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25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES



SUMMER LIVING

Sunny indoor style in a cottage

A CONVERTED PIGGERY BECAME

'The perfect home for our treasured pieces'

WIN
A HOTEL STAY IN BATH

PERSONAL TOUCH
Smart buys and clever decorating ideas

DREAMS COME TRUE

STUNNING NEW-BUILDS FROM A COASTAL HOME TO THE PERFECT FAMILY SPACE



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July 2014

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Each room of this stunning Oxfordshire new-build is bathed in natural light, thanks to its daring semi-circular design (see page 72).









NEW-BUILD

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WELCOME

OVER THE LAST FEW SUNDAY AFTERNOONS MY HUSBAND AND I have out been visiting gardens that are open to the public under The National Garden Scheme – we've always gone to a few each year. When the boys were young we'd take them with us, but it's a very rare event for them to come with us now. Although we still judge a garden on its possible attraction to small boys as somewhere to just run. I really like going to the villages where a number of gardens are open, as this combines a walk with some interest with the opportunity for a cup of tea and homemade cake. If I'm honest it's the cake selection that we really go for as much as the gardens. This summer I've been indulging in some serious house and village envy at the same time as enjoying the gardens. When we first moved to where we are from London, although local to where I grew up, the area we were looking to buy in was not that well known to me. So at the time, we set about driving round the villages and scoring them on whether they had a shop, school, busy road etc, so that when houses came on the market we knew whether that village was on our list. I feel like I'm doing it all again and even admitted last week that I felt like moving just for a change. The problem is that I'm falling in love with incredible houses that we'll never have the money for unless we win the lottery. I can always dream and when the time comes to move I'm sure that we'll fall in love with a new home and a new village.

Deborah

DEBORAH BARKER, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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COMING NEXT MONTH – ON SALE 29 MAY



RELAXED DINING
A smart open-plan kitchen-diner is the main hub in this chic coastal retreat in West Sussex



LIVING THE DREAM
Abundant with light and cheerful colours, a family from Florida share their heavenly home



A DASH OF DRAMA
A couple revamp their Victorian villa, fusing neutral shades with bold, bright designs

JULY

TRENDS | WHAT'S NEW | MUST-HAVE BUYS



SUNNY SIDE UP

Enjoy lazy summer days and alfresco fun with our colourful garden accessories

1 SWEET TREAT
Cuisipro ice cream scoop and stack in bubblegum pink, £14.99, Whisk

2 SALAD DAYS
Qualy Sparrow salad bowl with servers, £25.90, The Gift Oasis

3 HANG AROUND
Reversible bunting, £12, Next

4 SHINE A LIGHT
Oriental lanterns in white, blue or green, £10.95 each, Red Lilly

5 IN THE SHADE
Blooma Capri round parasol in pink, £29, B&Q

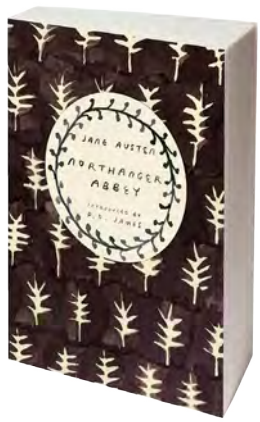
6 BLOOMING LOVELY
Rice Melamine rectangular plate, £7.50, Doris & Boris

7 TAKE A PEW
Sandhurst circle back wooden bench, £199, Notcutts

8 BOTTOMS UP
Haze highball glass in Sky, £25 for a set of four, LSA International

9 THE HEAT IS ON
Weber Smokey Joe premium barbecue in green, £69.99, Lakeland

COMPILED BY ERICA MILLER



















MONOCHROME HOME

Classic and timeless, the black and white look is a key design trend this season

1 A NOVEL IDEA
Northanger Abbey, £7.99, from the Jane Austen Vintage Classics series, Vintage Books
2 NEW FLAME
Hartford large outdoor lantern, £35, John Lewis
3 BREEZE IN
Dimplex Mont Blanc oscillating cooling fan, £49.99, Argos
4 PICTURE THIS
London Calling large platter, by Charlene Mullen, £25, Royal Doulton
5 DRY OFF
Kingsley Oslo towels in charcoal, from £12 for a hand towel, Very
6 GOOD TIMING
Hartnell Home Windsor enamelled alarm clock, £39, Roullier White
7 ON THE RIGHT LINES
Moroccan Stripe vase, £65, Liberty
8 LOUNGING AROUND
Navita zigzag day bed, £1,399, Marks & Spencer
9 IN A SPIN
Illumina jug blender, £69.99, Russell Hobbs

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**

housetohome.co.uk/25beautifulhomes

Find plenty of inspiring ideas by visiting our creative online hub

QUICK REFRESH

Give bedrooms, bathrooms and hallways fresh appeal this summer. From classic design ideas to the latest looks, Housetohome has dedicated galleries for every room in the house, so enjoy our round-up of the hottest interior trends at housetohome.co.uk/home-ideas.



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SIT BACK AND RELAX

Enjoy your outdoor space, whatever the weather, with a gorgeous garden room. They're great for wiling away sunny days or escaping the hustle and bustle of daily life. Find innovative ways to create a wonderfully cosy interior at housetohome.co.uk/25beautifulhomes.

PHOTOGRAPHY IPC IMAGES



BRIGHT UPDATE

There's so much to think about when designing a new kitchen so, before you start, be sure to check out housetohome.co.uk/25beautifulhomes for invaluable advice and ideas.



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CHEERFUL CHILDREN'S ROOMS

The summer holidays are a great time to refresh your children's rooms. Take a look at housetohome.co.uk/childrens-room for hundreds of decorating styles, best-buy shopping and top tips.



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Q&A

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



CORNER SOFA

I love the pink sofa in Karin and David Embleton's conservatory (p64, March 2014) and would be grateful if you could tell me where it's from?
MARJ CAMBRIDGE, BY EMAIL

Corner, or sectional, sofas are often considered to look best in contemporary homes, but Karin's design proves that they also fit beautifully into a traditional setting. In Karin's home, two corner sofas – a pink one and a neutral one – form a U-shape, and if you would like a similar arrangement, you'll need designs without an arm at one of the ends. Sofas & Stuff (0808 178 3211, sofasandstuff.com) will adapt its Hambledon sofa unit to suit a configuration you require, and can source a dusty pink velvet fabric. Its large corner unit, H89 x W305 x D305cm, starts at £2,665. If you don't need a U-shape arrangement, the Pavilion Corner sofa by Loaf (0845 468 0698, loaf.com) comes in large or extra large, with left- or right-hand configurations and can be upholstered in your chosen fabric. Shown right, is the extra-large left-hand design in Peony washed cotton linen, H92 x W298 x D238cm, £2,895.

MESH-FRONTED ARMOIRE

Could you tell me where Emilie and Ian Bohn bought the display cabinet in their dining area (p81, March 2014)?
ANDREA LANGRON, BY EMAIL



The mesh-fronted doors of this French-style piece give it a distinctly country feel. The Buttermilk French Antique wardrobe by HomesDirect 365 (01642 455589, homesdirect365.co.uk) is a very close match to the design you like, featuring similar ornate detailing and wire-mesh doors, H235 x W115 x D56cm, £1,999. For a more rustic design, look at Laura Ashley's (0871 983 5999, lauraashley.com) Bramley armoire, shown, which is inspired by rescued cottage furniture. The piece has chicken wire-fronted doors and a distressed cream finish, H150 x W120 x D40cm, £950.

BLOCK-PRINT QUILT

I've been looking for a lightweight summer quilt like the one in Georgie and Patrick Wood's master bedroom (p112, April 2014). Could you tell me where it's from?
DEBBIE FOX, SURREY

The design you like is the Coromandel double quilt, 260 x 290cm, £149, from Oka (0844 815 7380, okadirect.com). It comes in oatmeal on white, shown below, or blue on white, and the reverse is plain white. Zara Home (0800 026 0091, zarahome.com) also sells a number of printed lightweight quilts in similar designs – have a look at its Leaves decorative quilt, 230 x 250cm, £129.99.

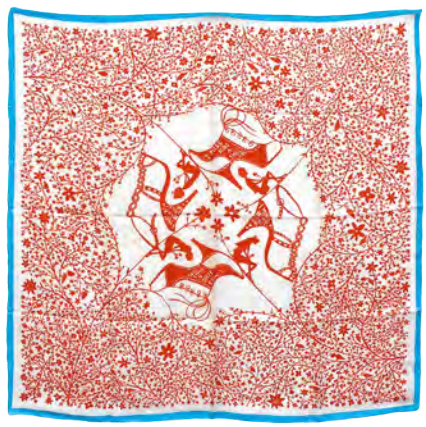


SCREEN PRINT

Can you tell me anything about the picture of a tree blowing in the wind in Sally and Carl Gough's sitting room (p120, November 2013)?
NICOLA RUSSELL, BY EMAIL

This is a piece by highly acclaimed artist Rob Ryan, who specialises in paper cuts and limited-edition screen prints. *I Opened My Heart* is his biggest screen print, W148 x H113cm, and is sold as an edition of 100, signed by the artist, from TAG Fine Arts (020 7688 8446, tagfinearts.com), £2,050. His smaller pieces are, inevitably, more affordable: *Can We? Shall We?* (shown below, left) is another limited-edition screen print, this time from a run of 250, with a paper size measuring W58 x H64cm and actual image size of W36 x H36cm, £250. For a larger piece, an option would be to frame one of Ryan's silk scarves, which are ethically produced and hand-printed in India: *I Miss Being a Small Girl* (shown below, right) is a striking orange print with turquoise trim, 90sq cm, £85, and is available from Rob Ryan (020 7729 9770, robryanstudio.com).







TOILE DE JOUY TABLEWARE

A few years ago, I went to a beautiful tea shop, which is now closed, where they used pretty, pale pink toile de Jouy-style china. I've always regretted not finding out who made it. Can you help?
HELEN SMYTH, LANCASHIRE

I think that you must be talking about a design called Asiatic Pheasants by Burleigh (01773 740740, burleigh.co.uk), which was first produced in 1827, in pale blue; the pale pink colourway (shown here) was introduced in 1862. This year, the company has launched a brand-new Engraver's Collection, available in pink or black, which celebrates some of the company's iconic patterns – Asiatic Pheasants, Willow, Calico and Oriental Birds – with a pretty patchwork design. It mixes beautifully with other Burleigh pieces for a more informal approach to dining. The price for a side plate (17.5cm) in each design is £9.50.



EXTERIOR LIGHT

I'm trying to replace an irreparable exterior wall light that was outside our old timber barn. It's a traditional design with a domed glass shade that hangs down beneath a metal reflector. Who sells lights like these?
GEORGINA PAIGE, SUFFOLK

I would suggest starting your search with The Olive Tree (01892 614197, theolivetreeshop.co.uk), which sells an attractive light called Barn, which is based on the type of lights hung outside farm buildings in rural England. The simple design is made from zinc-plated powder-coated steel and comes in three colourways – Coffee Bean, Clay or Charcoal. It measures H26cm, projection 21cm, and costs £45. Alternatively, Tinsmiths (01531 632083, tinsmiths.co.uk) stocks a striking selection of traditional exterior lights, including a stable light made from pressed and spun steel with a galvanised finish, H31cm, projection 31cm, £65. The light is also available in a larger design – a swan-neck barn light made from chunky cast metal, H35cm, projection 45cm, £174, or £188 for the corner fixed version pictured.

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NEW-BUILD



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HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Modern double-fronted detached house
LOCATION Dublin
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen/living area, snug, three bedrooms (all en suite)
PURCHASED 2010
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We lived in a New England-style house outside the city,' says Breda.

