767611, marquisanddawe.co.uk
Marshall Arts 01904 607055, marshall-art.net
McGlashans 020 7486 6711, mcglashans.co.uk
Melody Maison 01302 711116, melodymaison.co.uk
Messana O'Rorke 00 1 212 807 1960, messanaororke.com
Michèle Oberdieck 020 7263 0876, micheleoberdieck.co.uk
Milan Direct milandirect.co.uk
Millside Joinery 01622 851441, millsidejoinery.co.uk
Mothercare 0344 875 5222, mothercare.com
My Fabric Place 0115 943 6636, myfabricplace.co.uk

N Neptune 01793 427427, neptune.com
Nest 0114 243 3000, nest.co.uk
Nina Campbell 020 7225 1011, shop.ninacampbell.com
Notonthehighstreet.com 0345 259 1359
Noyeks 00 353 1 419 5700, noyeks.ie

O Oak & Pine Cabin Furniture 0118 959 9721, oakandpinecabin.com

Oka 0844 815 7380, okadirect.com
Original Style 01392 473004, originalstyle.com
Ormston Saint 0845 606 0304, ormstonsaint-antiquefurniture.co.uk
Osborne & Little 020 8812 3000, osborneandlittle.com

P Pains paini.co.uk
PA Oxley 01249 816227, british-antiqueclocks.com
Paul Bradburn 0117 985 0022, peachoo & Krejberg
Peachoo & Krejberg peachookrejberg.com
Pieff 0115 9461 282, pieff-furniture.com
Piplers of Poole 01202 673056, piplers.co.uk
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Porcelanosa 0844 481 8952, porcelanosa.com/uk
Posh Graffiti 01949 850245, poshgraffiti.com
Power City 00 353 1 285 5733, powercity.ie
Premier Ship Models 020 8447 1884, premiershipmodels.com
Prêt À Vivre 01949 851 178, pretavivre.com
Purves & Purves 020 3397 3723,

Q Quirky Interiors 07890 262247, quirkyinteriors.co.uk

R Reading and West 020 7486 2048, readingandwestarchitects.co.uk
Rebecca Scott 020 7352 397, rebeccascott.co.uk
Roadstone 00 353 1 404 1275, roadstone.ie
Roberts Radio 01709 571722, robertsradio.co.uk
Roca UK Bathrooms uk.roca.com
Roche Bobois 020 7751 4030, roche-bobois.com
Roma Marble 020 8361 7818, romamarble.co.uk
Romo 01623 756699, romo.com
Royal Botania royalbotania.com
Ruby In The Dust 020 8449 7591, rubyinthedust.co.uk

S Sainsbury's sainsburys.co.uk
Samuel Charles Interiors 0161 925 9888, samuelcharlesinteriors.com
Sanctuary Bathrooms 0113 244 4400, sanctuary-bathrooms.co.uk
Sandberg 00 46 321 531660, sandbergab.se
Sanderson 0844 543 9500, sanderson-uk.com
Sasha Waddell 020 8979 9189, sashawaddell.co.uk
Scaramanga 01334 657642, scaramangashop.co.uk
Schumacher fschumacher.com
Shake The Sky 07776 185797, shakethesky.com
Skandium 020 7584 2066, skandium.com

SMR Bathrooms 023 93 162 021, smrbathrooms.co.uk
Snow Designs & Interiors 07793 821933, camillasnowinteriors.com
Sofa.com 0345 400 2222
Sofa Workshop 0808 231 3556, sofaworkshop.com
Sofas & Stuff 0808 178 3211, sofasandstuff.com
Solid Floor 020 7221 9166, solidfloor.co.uk
Starbay 00 33 01 69 51 61 80, starbay.com
Stone Circle 0845 293 2781, stone-circle.com
Stone Heritage 01664 822309, stoneheritage.co.uk
Store 0844 414 2885, aplaceforeverything.co.uk
Strawbridge 00 353 404 40502, strawbridge.ie
Studio Curios 07976 407227
Surfacetiles 020 8481 9588, surfacetiles.com
Surface View 0118 922 1327, surfaceview.co.uk
Sweetpea & Willow 0345 257 2627, sweetpeaandwillow.com
Swoon Editions 020 3137 2464, swooneditions.com