GARDEN
A pink-painted wall adds a dash of colour to the borders. For bright pink masonry paint try Little Greene's Carmine, £54 for 5 litres. Stainless steel planters, £84.99 per pair, Garden Items, are a close match

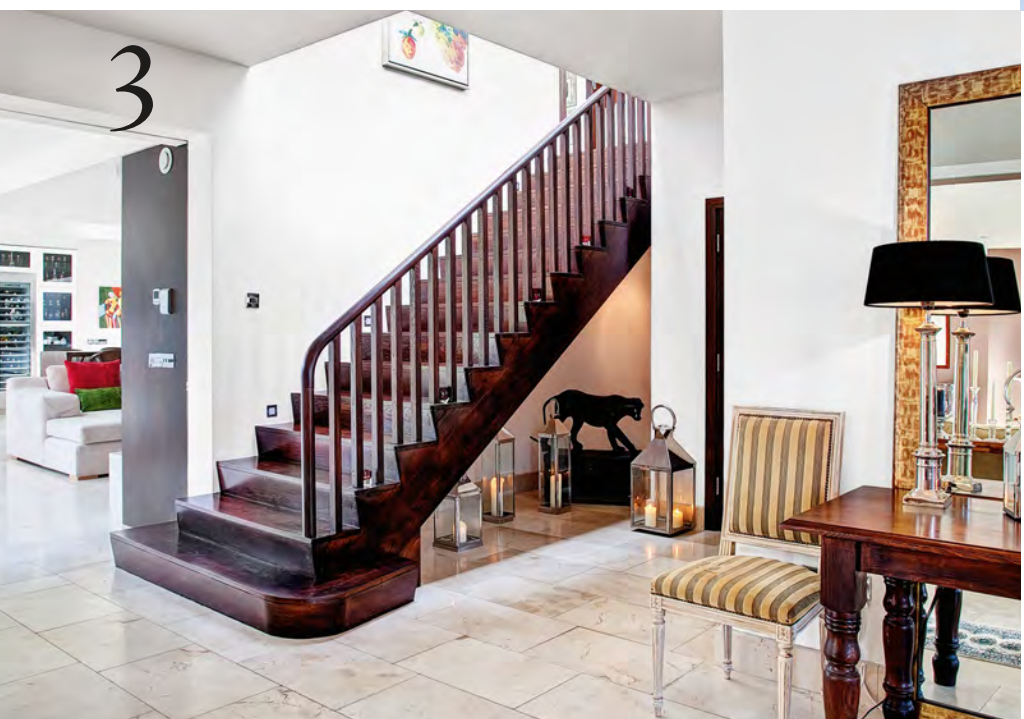
Finding a plot in the heart of Dublin led Breda Clifford to build a home suit her family and lifestyle

FEATURE MAGGIE STEVENSON
PHOTOGRAPHY DEREK ROBINSON











1 & 4 LIVING AREA

This south-west facing space has sun in the early morning and late evening. Breda's sofa was custom-built but the Long Island L-shaped sofa set, from £2,530, Sofa.com, is a ready-made alternative. Crema Marfil Classico polished marble floor tiles, around £50.40sq m, Alistair Mackintosh, are comparable

2 KITCHEN

Breda designed the cabinets herself, teaming Corian worktops with a dark-oak breakfast bar. 'I love the contrast of light and dark,' she says. Newmarket stools, £399 each, Lloyd Loom

3 STAIRCASE

Bespoke walnut steps lead to the bedrooms. For custom-made staircases, try Meer-End Joinery. The Louis XVI chair with upholstered back and seat, from £720, Grange is similar

DESIGN ADVICE 'Be prepared to pay for quality. You'll get a two- or three-fold return on your investment and add value to your home'





It's rare that a first-time building project is trouble-free, but for Breda Clifford, the process went almost without a hitch. From buying the plot to moving took little more than a year and the result, she says, is 'a comfortable, practical home that works' – something of an understatement to anyone visiting this light and spacious house.

The need for a new home became clear to Breda as she struggled through heavy traffic each day, driving her son from their home in the suburbs to school in Dublin. It made sense to move closer to the centre and, by chance she came across a plot for building on that was ideally sited and conveniently close to her son Patrick's school. Although planning approval had already been granted, Breda reapplied for permission to build the house she envisaged and then engaged a firm of architects to work with her.

Although this is the first house Breda has built, as the director of a design consultancy she's no stranger to the world of property. Having turned her previous home from mock-Tudor to New England style, she believes it's easier to start from scratch than to restyle. 'It's more straightforward to create your own home and very rewarding,' she says.

The house clearly reflects the importance of family and friends to Breda. In their last place, Patrick's playroom was in the attic. 'He was too far away from the centre of our home,' says Breda. 'Now he has a room downstairs.'

Even though Patrick has his own territory, the kitchen/living room is the focus of everyday life. A huge open-plan space zoned for cooking, relaxing and working, it manages to be both chic and welcoming. The darker recesses common to some very large rooms have been eliminated by the clever insertion of skylights over the food preparation area and Breda's desk.

It's also the perfect space for entertaining – the kitchen, with its extra-wide professional hob, is more than equal to the task of cooking for a crowd. The sofa seats eight and during



SITTING ROOM
Breda's love of South Africa influenced the warm, earthy colour scheme. Walls painted in Porcino luxury matt, £34.66, by Colortrend from Designerpaint. Glass candlesticks like those Breda collects can be found at William Yeoward. Comparable French-style armchairs start from £545 at Maison

summer, when we often have larger gatherings, the large glazed doors open onto the terrace creating more space to circulate.

Breda's design, planning and organisational skills have been put to good use in her home, but a well-stocked little black book and tried-and-tested list of tradesmen is her real advantage. 'I use the same team all the time,' says Breda 'and know where to source the best-quality products I need at the right price.' If she can't find exactly what she wants, she has it custom-made. The kitchen units, wardrobes and even the staircase have all been produced to Breda's design, but perhaps the most intriguing of her commissions is a piece of furniture in the sitting room that looks like a drinks cabinet but is actually a log cabinet. 'I wanted a neat storage solution,' says Breda, 'and this unit, inspired by Philippe Starck, provides it.'

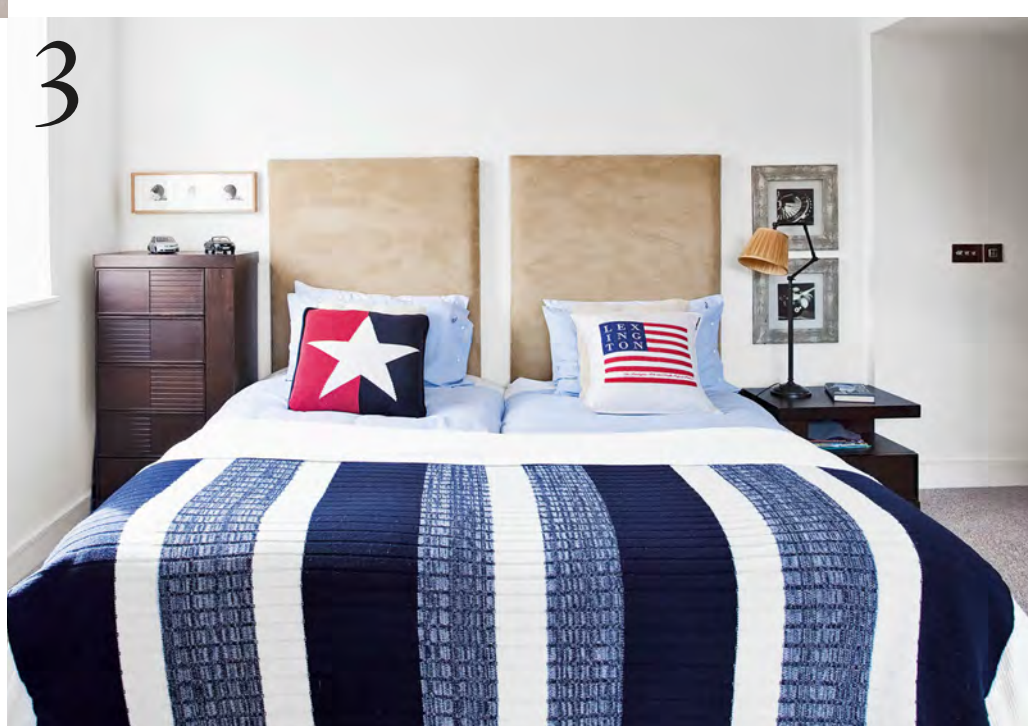
The garden is one area where expert help was not forthcoming. 'I ran out of money at the end of the project,' recalls Breda, 'so I designed the garden myself. It's taken three years to come into its own but I learned to be patient.' Like the interior of Breda's home, the outdoor space bears the hallmarks of a designer's touch. It has built-in storage for practicality, colour accents for contrast with the foliage and, with areas for eating, relaxing and socialising, it's designed around family and friends. 'Both the house and the garden are just what I wanted,' concludes Breda.

LAYOUT ADVICE 'If you have a small family, try to keep the living areas close together so that your home has a sense of unity'









1 **MASTER BEDROOM**
A floating wall behind the bed conceals a vanity area and a whole wall of wardrobes. Rococo mirror wallpaper, £78 per roll, Persian Wallpapers collection, Zoffany. Brandy faux-fur throw, from £240, Helen Moore, is a match

2 **MASTER BATHROOM**
With a walk-in shower, freestanding bath and vanity unit, this space is a real treat. The Clearwater Orient bath with wooden plinth, £849, Classical Baths, is an alternative. For a similar mosaic try Travertine Noce White Mosaic, £96.64sq m, Topps Tiles

3 **PATRICK'S BEDROOM**
This scheme has a smart transatlantic vibe. Lexington Big Star No 1 Sham cushion cover, £55; Arts & Crafts Sham cushion cover, £39, both New England Lifestyle

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**





SUNROOM
The couple created this dining area by enclosing the existing veranda.
Table and bench set, £1,200, Garden Trading. The Conran Shop sells white bistro chairs, £78 each



A SHORE THING

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Timber-framed chalet, built in 1937
LOCATION Cornwall
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen, utility room, sunroom, three bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms, one-bedroom annexe
PURCHASED 2010
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We owned a chalet nearby but moved here because of its incredible views,' says Rosalind.

A classic New England look was the ideal choice for Rosalind and Mark Benstead's beautiful beachfront home

FEATURE ALICE WESTGATE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** PAUL RYAN-GOFF

DESIGN TIP 'If you need to replace rotten timbers, search salvage yards for reclaimed wood because it will add far more character than new planks'



SITTING ROOM
Rosalind and Mark often entertain large groups of people so plenty of seating was a must. Karlstad sofas in Blekinge White, £275 each, Ikea. Lighthouse Stripe piped cushions in Denim, from £25 each, Runaway Coast. The Grey Fayence side table, £295, Charles Grace, is similar to this console





KITCHEN
Traditional painted timber cabinetry suits the style of the property.
Kitchen design and all building and renovation work by Towans Timberframe. Cabinetry painted in Blackened estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres; Pale Powder floor paint, £56 for 2.5 litres, is similar; both Farrow & Ball. Cornishware, from £10 for a mug, TG Green

Whenever Rosalind and Mark Benstead arrive home, all their stresses and strains simply melt away. 'We unwind as soon as we catch sight of the nearby lighthouse,' says Rosalind. 'This really is a magical spot.'

The landmark to which Rosalind refers was the inspiration for Virginia Woolf's famous novel *To The Lighthouse*, and the couple's timber-framed house enjoys a 180-degree view of the sea. 'As you sit in the sunroom, which spans the entire front elevation of the house, you can see a huge sweep of coastline that stretches from Godrevy to St Ives, with nothing but surf and golden sand for miles in between,' explains Rosalind.

Having holidayed in Cornwall for many years with their three children – Jemima, 22, Sam, 20, and Matt, 18 – Rosalind and Mark decided to buy a house in a pretty coastal village in 2006. But then, four years later, they spotted a nearby chalet for sale, which was slightly nearer the water. 'It was the first time the property had come onto the market since the 1930s,' says Rosalind. 'We just couldn't resist the panorama.'

The wooden chalets, which the area is renowned for, nestle in fields just inland of the dunes and were built in the 1920s and 30s as seaside escapes for city workers. But, after decades of being battered by coastal winds and salt spray, many are in need of tender loving care. Fortunately, the Bensteads' chalet was in good shape externally, needing only new windows and a fresh coat of paint. The interior required a more drastic facelift, as well as rewiring and a central heating system. 'There were old brown wall panels and dated patterned carpets in the main sitting room, and one of the bathrooms had an orange suite and no running water,' recalls Rosalind.

To restore the building to its former glory, Rosalind and Mark enlisted the help of Towans Timberframe, a company run by Rob and Ulrika Wright, who are passionate about renovating and rebuilding these iconic structures in a style that's faithful to the originals. 'They had already made a beautiful job of several other chalets on the site,' says Rosalind. 'We also wanted to keep the project as local as possible and the Wrights lived just a few houses away from us, which was handy.'

The plan was to keep the footprint of the chalet the same, with the interior layout altered slightly. 'A small downstairs study became a utility room, which is essential for drying wetsuits and stowing ▶

DECORATING TIP 'Paint wooden floors in pale shades to keep light levels high and create a quintessential seaside atmosphere'



MASTER BEDROOM
The famous lighthouse can be seen in the distance. Helston king-size bedstead in white, from £599, John Lewis, is a match. Lighthouse Stripe duvet cover in Sky, from £90, Runaway Coast. Framed artwork, £50, SeaKisses

picnic hampers,' says Rosalind. Upstairs, a twin bedroom became a master en suite.

For authenticity, Rob and Ulrika designed a handmade wooden kitchen, laid floorboards and lined every room with tongue-and-groove panelling. Wherever possible, they used existing timber to maintain the building's integrity, and when additional wood was introduced, it came from reclamation and salvage yards.

The renovation work took six months to complete, by which time Rosalind was ready to decorate throughout in the fresh, light-filled style of a New England beach house. Walls, floors and panelling are painted in a selection of cool coastal colours, while blue and white stripes are a recurring feature on soft furnishings, bedlinen and traditional Cornish crockery. 'We wanted the colour scheme to harmonise with the seascape outside, so blues, greys and greens were obvious choices,' explains Rosalind. The couple's collection of nautical-themed local artwork – including prints, oil paintings, photographs and ceramics – decorate the whitewashed walls.

With the chalet now back to its best, Rosalind and Mark are thrilled with how everything has turned out – and are even happier to be nearer the sea. 'We all love living here,' says Rosalind, 'The children are all keen surfers – Matt, even teaches the sport locally – and I never tire of the views.'



MASTER EN SUITE
Wooden elements add warmth. Tivoli cast-iron bath on wooden sleepers, £1,561, Aston Matthews. Alslev flat-woven rug, £15, Ikea, would complement this scheme

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**

INSIGHT

Decorating in a coastal style

To inject your home with a little seaside chic, as the Bensteads have done, consider these points first



If Rosalind and Mark Benstead's Cornish beach house has inspired you to opt for a casual coastal style, there are lots of ways to tweak your scheme, whether you live by the sea or simply want introduce a feel of relaxed outdoor living to your home.

CONTEMPORARY COASTAL

Coastal motifs are perennially popular because of their timeless appeal. Fresh blue and white stripes, light-filled spaces, natural textures and nautical accessories are classically coastal, but there are plenty of ways to add a current twist. Try introducing smart navy and neutrals via a large-scale geometric rug for a modern take, and reference the sea with porthole mirrors – a cluster of black-framed round options creates a sophisticated take on the look. Think outside the box – papering a wall from floor to ceiling in a vintage map print is another way to introduce the theme. Wallpapered (020 7222 4620, wallpapered.com) offers a good selection of retro and modern designs. Artworks such as striking seascapes work well, or try a witty take by displaying a battered surfboard or scuffed oars. Avoid over-indulging the theme, though – a strong visual reference here and there is all that's needed to evoke the idea.

LAID-BACK LIVING

If you live close to the sea, it's important to combine practicality with aesthetics. Opt for sturdy wooden or stone floors that will cope with sand, while exterior decking is a good option – teak wears well with age. Choose furniture upholstered in durable materials. Consider washable slipcovers for sofas and chairs, while canvas, linen and hessian are resilient and suit a natural, coastal look. Try simple window treatments, such as louvred shutters, which are practical and in tune with a casual, beachside look. Remember that yellow, white and pops of orange or green, typical of a classic Florida beach house, are just as evocative of the coast as the classic blue, red and white found in New England or Cornwall. Update the look with one or two dramatic pieces such as a striking driftwood dining table, or opt for subtle inversions through striped ticking or sculptural, textured accessories.

EXPERT EYE

'Don't be afraid to include a flash of non-traditional seaside colours in a coastal look, like a bold bright such as a coral orange'

JULIET THORNBACK AND DELIA PEEL, THORNBACK & PEEL

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE...



- **'Coastal schemes should be relaxed and informal, giving the impression of salty air and sandy feet even if you live in the city. Avoid obvious nautical motifs and instead use pattern and colour to create a seaside feel.**
- Simple, unassuming fabrics such as linens and ticking are essential for coastal style. Crisp, clean stripes are synonymous with seaside interiors and can be mixed and matched for a breezy summer style that looks appropriate all year round.
- **Consider a thin ticking stripe as a neutral and match with a stripe of a different scale and density. Using patterns within the same colour family is an easy way to mix and match, creating interest whilst maintaining a relaxed, subtle look.**
- For a fresh take on nautical style, add a pop of red to blue schemes, or consider a palette of greys for a more contemporary look.

DAVID COLLINGE, MANAGING DIRECTOR, IAN MANKIN

ADDRESS BOOK

- **BRITISH INSTITUTE OF INTERIOR DESIGN 020 7349 0800, biid.org.uk.** Professional organization for interiors designers in the UK. You can find suppliers and designers here.
- **IAN MANKIN 020 7722 0997, ianmankin.co.uk.** A comprehensive source of striped and checked linens and deckchair canvas.
- ***COASTAL STYLE: HOME DECORATING IDEAS INSPIRED BY SEASIDE LIVING* £19.99, Ryland, Peters & Small** You'll find plenty of decorating ideas and inspiring images here.

FEATURE EMMA J PAGE

CLEARLY SPECIAL

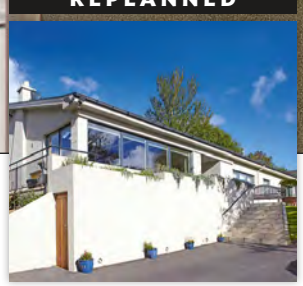
AN ABUNDANCE OF GLASS HAS TURNED ANDREA AND MICHAEL MURRAY'S DARK, DINGY BUNGALOW INTO A BRIGHT, MODERN SPACE

FEATURE & PHOTOGRAPHY BARBARA EGAN/REPORTAGE



KITCHEN
Removing the ceiling to expose the roof trusses and adding clerestory lighting has had a huge impact on the feel of space and light.
Tespoke Linna kitchen in Traffic White, Robert Mooney Furniture. Unsui Silestone worktop, price on request, M Roe and Sons. l'Eau bar stools, £160 each, Calligaris. Walls painted in Farrow & Ball Stony Ground estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY A 1960s bungalow with basement addition
LOCATION South Dublin
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility, study, games/media room, five bedrooms (two en suite), family bathroom, Separate study in garden
PURCHASED 2011
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We moved into this place after living in a Tudor-style house in Berkshire,' says Andrea.



FAVOURITE ITEMS

'My artworks are special to me. Each one is a memory of where they were bought: Ireland where we live now, England where we lived for years and Spain, where we love to visit'

Andrea and Michael Murray initially rented their house in South Dublin when they moved from the UK in 2008. 'I hated the place on first sight,' recalls Andrea. 'The layout in the sitting room was clunky and awkward, the kitchen was tiny, and there were small, poky windows throughout. Also, the decor was completely different in each room and the carpets ranged from deep blue to burgundy, so we had to redecorate from top to bottom before I could bring myself to move in.'

However, the house had a great location, surrounded by a green belt with fabulous views all the way to Sugar Loaf Mountain in County Wicklow, so when it came up for sale, it was a different proposition altogether. 'I disliked the layout of the house and it was far too dark and gloomy, but I knew these were things that could be changed,' says Andrea. The couple bought the house and set about tailoring it to their own needs. 'It was in the front of the house that I really wanted to make changes,' explains Andrea. 'I longed to bring in lots more light so that the whole place felt spacious and welcoming.'

Architect Jim Horan, who was recommended by a friend, devised a plan to remove the south-facing front façade of the house and replace it with a double-height glass wall. His design went to planning permission stage and was approved but, ultimately, the costs involved were too high. 'The price was ridiculous,' says Andrea, 'so it was back to the drawing board.' Their revised scheme included the removal of low ceilings in the kitchen-dining area and an open-plan arrangement to give a feeling of space. Meanwhile a combination of glass walls and clerestory lighting would introduce much more daylight into the





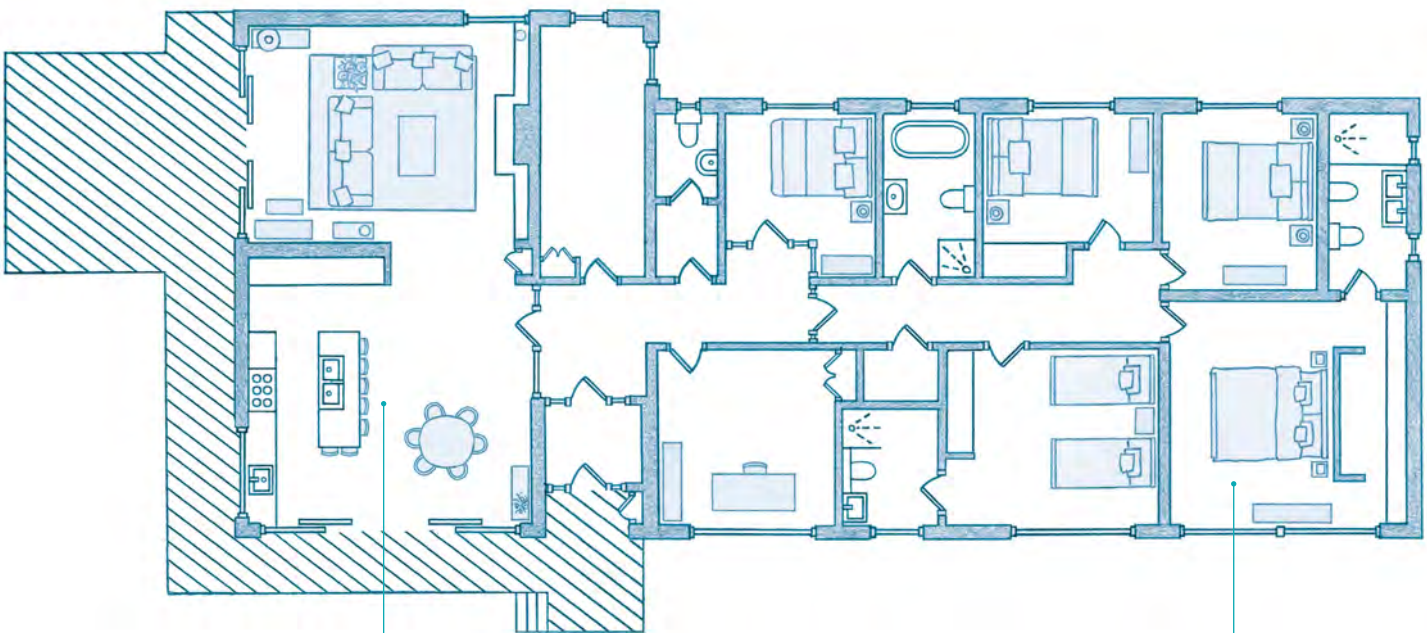




1 & 2 SITTING ROOM
'I planned this room so that in summer it's open to the terrace, and in winter we can close all the doors and have a cosy evening in front of the fire,' says Andrea.
Synopsis leather sofas, from £4,650, Roche Bobois. Cushions, from £11 each, TKMaxx. Walls painted in Light Gray estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

3 DINING AREA
The beautifully ornate table, bought in Thailand, is used for more formal meals.
Hans Wegner Wishbone chairs in walnut, £235 each from CA Design. Luxaflex Facette blinds, £45m, Window Fashions

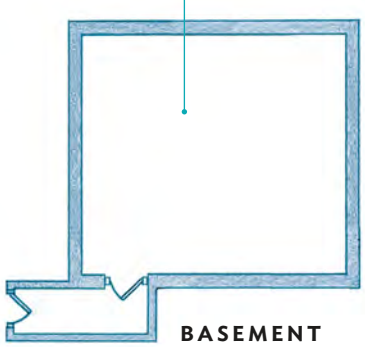
AFTER



FAMILY SPACE
Separate living spaces (sitting room, dining room and kitchen) were knocked through to create a modern open-plan scheme, complete with glass walls and doors to let in light and allow easy access to the garden.



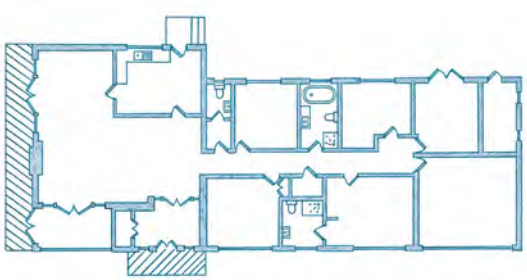
GOING UNDERGROUND
Andrea and Michael decided to excavate the deep space below the font of the property and added a basement level, which is used as a games/media room.



BASEMENT

MASTER BEDROOM
The actual downstairs layout at the rear of the house has largely remained unchanged. However, the garage has been transformed into the master bedroom, the adjoining boiler room is now the master en suite and a bedroom was reassigned as Andrea's study.

BEFORE



interiors. 'I really liked the idea of the exposed roof trusses, because raising the ceiling would make a huge difference to the feeling of space,' explains Andrea. 'It also reminded me of our old Tudor-style house in Berkshire. We got the idea for the glass walls from interiors shows and magazines, and I loved the concept of bringing the outside in.'