T Tangletree Interiors 0800 917 8726, tangletree-interiors.co.uk
The British Museum Shop britishmuseumshoponline.org
The Cast Iron Bath Company 01723 585896, castironbath.co.uk
The Chair Men 01404 850881, thechairmen.co.uk
The Chandelier & Mirror Company 01892 541355, chandeliersandmirrors.co.uk
The Chesterfield Company 0161 737 1600, thechesterfieldcompany.com
The Conran Shop 0844 848 4000, conranshop.co.uk
The Cotswold Company 0333 200 1725, cotswoldco.com
The Curtain Factory Outlet 020 8492 0093, curtainfactoryoutlet.co.uk
The Folding Door Company of Ireland 00 353 1 401 8282, foldingslidingdoors.ie
The French Bedroom Company 01444 415430, frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk
The Furniture Barn 01858 414180, furniture-barn.co.uk
The Headboard Workshop 01291 628216, theheadboardworkshop.co.uk
The Natural History Museum Shop 020 7942 5494, nhmshop.co.uk
The Old Cinema 020 8995 4166, theoldcinema.co.uk
The Rug Company 020 7908 9990, therugcompany.com
The Skinny Card Company theskinnycardcompany.com
The Sofa and Chair Company 020 8752 8935, thesofaandchair.co.uk
The Victorian Kitchen Company 00

353 1 672 7000, victoriankitchencompany.ie
The White Company 020 3758 9222, thewhitecompany.com
The Window Film Company 01494 853622, windowfilm.co.uk
The Wool Company 0845 130 8015, thewoolcompany.co.uk
3 Oak 020 8840 8031, 3oak.co.uk
Tiles Of Stow 01608 658993, tkmaxx 01923 473561, tkmaxx.com
Tolly McRae tollymcrae.co.uk
Tom Curran Homestyle 00 353 58 41324
Tom Dixon 020 3696 4950, tomdixon.net
Tons Of Tiles 01752 785623, tonsoftiles.co.uk
Topps Tiles 0800 783 6262, toppstiles.co.uk
Town House Interiors 020 7801 0429, townhouse-interiordesign.co.uk
Tubs & Tiles tubstiles.ie
Trefriw Woollen Mills 01492 640462, trowbridgegallery.com
Trowbridge Gallery 01892 667600, trowbridgegallery.com
Twentytwentyone 020 7288 1996, twentytwentyone.com

U Unique Fabrications 01908 321249, uniquefabrications.co.uk

V Vernon Walker Furniture 00 35 345 487844
Viaduct 020 7278 8456, viaduct.co.uk
Vitrapoint 020 7064 9681, vitrapointuk.com

W Wallpaper Direct 01323 430886, wallpaperdirect.com
Walls and Floors 01536 314730, wallsandfloors.co.uk
Watching Clocks 01179 555325, watchingclocks.co.uk
West Elm 0800 404 9780, westelm.co.uk
White Stores 03331 235235, whitestores.co.uk
Wilko 0800 032 9329, wilko.com
William Yeoward 020 7349 7828, williamyeoward.com
Willow & Stone 01326 311388, willowandstone.co.uk
Wood Furniture Shop 01580 761714, woodfurnitureshop.co.uk
Woodlea Crafts & Design 01732 700279
Wrights Flooring 020 7223 5970
Wrought Iron Brass Bed Co 01485 542516, wroughtironandbrassbed.co.uk

Y Yastik by Rifat Ozbek yastikbyrifatozbek.com
Yves Delorme 0808 234 4609, uk.yvesdelorme.com

Z Zara Home 0800 030 4238, zarahome.com
Zoffany zoffany.com



Large Chiltern sofa in Salmon, £1,349; Chiltern armchair in Chiltern Flower duck egg, £949, both DFS

ROOM ENVY

Each month we bring you a scheme that intrigues, delights or dazzles us

A living room should always be welcoming, beautiful and invite you to snuggle up and get comfy. Here, a colour palette of pretty pastel hues and occasional pops of brighter pinks, greens and blues creates a feminine, cheerful space and inspires us to truly embrace colour.

We love how the dusky pink sofa and rose-print duck-egg armchair from DFS

blend so beautifully with each other and suggest the floral palette of springtime. Painting the walls and floors fresh white, carefully selecting smaller, unfussy pieces of furniture, and using simple panels as window treatments keeps the scheme light and allows the candy shades of the sofas to stand out, bringing life and colour to the room. All that remains is for you to kick off your shoes and cosy up. ☺

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