Andrea's parents often spend winter abroad, so the family moved into their house two miles away during the renovation. 'It was so important to be nearby, as there were important decisions to be made everyday,' says Andrea. 'For example, it was only when the floors were taken up at the front of the property that the space underneath them became apparent. Tests had to be done to ascertain if it was possible to add a level below, as the house is partly built over solid rock. It was quite exciting when we got the go-ahead.' The excavation provided sufficient space for a basement games/media room, which will come into play more as the couple's children, Ellen, 14, Lauren, 11, and Jamie, 9, get older and need their own space.

'The most important area for me was always the kitchen,' says Andrea. 'I'm a nutritionist so it's my natural habitat.' Her inspiration came from a friend's kitchen she'd seen while visiting England. She took photos to show her architect and kitchen designer, Robert Mooney. 'I wanted it to be simple, contemporary, light-filled and spacious,' she explains. 'The island is the main focal point, which is great for cooking, eating and socialising. In summer, the sliding doors leading to the garden and terraces are usually open, and we often dine outside. I may have had my reservations about this house, I'm so glad we bought it now.'

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DESIGN TIP 'A freestanding "headboard" wall with attractive wallpaper set in front of wardrobes will keep your bedroom looking clean and uncluttered'

MASTER BEDROOM
This used to be the garage, with a bank of windows replacing the door.
Egerton wallpaper from Cole and Son, £70 per roll. Versailles engineered oak flooring, £44.50sq m, Phloor

MASTER EN SUITE
Andrea thought a wet-room style scheme would suite this long, narrow space.
Quartet Hudson Reed vanity unit, £959; mirror, £490, both DPL Bathrooms



ELLEN'S ROOM
Twin beds are great for sleepovers.
Hastings bed frame, £575; Clifton chest of drawers, £850, both Laura Ashley

CALL OF THE WILD

A rugged landscape, sea views and a remote location – it's not too hard to understand why the thought of living on the Isle of Skye ticks a lot of boxes for many people wanting an antidote to a busy city life. For Hanne Stemann and Jimmy Lawson, the dream of living on this beautiful island had been quietly simmering for many years. Jimmy was born and grew up here, so this is familiar territory for him and his two daughters, while Hanne and her two sons have been holidaying here since the couple met more than 20 years ago. 'Jimmy's been thinking about having a house on Skye since he left the island when he was 18,' says Hanne. 'And I love it here just as much.'

Jimmy and Danish-born Hanne currently spend much of their time in Strasbourg, where they both work. But in 2008, once their children had left home, they started looking for somewhere on Skye where they could holiday and eventually retire to.

'We decided to build a home, as property is so expensive on the island,' explains Hanne. 'During one trip, Jimmy saw this piece of land, and it had exactly the views that we were looking for.' The elevated plot is an enviable spot looking out towards the Western Isles to the north, Dunvegan Head to the west, and the Cuillin Hills to the south. Understandably, incorporating this breathtaking scenery into the design of their new home was at the heart of the couple's thinking. They also wanted to create the sort of house that would blend into the countryside. Fortunately, they heard about architect, Mary Arnold-Forster of Dualchas

NEW BUILD



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Contemporary new-build
LOCATION Isle of Skye
ROOMS Sitting room/kitchen-diner, study, three bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom
BUILT 2011
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We also live in a 1930s house in Strasbourg, France,' says Hanne.

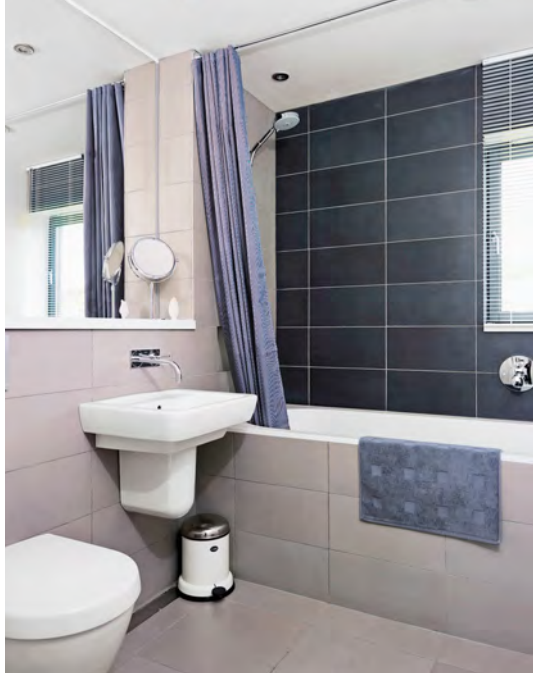
After years of yearning to live on Skye, Hanne Stemann and Jimmy Lawson finally got the chance to build a striking coastal home

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ALISTAIR NICHOLLS



SITTING ROOM
'We used lighting around the chairs as we Danes prefer low lamps to bright ceiling lights,' says Hanne.
Le Klint 321 reading lamp, £469, Royal Design. Similar tray coffee table, £180, Made in Design









DINING AREA
'I've always loved these Poul Henningsen lamps so I bought two of the special red anniversary designs,' says Hanne.
Louis Poulsen PH50 pendant light by Poul Henningsen, £580 each, Nest. Alessi Mediterraneo steel fruit bowl, £56, Red Candy

Architects, who they felt would be able to satisfy all these goals. 'Mary's houses are contemporary, though the colours, materials and proportions of the buildings she creates also reference the past,' says Hanne.

The couple thought that this approach would be ideal for them, so Mary produced plans for a single-storey timber-clad house in the shape of two 'sheds' with 180-degree views from the floor-to-ceiling windows at the back and side. 'The building looks a bit like two old long houses set together, but in fact it's one structure,' Hanne explains. 'It's a very clever design as our home doesn't impose on the landscape at all.'

When the property was finished in September 2011, Hanne got straight to work on the decorating. Her influence was the location of their new home. 'We knew we didn't want the inside to take the focus away from the lovely views, so we kept it simple,' she explains. The pair opted for clean white walls, wooden floors and neutrals, with texture playing a big part. The style draws parallels with Hanne's origins and is enhanced by her vintage Scandinavian furniture, such as the original Hans J Wegner sofas and Arne Jacobsen chairs.

Although Hanne's heritage underscores the design in the house, Jimmy's roots haven't



DESIGN TIP 'Make sure you see your kitchen before you go ahead and buy it. I liked one I saw in a brochure but it was quite different in the shop'

KITCHEN
The gloss-white kitchen units brought over from Denmark and Silestone worktops reflect the light but don't dominate the open-plan room. Louis Poulsen Toldbod 120 grey thunder pendant lights, £205 each, Nest. Eva Solo bread bin, £111, Royal Design. Arne Jacobsen Bankers wall clock, £176, Heal's

been forgotten. 'We covered the sofas in Harris Tweed fabric,' says Hanne. 'The Scottish wool brings a warmth to the main sitting room, as do the traditional tweed throws and cushions, creating a much-needed cosy mood for the short, dark winter days.' This timeless style has endless appeal that will serve the couple well when they eventually move here permanently.

'We can't wait to live here all the time,' says Hanne. 'We never tire of the scenery here – the windows are like one big picture that we just can't stop looking at.' 25

MASTER BEDROOM
'I wanted to have pattern and texture in here rather than colour,' says Hanne.
Soften rug, £20, Ikea. Skagerak Cutter bench in teak, £499, Nest. Try eBay for similar Niels Møller teak dining chairs

FAVOURITE SHOP 'I love Interiør in Denmark because the owner gives great advice. He can get hold of almost anything and delivers to Skye for a good price, too'



BATHROOM
A neutral colour palette and simple fittings give a sophisticated look.
Find a similar chrome mirror stand, £30, John Lewis



GUEST BEDROOM
Bright accessories add contrast to the white background.
The Vitra coat rack, from £198, Heal's, is a close match



MASTER EN SUITE
'I used black tiles in the shower to break up the grey,' says Hanne.
Topps Tiles sells Qrock black tiles, £21.94sq m

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**

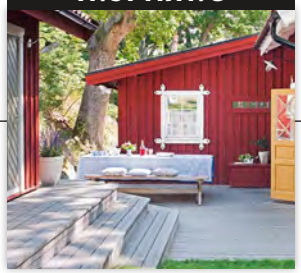
ISLAND DREAM

Anna Zachrisson chose nature-inspired prints and furnishings in fresh, nautical shades to decorate her family's historic holiday home



FEATURE RUBY ROGERS/ADESIGNFEATURES
PHOTOGRAPHY ANNE NYBLAEUS/ADESIGNFEATURES

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Detached house built in the 1860s
LOCATION Stockholm Archipelago, Sweden
ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, family room, three bedrooms, two bathrooms
PURCHASED 2008
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We live in Stockholm, this is our summer home,' says Anna.







The Stockholm archipelago is one of nature's wonders. Made up of 30,000 tiny islands and islets, it's not surprising the picturesque area has inspired so many artists and musicians over the years. And, with its close proximity to Stockholm, it has become the destination of choice for city dwellers looking to invest in a holiday home.

Anna Zachrisson and her husband Carl-Fredrik are a case in point. They work and live in the capital but having three young children – Filip, 9, Amelie, 7, William, 4 – they wanted a bolthole for the weekends and summers. This 1860s house, just a 35-minute drive from the capital, seemed ideal. 'We immediately loved its rich history and all its original architectural features,' says Anna.

The couple didn't do too much to the house until a few years ago, when they decided to add an extension, which houses a downstairs sitting room and a spacious master bedroom upstairs. Anna and Carl-Fredrik were also keen to redecorate, sourcing old materials and authentic furniture and wallpaper in keeping with the property's heritage.

As a designer, running an interiors business called Duett interior, Anna was brimming with ideas from the outset. 'For both the dining and sitting room I used floral wallpapers because the style complements the period of the house,' explains Anna. 'I also really like the cosy



1 & 2 KITCHEN
The couple kept the original stove in here for added charm and authenticity, while flatwoven rugs and the use of subtle colour prevent the simple, all-white cabinetry from looking stark.
For a similar look try the Kuta kitchen, from £5,032, Magnet. Elm Solid Fuel stove, £595, Happy Stoves. Blue Italian covered vegetable dish, £126, Spode. Marimekko Unikko blue tray, £27 each, Royal Design. Mini Metro Satin White tiles, 77p each, Topps Tiles. Kattrup flatwoven rug, £80, Ikea

3 FAMILY ROOM
A bold, geometric pattern and stripes create an eye-catching scheme.
Saint-Malo garden bench seat, £129, Maisons. Du Monde and Chelsea Stripe wallpaper by Cole & Son, £65 per roll, Designer Wallpapers, are similar



DINING ROOM

This striking wallpaper is an old Swedish design that has been reprinted. Simple, rustic furnishings stop it from being overpowering. Rag rugs, £24.95 each, Paperhigh, are similar. Harrogate dining chairs, £195 each, Neptune, have this look. Fern White Gloss extending dining table, £399, Danetti; Mode Elinor wallpaper in Carmine, £19.99 per roll, Homebase, would suit this space

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**

1 FILIP'S BEDROOM
Pale decor and simple accessories create a playful yet stylish look.
Scouts Journal novelty wallpaper by Ralph Lauren, £122 per roll, Tangletree Interiors

2&3 AMELIE & WILLIAM'S BEDROOM
This palette suits both genders.
Dunelm's Faux Silk Roman blind in Duck Egg, £16.99, is comparable

4 MASTER BEDROOM
Calming blue-and-white schemes are popular in the Swedish archipelago.
Ballon de Gonesse wallpaper, £35.20 per roll, Turnell & Gigon. Try the Sanskrit-striped cotton dhurrie rug, £285, Oka, for similar







English-cottage feel that floral designs create. Likewise, in the kitchen, I wanted to create a relaxed country-style, while the white metro tiles, pale-soaped floorboards and Carrara marble worktops are all typical of this type of property.'

The bright kitchen boasts an original fireplace, adding to its homely, atmosphere, as does the family room, which features striped rather than flowery wallpaper. 'The family space sits between the dining and sitting rooms, so I wanted to break it up a bit,' explains Anna. 'It also makes it feel a little bit calmer, which is exactly what I'd envisaged for this part of the house – somewhere to relax.'

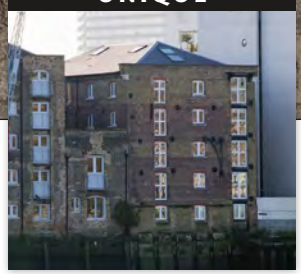
Upstairs, the decor remains true to the property's roots, with original floorboards painted pale grey, and elegant toile wallpaper used in all the bedrooms. The couple opted for a crisp blue-and-white theme in each of these rooms, complementing the archipelago setting, while the ceilings and exposed beams were painted white for a fresh feel and to maximise light and the sense of space.

Several pieces of furniture throughout the house were designed by Anna, and other interesting items were picked up overseas or at local auction houses. 'How I decorate depends a lot on the property, so this house looks far more traditional and rustic than our home in Stockholm,' reflects Anna. 'The whole family loves spending time here, so we must have done something right!'

DESIGN TIP

'Take your cue from the style and the surrounding environment of your house and base the decor on that. And don't rush, wait and feel the "soul" of a place and then decorate slowly – it takes time to achieve a good result'





HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Apartment on the third floor of a Grade II listed converted spice warehouse
LOCATION East London
ROOMS Hall, sitting room/breakfast area/kitchen-diner/study/snug, one en-suite bedroom
PURCHASED 2001
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'I used to live in a flat in nearby Limehouse,' says Madeleine.

BREAKFAST AREA
This vibrant setting is perfect for morning meals.
Atelir chairs, £340; Atelier glass-fronted modular unit, price on application, both Grange

SPICE OF LIFE

An apartment in a converted warehouse on the River Thames, became an exotic, colourful city pad for Madeleine Dupont

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ROBERT SANDERSON



SITTING AREA
Madeleine has filled this area with treasures picked up on her travels.
For a similar deer's head artwork, £53, try Fleur de Lee



KITCHEN
Colourful cabinetry lights add drama and interest.
Songshi turquoise vase, £69, Oka. Wine cabinet, £1,329, Miele, is comparable

DINING AREA
Vintage and industrial-style pieces sit together in this pretty turquoise scheme.
The Fleure sofa by Stuart Scott, £3,995, Luxdeco. Provençal Louis XIV three-drawer chest of drawers, £2,950, Grange



STUDY
Glossy contemporary fittings contrast with the rugged bare brick-effect walls.
USM Haller modular storage, from £3,000, Aram





Although her main family home is in France, and she works as a buyer for a French furniture company, Madeleine Dupont has always needed a London base. 'My first business was in Wapping,' she says, 'and about 10 years ago I realised I missed being by the river, and became obsessed with the idea of living by water again.'

A chance visit to a costume museum brought her to this part of the Thames. 'The area instantly fascinated me,' she remembers, 'and I was especially drawn to the apartment for sale in the old spice warehouse.'

Soon after, Madeleine secured the property and has since then been able to enjoy its wonderful views of the river and the city beyond. 'I get a rush just looking out of the window,' she says.

The apartment had been modernised in the 1980s and divided into four dark rooms. 'Because the exterior is listed, I couldn't put in extra windows, but I was allowed to take down internal walls,' explains Madeleine. 'This meant that I could create one huge living space. I kept the bedroom suite separate, and because there's just one small window in the bathroom, I installed some fun lighting effects. In the bathroom the colour literally changes every five seconds.'

Having replaced the orange pine floors with light oak ones, Madeleine discovered some decorators from Pinewood Studios to make the plaster walls look like painted brickwork. 'The brick effect seemed in keeping with the industrial character of the old warehouse,' she says.

Madeleine, who was brought up in the south of France, has always loved bright colours. 'I don't mind having a few pieces of traditional furniture mixed with contemporary pieces as long as they're stained, lacquered or painted in a bright vibrant colours,' she says.

A sofa, covered in rich turquoise velvet, sets the tone in the dining area as well as providing a contrast with the orange and black breakfast area overlooking the water. In the kitchen, equally dramatic grey cabinetry is illuminated by bright yellow lighting. 'This is not a home for lovers of taupe or neutral schemes,' smiles Madeleine. 'I find colour invigorating and exciting. It has a life all of its own and fills these rooms with a sunny feel even on a grey winter's day.'

Similarly, even on the dullest day, the river holds a special magic. 'When I have lots of work to do, I often have to block out the view to stop me wasting time gazing out of the window,' admits Madeleine. 'Watching life go on is so entertaining.'

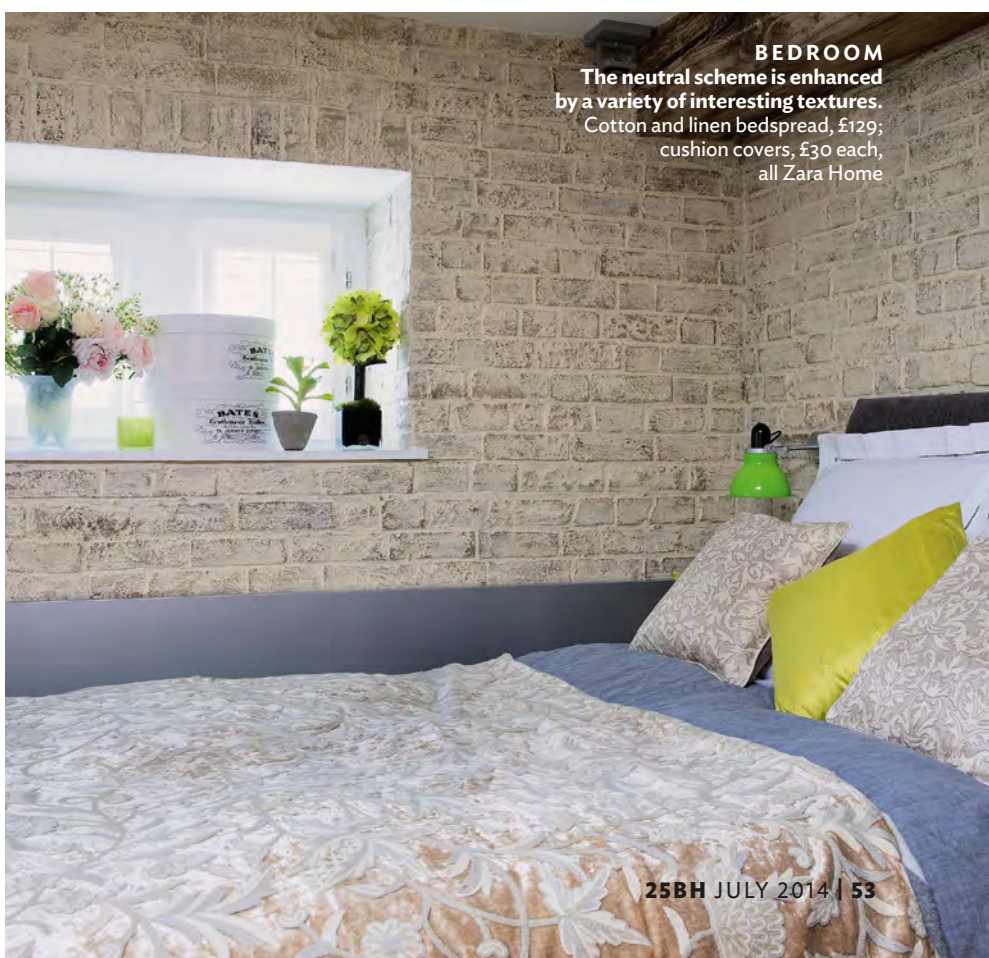
The skyline is also inspiring, especially at night. She points out the newest additions to the horizon which include the Gherkin and the Shard. 'Sometimes when there are helicopters flying above, I feel as though I'm on the film set of a James Bond movie. It's just such fun living here,' says Madeleine.

DESIGN TIP *'Lighting is vital in a warehouse apartment with low ceilings and small windows. I have invested in lots of different types – from LED strips to floor spots'*



BATHROOM
Psychedelic lights produce an ever-changing colourful effect.
For similar brick mosaic tiles try the Mosiac Tile Shop, £354sq m

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**



BEDROOM
The neutral scheme is enhanced by a variety of interesting textures.
Cotton and linen bedspread, £129; cushion covers, £30 each, all Zara Home

COURTYARD
A shady terrace is accessed via wooden doors from the main living space.
The Alexander Rose Roble Swing Seat Hammock, £1,255, White Stores, is similar to the one shown here

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Modernist house built in the 1970s
LOCATION
Lake Egirdir, southern Turkey
ROOMS Sitting/dining area, kitchen, six bedrooms, three bathrooms
PURCHASED 2009
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We also have a base in Istanbul,' says Aysegul.

Aysegul and Cem Yurekli Sengor updated a distinctive Modernist house in Turkey, paying homage to its clean lines and geometric style

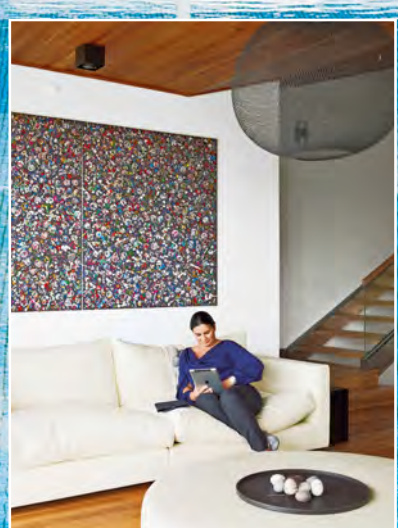
A FAMILY LEGACY

FEATURE ALICE WESTGATE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MARK LUSCOMBE-WHYTE





UPPER TERRACE
A natural-reed screen creates privacy.
The Cyclades sofa in charcoal grey, £1,299, Maisons du Monde, would suit this space



LIVING AREA
A large pendant light adds interest.
Moooi Non Random light, £465, Occa-Home



STAIRCASE
Glass and timber blend seamlessly.
Flexform Happy chaise longue by Antonio Citterio, from £5,857, Aram Store



SITTING AREA
Furniture and accessories made from natural materials in neutral shades complement the rich timber and create a warm, understated elegance.
Tambao daybed by Pierantonio Bonacina, price on application, Chart Interiors

In the early 1970s, when this imposing white house first appeared on a hillside above Lake Egirdir in southern Turkey, its block walls and geometric construction were highly unusual. 'Modernist architecture was unheard of in this region at the time,' says Aysegul Yurekli Sengor, whose father built the house. 'It was – and still is – a real landmark.' Aysegul's father, was keen for his children to have roots in this area even though the family spent much of their time in Istanbul. 'He worked with an architect friend and devised the house specifically for the landscape,' says Aysegul. 'He took everything into account – from the wind direction and incline of the land, to the position of the sunrise and the full moon – and came up with a building that is impeccably engineered.'

The end result was a home that could accommodate big groups of friends and family. And that was how the house was used for many years, until Aysegul's father passed away in 1994 and the house was passed on to his children. 'My wife Cem and I have always loved it here, so we offered to buy out the rest of the family,' explains Aysegul.

The next step was to renovate the dated interior without marring the original design. 'Our aim was to keep things simple. We decided that whatever changes we made would have to last,' says Aysegul.

So they stripped the building back to its bare bones in order to update the wiring and plumbing, then reinstated its six-bedroom layout. 'We replaced all the fixtures and fittings, this time using superior and modern materials,' explains Aysegul. Plenty of bare wood and stone remain, though, and they add rich textural interest, especially in the vast living area. This cavernous space is warmed by one of several open fires, in addition to central heating. 'The altitude here means that winters are pretty cold,' says Aysegul. 'Even during the summer, it can still get quite chilly in the evenings.'

The couple sourced a range of modern and mid-century furniture to fill the revamped interior. 'We chose lots of natural materials, and were drawn to pieces we felt had the same qualities as the house – timeless and stylish,' explains Aysegul. Similar care was lavished on the outdoor space. There is a tennis court, a large pool with a tented canopy, generous terraces surrounding the house on two levels, and a boat on the lake for water-skiing. All are hugely popular with Aysegul and Cem's children, Ayse, 18, and 10-year-old Ali. 'We all spend a great deal of time outside,' says Aysegul. 'The upper terrace is built around an enormous linden tree that grows up through a hole in the middle and smells absolutely divine in spring.'

Perhaps the most important time of year, though, is the summer, when friends and family return to the house for a month of total relaxation. 'This is just what my father would have wanted,' reflects Aysegul, 'and it keeps the spirit of the house very much alive.'

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 147



DINING AREA
The dining zone is well defined by the wooden table and bold pendant lights.
Custom-made Elements linen rug, £3,300, Stepevi, 020 7376 7574, stepevi.com



KITCHEN
Fevzi, the cook, prepares dinner in the kitchen, which includes a separate dining table and fireplace, plus a marble-topped island unit.
Kitchen, price on application, Lineadecor

INSPIRATION *'Our guiding principal for the house was to make sure we retained its architectural integrity. We also kept it unpretentious because, above all, it had to be comfortable'*





MASTER BEDROOM
The fabulous lake view can be enjoyed just as easily from the bed as it can be from the inviting window seat.
Intervallum dormeuse (shown left) from Apta Collection by Antonio Citterio for Maxalto B&B Italia, from £2,600, Campbell Watson

True ROMANCE

Captivated by its stunning 1920s architecture, Ulrika Virgin turned her humble flat into a chic family home

FEATURE RUBY ROGERS/A DESIGN FEATURES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANNE NYBLAEUS/A DESIGN FEATURES



DINING AREA

A wide-arched entrance frames this elegant, welcoming room, adding a wonderful sense of drama. Walls painted in Vert de Terre estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Orsjo Kvist six-arm pendant light, £1,730, Utility

SITTING ROOM

A mix of soft furnishings in vibrant colours and eye-catching patterns lends a characterful look. For a range of bright, bold cushion covers, from £48, try Imogen Heath. The Alwinton sofa, from £1,188 for a two-seater, Sofas & Stuff, is comparable

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Four-storey apartment block built in the 1920s

LOCATION
Östermalm, Stockholm

ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, study, cloakroom, two bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2012

PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We moved here from a smaller two-room apartment in the same area,' says Ulrika.



SITTING ROOM
This scheme displays Ulrika's colourful, treasured finds from around the world.
Charles armchair, £900, John Lewis, upholstered in Textile Elefant cotton fabric, £65.34m, Svenskt Tenn. The Jerada cotton dhurrie rug, £1,695, Oka, is similar to the one shown

The one thing most of us crave when it comes to our homes is more space. Often, a growing brood triggers a move, but only the brave take on a challenging renovation project with a baby in tow. Ulrika and Claes Virgin are two such people, although the pair are quick to point out that they were no strangers to renovating projects, plus they had a little help along the way. 'We refurbished our previous two-room apartment and built our own summerhouse in the Stockholm archipelago,' explains Ulrika. 'Also, Claes works in property development and my sister runs an interior-design studio.'

With the arrival of their first son, Hugo, now three years old, the couple decided to trade in both properties for a period apartment ripe for renovation in the fashionable Östermalm district of Stockholm. 'The minute we stepped over the threshold we fell for this place,' recalls Ulrika. 'It had the extra space we needed, and we loved all the original details – from the windows to the door handles.'

While work was underway on the new property, the family were able to stay in their old apartment, moving in five months later. 'One thing I learnt, is to do the kitchen before you settle in,' advises Ulrika. 'We had five weeks without one, which was tough.' However, once the project finally focused on reconfiguring that part of the property, the couple's designer opened up the space between the dining room and the existing kitchen, allowing for a bright, spacious room better suited to the family's needs. Ulrika then painted the kitchen cabinets the same colour as the woodwork throughout the rest of the apartment to create a unified look. She also replaced the vinyl flooring that ran through the kitchen and hallway to match the original parquet floor in the sitting room, creating a cohesive aesthetic and adding warmth and character.

In the master bedroom, Ulrika took her cue from boutique hotels, opting for neutral decor enlivened by eclectic accessories, such as utilitarian-style wall lamps and an oversized gilt antique mirror. 'I enjoy mixing classic and modern pieces – like the contrast,' she says.

The family's sitting room is a masterclass in layering texture, pattern and colour in a harmonious way. Mismatched furniture strewn with vibrant scatter cushions partner a zebra-print footstool, a wing chair upholstered in elephant-print fabric and a bold lattice-patterned rug to great effect. All this is played out against a soothing pale grey backdrop, which provides the perfect contrast to the vivid, lively fabrics. The dining room has a more grown-up feel. Traditional Gustavian-style chairs and an oval dining table dressed with a pretty blue-and-white tablecloth are offset by a striking, industrial-style ceiling light and sophisticated pale green walls.

With two more additions to the family, Ebba, 2, and baby Harald, Ulrika and Claes count themselves lucky to have a home that is not only super stylish –but large enough for their brood to grow up in.

DESIGN TIP 'When it comes to renovating, always choose your builders by recommendation. Trusted reliable tradespeople are worth their weight in gold'

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**



KITCHEN

Ulrika painted all the cabinets a pale grey to create a harmonious feel throughout the apartment. Pavilion Gray estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, is a close match



MASTER BEDROOM

A muted palette of light blue and pale neutrals creates a feminine feel. N°304 small wall lights by Lampe Gras in black, £254 each, Holloways of Ludlow. Rox & Fix linen cushion, £98, Svenskt Tenn, would work well here



DINING ROOM

Industrial-style seating and lighting is softened by pretty botanical wallpaper and parquet wooden flooring. The Titan type 1 pendant light in black by Original BTC, £210, Holloways of Ludlow, is similar. Tolix 'A' chairs in silver, £199 each, John Lewis



BATHROOM

A contemporary double basin in white strikes a pleasing contrast to the dark slate tiles that clad the walls and floor. To create this look try Grey Green Slate strips, from £30.65sq m, Stone Tile Sales, and the Duravit Vero washbasin, £438, CP Hart

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Self-built detached
LOCATION
County Wexford, Ireland
ROOMS Hall, open-plan kitchen/dining/living room, three bedrooms (all en suite)
PURCHASED
The house was built in 2002
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'I used to live in an old farmhouse,' says Ingrid.

UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS

Inspired by spectacular views of the Wexford coast, Ingrid Lauterbach built a new home from scratch, placing the living quarters at the top of the house for maximum enjoyment

FEATURE PENNY CRAWFORD-COLLINS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** PHILIP LAUTERBACH



SITTING AREA
This bright open-plan space has large windows that flood the whole room with natural light. The Herringbone grey throw, £85, Bronte by Moon is a good match. Sanela grey cushion covers, £8 each, Ikea. Antique Nest tables, £475 for three, Antiques Atlas, are similar in style

Not many people move house for a better view, but that's exactly what Ingrid Lauterbach did when she grew tired of living in a chilly coastal farmhouse, which had dark, north-facing rooms and windows that failed to make the most of the superb outlook. 'Ultimately, I wanted a change and to enjoy the stunning landscape,' explains Ingrid. 'So, I decided to build my own house from scratch, with a layout to suit my needs.'

Having lived in the same part of Wexford since 1983, Ingrid loved the area and had built up a network of close friends that she was loathe to lose. 'Luckily, I managed to sell the farmhouse while keeping some of the land,' she explains. 'I went around on my horse to choose exactly the right spot.'

Ingrid's next step was to come up with an innovative design that would take full advantage of the magnificent sea views. Unusually, Ingrid decided to place the living zones upstairs and the sleeping quarters downstairs. 'It took a while to convince my architect, but he eventually came round to my way of thinking!' she laughs.

The whole build took nine months to complete, during which Ingrid remained in the nearby farmhouse. 'It meant that I could easily project manage the build myself,' she recalls. 'Plus, I was always on hand to put my own unique stamp on things. For instance, I wanted the exterior of the property to look like a beach house.'

Inside, the new-build meets Ingrid's unique requirements in terms of layout, with three sizable bedrooms, all with en-suites, positioned on the lower floor. Upstairs, an open-plan kitchen-diner and sitting area is the hub of the home, with capacious windows maximising the breathtaking vista.

When it came to decorating, Ingrid opted for a cohesive look with a simple, neutral colour palette and timber flooring laid throughout. A woodburning stove acts

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**

KITCHEN
'To save money, I put two high kitchen trolleys together in the middle of the room to make a central island,' says Ingrid. Förhöja kitchen trollies, £80 each, Ikea. Bespoke kitchen cabinetry painted in Eating Room Red estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

DESIGN TIP *'If you're going for an open-plan layout, make sure you have plenty of storage. I included a walk-in larder in the kitchen, which the fridge-freezer fits into'*

as the main focal point in the sitting area, while a harmonious mix of old and new furniture add character. 'To help create a relaxed, lived-in look, I combined well-loved pieces of furniture from the farmhouse with newer items,' says Ingrid.

The functional, country-style kitchen was designed and made by a local carpenter, and features carefully selected pieces of traditional freestanding furniture such as an antique dresser and old cloak wardrobe. The clever central island unit, which Ingrid created by pairing two high kitchen trolleys, is teamed with a set of four sturdy wooden stools. 'It's a perfect spot to perch for a quick bite to eat or a cup of tea,' says Ingrid, 'and it saved me an awful lot of money.'

Back downstairs, all of the bedrooms were designed to be flooded with light, as well as large enough to accommodate sizable wardrobes for plenty of storage. The French doors that open onto the gardens make the rooms feel bright, airy and rather exotic. 'When I first moved in, I had the romantic notion of sleeping with the doors open in the summer,' recalls Ingrid. 'In reality, the weather means they remain firmly shut!' Each bedroom benefits from an en-suite bathroom, kitted out with simple white sanitaryware and a combination of wooden cladding and flagstone flooring.

Overall, Ingrid yearned for a light, comfortable and cosy home – a stark contrast to the house she'd previously owned. But above all else, she wanted full enjoyment of the breathtaking coastal setting. 'Even though I was a stone's throw away from the sea in my old house, I couldn't actually see it from any of the windows,' she says. 'Now I can, and it's amazing! At long last, I've got my ideal home *and* the view I've long craved for – I don't think I'll ever move.'



DESIGN ADVICE *'Work with the site to the best advantage and orientation of the house to make the most of the views'*



MASTER BEDROOM
The large French doors open out onto the pretty, lush garden.
Floral patch cushion covers (with pad), £8 each, Penneys. Cotton stitch throw, £22, Dunnes Stores



BATHROOM
Tongue-and-groove panelling lends a classic country feel.
The City basin, £84, and Minimal bath, £356, both from Tilestyle, will recreate a similar scheme

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The winners will be drawn at random after the closing date of Wednesday 16 July 2014.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS The prize is a one-night stay at The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa, Bath. This prize includes one night stay in Duke of York Master Suite, one bottle of Ruinart champagne on arrival, evening meal in The Dower House restaurant, breakfast during stay, an hour-long aromatherapy massage for two in The Spa at The Royal Crescent Hotel and access to The Spa during normal operating hours. Prize is as stated, is not transferable and can't be exchanged for cash. Prize must be used before 14 December 2014. An alternative Master Suite will be offered if the Duke of York Master Suite is unavailable for the requested dates. The winner is responsible for any travel to/from the hotel, in addition to any additional costs incurred during the stay. Normal IPC Media competition rules apply. Entry available to all mainland UK residents over the age of 18, excluding employees of Ideal Standard, IPC Media, their families, agents or anyone else connected with the competition. Prize draw closes midnight on 16 July 2014. If you call or text after this time then you will not be entered but you may be charged. When you enter by text, you may in future get SMS marketing messages from IPC Media and Crisp White Sheets. If you don't want to receive these, please end your text with NO INFO. Maximum one entry per person. Multiple or third party entries will not be accepted. Proof of identity and age may be required. Use of a false name or address will result in disqualification. Entries made online using methods generated by a script, macro or the use of automated devices will be void. The prize is subject to availability. The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries. Winner will be notified by email. Reasonable efforts will be made to contact the winner. If the winner cannot be contacted, or is unable to comply with these terms and conditions, the promoter reserves the right to offer the prize to the next eligible entrant drawn at random, or in the event that the promotion is being judged, the promoter reserves the right to offer the prize to the runner-up selected by the same judges. Failure to respond and/or provide an address for delivery of prize documentation, or failure to meet the eligibility requirements may result in forfeiture of the prize. The winner agrees to the use of his or her name, photograph and disclosure of county of residence and will cooperate with any other reasonable requests by IPC Media relating to any post-winning publicity. Entry into the prize draw is deemed acceptance of these terms and conditions. The promoters reserve the right to amend, hold, void, suspend or cancel the competition at any time where it is reasonable to do so and reject entries from entrants not entering into the spirit of the competition. No responsibility can be accepted for entries that are incomplete, damaged, defaced or not received for any reason. The decision of the judges is final and binding and no correspondence will be entered into. The promoter is IPC Media Limited, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark St, London, SE1 0SU.

CrispWhiteSheets.com

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**



SITTING ROOM
A pale grey wall colour is the perfect neutral backdrop for these elegant, but relaxed furnishings. Florence medium sofa, from £1,499, Sofa Workshop. Twiggy floor lamp, £1,084, Moleta Munro. Artworks by Daniel Williams

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Georgian garden flat
LOCATION
Edinburgh city centre
ROOMS Sitting-dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms (one en suite), two dressing rooms, family bathroom
PURCHASED 2006
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We lived in a traditional Georgian townhouse close to where we are now,' says Joanne.

GO WITH THE FLOW

Stylist Joanne Tutton refurbished a tired period property in Edinburgh, creating a spacious and serene family home

FEATURE FIONA REID | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DOUGLAS GIBB



DINING AREA
A beautiful sash window overlooks the pretty garden. Dublin oak and glass dining table, £375, Habitat, is similar



SITTING ROOM
The mirror acts as a light reflector. Try the Bevelled-edge mirror, from £125, Graham & Green. Seattle white sideboard, £600, Habitat, is similar



KITCHEN
'Walking in here in the morning with the light streaming in is just beautiful,' says Joanne. Sanvito Black cabinets, £1,384; solid walnut worktop, £589, both Hygena at Homebase. Spanish black slate tiles, £4 per tile, Fired Earth, are comparable



At the front courtyard of stylist Joanne Tutton's Edinburgh home, a range of pots and trees provide an appealing welcome that hints at the style inside. However, when she and her husband Nigel bought this Georgian property eight years ago, the interior looked very different. 'The flat didn't have central heating and there was a bare concrete floor in the hall,' recalls Joanne. 'What is now the main bathroom was an indoor "shed" filled with bric-a-brac.' And although the building is almost 200 years old, there was no architectural detailing to speak of.

'My overall vision was not to have this space feel like a garden flat,' says Joanne. 'I wanted light and flow, and for it to feel like a house. I also wanted to give the apartment the elegance you'd expect from the Georgian period, so all the architraves and period skirting were handcrafted.'

The original staircase at the end of the hall – which would once have led to the rest of the house above – had been blocked off with a stud wall. This was opened up and the stone stairs were cleaned and

FAVOURITE FEATURE

'I love the space and freedom you get from the kitchen's sliding doors. In summer, we open them up and the garden becomes an extension of the kitchen'

polished. As Joanne says, 'Old buildings like this have so much history and I wanted to reflect that.'

All the walls were replastered to create the crisp finish Joanne wanted. She specified one paint colour throughout, which she mixed herself, but the subtle shifts in light make the grey shade look different in every room. Two walk-in storage cupboards off the hallway were made into dressing rooms. The indoor storage room became a smart bathroom, and the en-suite shower room for the rear bedroom was also refitted.

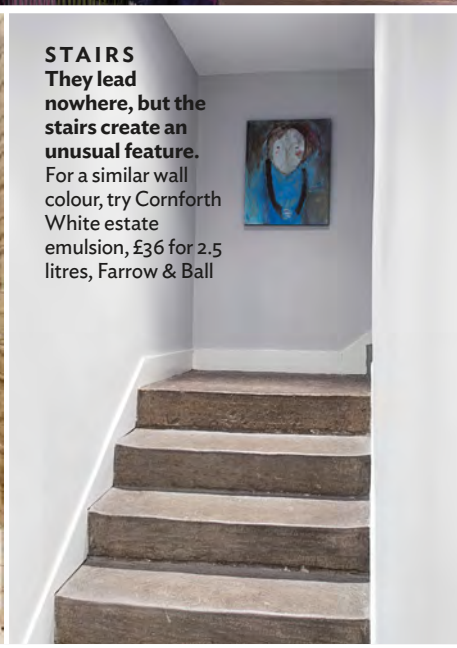
With her honed eye, Joanne created a gorgeously contemporary interior that combines different styles, from the super-smart dining area to the master bedroom, with its sleigh bed and delicate chandelier. One of the highlights is the kitchen. 'There's so much light, that I was able to choose the black kitchen cabinets for a bit of glamour,' she says. And the garden has also been thoughtfully designed, with textural plants and graphic leaf shapes creating a beautiful green backdrop to the kitchen. 'It's such a calm space,' she reflects. 'I feel completely peaceful living here.'



SECOND BEDROOM
Joanne has chosen artwork to match the accessories.
The Juliet armchair, from £179, John Lewis, is comparable



BATHROOM
An old storage room has been transformed into a sleek bathroom.
For tiles like these ones, try Colours Ceramic Beige wall tiles, £13.86 for 12, B&Q



STAIRS
They lead nowhere, but the stairs create an unusual feature.
For a similar wall colour, try Cornforth White estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



MASTER BEDROOM
The imposing bed makes a statement.
Revival Beds' Camargue sleigh bed, from £1,010, is a good match

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**



LEARNING CURVE

Juliette Barrell and husband Tim Crisp snapped up the opportunity to build their own home, but a semi-circular design was not without its challenges

FEATURE LAURA POWELL | **PHOTOGRAPHY** GRAHAM ATKINS HUGHES

NEW-BUILD



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Self-built new-build
LOCATION Oxfordshire
ROOMS Open-plan sitting room/dining room/kitchen, four bedrooms (two ensuite shower rooms), bathroom
BUILT 2008
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'Our previous home was a renovated old wool store and former brewery, also in Oxfordshire' says Juliette.

When Juliette Barrell and Tim Crisp began renovating an old wool store and former brewery in Oxfordshire, they thought it would be their 'forever' home. But nine years later, they were given an offer too good to refuse. Juliette's parents who lived nearby had decided to sell half an acre of their garden and suggested Juliette and Tim buy the land as a site to build a new home on. 'The thought of leaving our previous place was a wrench,' says Juliette 'but the chance to build your own house doesn't come along very often.'

The couple's previous property was filled with happy memories. Not only had it part-housed the family furniture business, Wesley-Barrell, but following its conversion into a home in 1999, it was where their children – Anna, 19, Dominic, 18, and Luke, 15 – grew up. In the end, the deciding factor was the beautiful view that any building on the land would offer: a superb panorama of Cornbury Park complete with rolling fields, Cotswold stone walls and ancient forest with clusters of oaks and sycamores. 'The setting really is ridiculously idyllic,' says Juliette.

Having made the the bold decision to move, Juliette and Tim set themselves an even greater challenge. Instead of constructing a house that would match others in the area, they chose to build somewhere that would work in harmony with the surrounding landscape – inside and out. 'We had initially envisaged a Modernist cube-shaped design but that wouldn't have been sympathetic to the area,' explains Juliette.

With the help of architect Kate Smith, the couple designed a semi-circular house that would make the most of the south-facing aspect. Consequently, the internal curve of the semi-circle is on an arc that follows the sun as it moves around the site, filling the house with light and warmth. With all the work going to plan, the two-storey house, complete with four bedrooms and an enormous garden, was ready right on schedule. 'From the moment we saw the house stripped of scaffolding, we loved it,' recalls Juliette, 'especially the north façade with

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DINING AREA
'The French wardrobe belonged to my grandfather,' says Juliette. 'It's a little unusual to have it in this part of the house – but it works for us.'
For a similar table try the Loire oak oval extending dining table, £687, Oak Furniture Solutions

SITTING AREA
A string of sleek, white ceiling pendants creates a striking focal point and lends a modern edge.
Hardwick armchairs in Aste in Ash by Romo, from £1,480 each, Wesley-Barrell

LESSONS LEARNT

'The circular shape challenged our perception of space, so we had to choose clever designs and furniture'



SITTING AREA
The sofa demarcates the living zones from the cooking area and lends a cosy vibe.
Campden three-and-a-half seater sofa in Obi in Shadow by Romo, from £2,980, Wesley-Barrell



LANDING
Dotted with windows, the first floor receives natural light all day long as the sun follows its curve.
Onion pendant light by Verpan in Silver, from £995, Urban Suite



MASTER BEDROOM
The Turkish wallhanging inspired the warm, rustic colour palette.
For a similar look try the small Kelim rug in terra, from £44, The Rug Seller

INSPIRATION *'In honour of the spectacular surrounding countryside and the environment as a whole, it was vital for the house to be as self-sufficient as possible'*

its vast curve of Cotswold stone punctured with small portrait windows.'

When it came to turning the house into a home, its distinctive shape threw up a few challenges. 'The rooms within the curve were unusually shaped, plus none of the major spaces had right angles,' explains Juliette. Not only did this prove tricky in terms of decorating but choosing suitable furniture proved problematic, too. 'Kitchen units and baths tend to be rectangular,' says Juliette, 'so we chose pieces that would suit the space, such as an oval-shaped dining table and kitchen units specially designed to fit like wedges of a cake.'

Living up to the all-important breathtaking view, vast glass doors and the glazed gallery are all that separate the living area and mezzanine from the stunning Oxfordshire countryside beyond. Downstairs, to bring the outside in, Juliette has opted for a palette of green and blue with natural oak and stone 'It gives a real sense of the landscape,' she says. 'I don't think we'll ever tire of this house. In fact, I think this might be our forever home,' she concludes.



BATHROOM
A curvy, white sink contrasts well with the dark brown tiles.
The Astonian Novo table-top basin, £256, Aston Matthews, is comparable



TERRACE
'When this spot is blanketed with snow, it feels a bit like the balcony of a ski chalet,' says Juliette.
Italian cruise chairs, £317 each, Southsea Deckchairs

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**

TRULY INSPIRED

Interior designer Catherine Hastings has turned a once modest new-build into an elegant home made for business and pleasure

FEATURE CORAL SELLARS
PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH

NEW-BUILD



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
New-build apartment
LOCATION South London
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, cloakroom, two bedrooms, one en suite
BUILT 2011
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'Previously, I lived in rented accommodation,' says Catherine.

SITTING ROOM
Layered textures and patterns give this scheme extra depth and show off Catherine's design talent.
Dillon sofa, from £1,099, Sofa Workshop. The Riley mirror, from £180, John Lewis, is similar. Solid Glass Orb ceiling light, £350, The White Company. Bakari wallpaper, £75 per roll; curtains made from Vortex fabric, £44m, both Harlequin





KITCHEN-DINER

'The breakfast bar makes this a social space and the heart of the home,' says Catherine. Kitchen and breakfast bar, around £6,000, Krieder. Sol brushed steel bar stools, £79.50 each, Atlantic Shopping, would suit this room

Prompted by a career move into interior design and having decided to leave rented accommodation, Catherine Hastings began to search for her first property. 'I wanted somewhere I could make my own, with enough space that it could act as both home and office,' she says.

Originally, Catherine had her heart set on staying in west London, her base for the last few years. However, after viewing a number of rather small flats, it became obvious she would need to look further afield. So she turned her attention to south London and as soon as she walked through the door of this new-build apartment she was pleasantly surprised. 'It felt right and I fell in love with the space instantly,' she says. The flat possessed many of the qualities of a period property: tall ceilings, well-proportioned rooms, large doorways and an abundance of natural light.

The kitchen was yet to be installed, so Catherine was able to specify certain elements of the design, opting for sleek white units. She also introduced mirrored splashbacks to give the illusion of space and sense of depth. In the sitting room, the fireplace had been rather strangely positioned to one side of the room, leaving the rest of the area unbalanced and devoid of character. To compensate, Catherine designed storage units, which help to ground the main living space, to fill the alcoves.

FAVOURITE SHOP

'When I'm working at home I like a calm environment. I find lighting my favourite scented candle – Pomegranate by Jo Malone – helps me to focus'

Once the more disruptive elements of the work were completed, Catherine moved in and it didn't take long before she'd replaced the magnolia walls with natural warm tones and textured wallpaper. Patterned soft furnishings in similar shades throughout the apartment complete the look and add interest and movement while maintaining a coherent aesthetic. It's a relaxing yet elegant take on interior style, enhanced by smart yet feminine accessories.

Now that it's all finished, Catherine is deservedly proud of her new, and first, home. At long last, she's able to entertain family, friends and even clients in an environment that truly reflects her style. 'I always wanted a home I could live and work in,' she says, 'and I've found it – just not quite where I expected. It's a beautiful property and a wonderful place to focus on my passion for interiors.'



SITTING ROOM
'I'm really pleased with the storage units in this room,' says Catherine. 'All of my work resources are carefully hidden away in them.'
Bespoke cabinetry, £3,800, Krieder. Mirror, £79, RV Astley



HALL
Catherine selected a glass console table to keep the space light and open.
Glass console table, £249, Dwell. Silhouette wallpaper, £62 per roll, Harlequin

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MASTER BEDROOM

A large-scale pattern on the wallpaper, along with plump cushions, has a cosseting effect. Cushion covers, £19.99 each, Zara Home. Canvas, for similar try John Lewis, £50. The Hove dressing table set, £275, Next, is a match



BATHROOM

Mosaic tiles give a luxury spa feel. Mosaic, floor and wall tiles, and sanitaryware, £5,000 in total, all Porcelanosa. Interior design by Catherine Hastings



GUEST BEDROOM

Catherine styled this room with a boutique hotel in mind. Stanton headboard, from £280, Laura Ashley. Arizona bed throw, £80, John Lewis. The Maze Design Felt cushion, £31.50, House of Fraser, is similar. Blossom wallpaper, £46 per roll, Harlequin



HALL
The passageway from the bedroom to the extension has been clad in red painted timber for a dramatic effect.
Rectory Red estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball is a good match for this bold red paint. For a bright pink velvet sofa bed, try the Louis, £2,150, Habitat



IN THE PINK

Céline Lamour and Marc Pillonetto and converted an old piggery into a rustic and romantic hideaway

FEATURE NAOMI JONES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ROBERT SANDERSON

KITCHEN-DINER/ SITTING ROOM
In the extension, varying shades of pink and red create a lively scheme that is tempered by the use of grey in the units and ceiling. Look for vintage Formica tables on eBay, from around £140. For French dining chairs, try the Louis XIV, £140 each, La Silla

INSPIRING



Some people use colour very sparingly – or not at all – but that doesn't apply to Céline Lamour, who is a former architectural designer, and mother to son Auguste, 14, and daughter Rose, 7. She has transformed an old pigsty using vibrant reds and pinks. 'The idea was very simple, and very obvious to me,' she says. 'I love colour and had a good excuse to be bold with it here because we had a blank canvas.' The pigpen is one of three outbuildings Céline and her partner Marc Pillonetto have converted on the site of a former working farm in Brittany, northwest France, which belonged to Céline's parents during its time as an agricultural museum. 'I grew up just down the track,' explains Céline, 'where my parents still live and run the family restaurant and brocante (flea market) with my sisters. I never imagined I'd come back after I left to pursue my career in Paris, but when children come along, your priorities change.' With the bright lights of the capital a distant memory, Céline feels much more at home enjoying ▶

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Former piggery, built in the 17th century
LOCATION Brittany, northwest France
ROOMS Open-plan kitchen-diner/sitting room, open-plan bedroom, bathroom
PURCHASED 2004
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'I had an apartment in Paris,' says Céline, 'while Marc lived in the south of France.'



BEDROOM
Grey is the dominant colour, thanks to the painted carved bed, with vibrant pops of pink and red. Plumbago acrylic eggshell, £49.50 for 2.5 litres, Fired Earth, is a similar grey



BATHROOM
The slate wall and floor that zones this area gives a contemporary yet authentic feel. The Ovali, £1,260, BC Designs, is a similar bath. Trevail Slate Flagstones, from £32.95m2, Stone Tile Co, are comparable

DESIGN ADVICE *'Work with the building rather than against it, and incorporate as many original features as you can into your design,' says Marc*

the peace of the countryside where she and Marc have created a home from home for holidaymakers from some of the outbuildings, as well as an idyllic place for their children to grow up. 'Céline is a very talented designer,' says Marc. 'She was very successful in Paris, but she's someone who doesn't seek the limelight; she's happy here, making things for our home and for our guests.'

The success of this project is not just down to Céline's imagination, however; Marc, who used to own a restaurant in the south of France, has played an important role, tackling practical aspects of the conversion. 'With the help of many good friends, I've learnt pipe-fitting and electrical work,' says Marc, whose building and maintenance skills come in very handy on the old farm.

The pair were keen not to overly restore the piggery, as they wanted to retain its original character. So while they added an extension to create an open-plan living area, they kept the stone wall that divides the bedroom and the kitchen exposed. A new exterior wall is entirely glazed to take advantage of the verdant setting, but they clad the other walls and ceiling in timber to reference the original A-frame.

In the bathroom, which is open-plan within the sole bedroom, they opted for slate flooring and walls. 'Slate is perfectly in keeping with the agricultural history of the site,' says Céline, who complemented its colour when choosing the kitchen cabinets and painting the ceiling and the ornate carved bed. Grey serves to ground the pops of scarlet, fuchsia and baby pink throughout, keeping the look fresh and contemporary.

Céline also has a love of all things old and unusual, from kitchenalia to framed portraits and mirrors. 'I'm a natural born hoarder, she admits, 'so I try to group items by colour to keep things from looking chaotic. This lovely space has a wonderful simplicity, so it's the perfect home for our treasured pieces.'

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GARDEN FURNITURE

Refresh your outdoor space to gain a more relaxed and inviting area



LUTYENS-STYLE GARDEN BENCH

This elegantly styled bench, which comfortably seats three, was inspired by Sir Edwin Lutyens and is assured to look wonderful in any garden. It is made of high quality hardwood, has a weather and scratch-resistant polyurethane paint finish and so does not need teak oil/preservatives applying. Some assembly is required. Dimensions L143 x H94.5 x D57cm

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
A338	Lutyens-Style Viceroy garden bench	£229.95

NEW ENGLAND TABLE AND CHAIRS SETS

Attractive New England-style furniture; manufactured from high-quality hardwood. Its polyurethane paint finish ensures that it has a weather–, fade- and scratch-resistant finish. No application of teak oil or preservatives are necessary. Some assembly is required. Table L153 x W98 x H75.5cm; central parasol hole Dia 38mm. Chair: W64 x D65 x H84cm, seat area 49 x 50.5cm (seat pads shown for illustrative purposes only).

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Y131.1	New England table and 4 chairs set	£499.95
Y131.2	New England table and 6 chairs set	£599.95

More garden furniture, cushions, accessories, tools and plants are available on housetohome.co.uk/shop



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XBH229 July 2014

THE *perfect* FIT

USING INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND SPATIAL SLEIGHT OF HAND, SALLY HOMAN HAS CREATED A BESPOKE HOME PACKED WITH PERSONALITY

FEATURE DOUGLAS GIBB | **PHOTOGRAPHY** BEVERLEY BYRNE



KITCHEN-DINER
Sally added banquette seating with extra baskets for storage. Banquette by Sally Homan at Robertson Lindsay Interiors. Table spray-painted in Warm White eggshell, £49 for 2.5 litres, Zoffany. Odyssey chairs, £125 each, John Lewis



Having renovated three properties, Sally Homan decided it was time to put down permanent roots. 'When I set up my interior designer company, I vowed my next place would be tailor-made to suit me,' she says. Sally spent a year looking in Scotland. 'I love travelling, but since stepping off the train at Waverley Station at the age of 17, I've called Edinburgh home,' she continues. 'It's a friendly, vibrant city with the countryside on your doorstep.'

Despite having tiny rooms and no central heating, the apartment she found had potential. 'I could see that some simple restructuring would make it much more accommodating,' she explains. 'Then it was up to me to augment the layout, introduce extra storage and create my vision of a chic but practical interior.' Sally's plans included carving a new bathroom from the large hall and using the old one to double the size of the tiny kitchen. She also added a vestibule and created a walk-in storage cupboard from the long, thin second bedroom.

'But designing my own interior proved harder than I thought,' confesses Sally. 'With clients, I can research their style, taste and, most importantly, their personality before working on an interior. However, seeing myself from the outside and expressing aspects of my character throughout my new home was a real challenge.

'I find inspiring ideas everywhere, from furniture to fashion,' she reflects. 'Even something like a handbag – its colour and the detailing – helps provide an overview for how I want a room to look. I then

SITTING ROOM
Sally chose an ethanol fire and concealed it behind false wall cladding to increase the feeling of space.
The Lansdown Snuggler Chair, £2,800, Leather Chairs of Bath. Cushions, from £80 each, Robertson Lindsay Interiors. Oil paintings, from £700, by Joanna Srokol. La Fibule Karol lamp (above, right), £461, Discover & Deliver

FAVOURITE ITEM

'I love the paintings by Joanna Srokol, a dynamic young artist and textile designer. I commissioned 15 from her for the property'

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Georgian tenement apartment
LOCATION Edinburgh
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining room/study, kitchen-diner, two bedrooms, bathroom
PURCHASED 2012
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'When I moved to Edinburgh, I bought and sold two properties before this one,' says Sally.





DINING ROOM
A black ceiling is paired with Japanese-style sliding doors, which conceal a study.
Flowering Quince wallpaper, £333 per roll, Clarence House



KITCHEN
An artwork provides a visual link with the walls in the dining room.
Watercolour, £500, Joanna Srokol

pull together ideas and images on Pinterest to narrow things down, before sourcing them in the UK, overseas and via eBay.'

When it came to colour schemes, Sally aimed for atmosphere as well as impact. 'I love using intense shades but it was clear that neutrals would provide cohesion throughout, leaving me free to play with colour, texture, textiles and lighting to create different moods in each room,' she explains. Striking patterns were given a home in confined spaces, alongside innovative techniques including screen-printing the design of a favourite artwork onto curtain material.

Throughout the apartment, Sally's passions shine through. From the dining room inspired by her love of Japan to her affinity with France expressed in the elegant bedroom, her home is a true reflection of her personality. 'Designing interiors is all about getting to the heart of a homeowner's character,' she says. 'And this apartment represents the real me. I'll be happy to call it home for several years to come.' 25

GUEST BEDROOM
Leather-look wallpaper contrasts with floaty fabrics.
Anguille wallpaper, £190 per roll, Elitis. Fosso wall lights, £100, Astro



MASTER BEDROOM
Metallic wallpaper and dusky pinks bestow glamour and charm.
Spark wallpaper, £55 per roll, Zoffany. Headboard upholstered in Stone lambswool, £100m, Fox Linton



BATHROOM
Sally stole space from the hall to make this room.
Carrara floor tiles, £61.78sq m; wall tiles, £68.65sq m, both Porcelanosa. Savoy sink, £99, Bathstore

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Artistic flair

KATE POLLARD USED HER CREATIVE KNOW-HOW TO TURN A SMALL OXFORDSHIRE COTTAGE INTO A BRIGHT COLOURFUL SPACE

FEATURE ANN BROAD | **PHOTOGRAPHY** COLIN POOLE

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
A 19th-century cottage with 20th-century additions
LOCATION Oxfordshire
ROOMS Sitting/dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom
PURCHASED 2011
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'My last home was a rented flat in a converted barn in Oxfordshire,' says Kate.

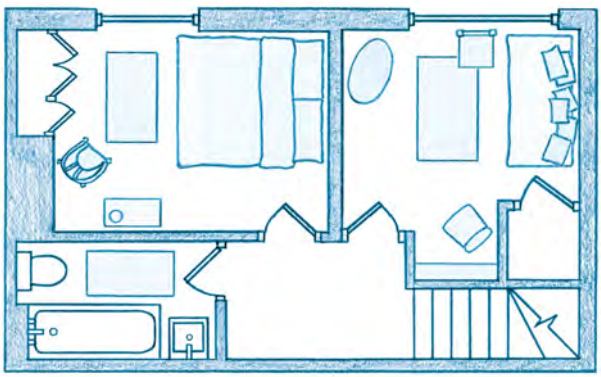
KITCHEN
Kate's plan for this room was to use the space effectively, installing bespoke units in a galley style, finished in a selection of shades of grey paint. Splashback painted in Farrow & Ball Plummet eggshell; units painted in Manor House Gray and Lamp Room Gray eggshell, all £51 for 2.5 litres, Relics Of Witney

SITTING/DINING ROOM.
'I love the idea of layering different textures and colours,' says Kate. 'It's much more interesting.'
Walls painted in Posset claypaint, £32.75 for 2.5 litres, Earthborn. For solid-pine flooring try Wickes, £20.86sq m. Tarnby flatwoven rug, £70, Ikea. Log basket, £50, Relics of Witney

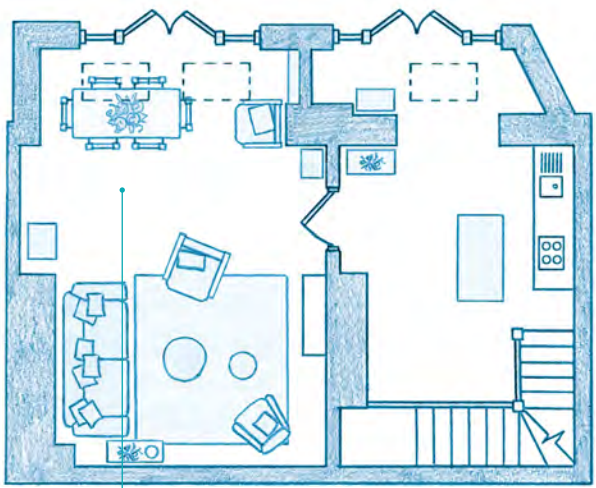




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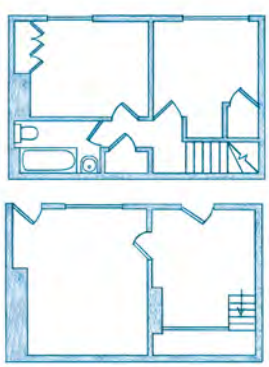
FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

A FRESH LOOK
Extending the ground floor allowed Kate to revitalise the sitting/dining room. 'I like my living areas to pass a test,' she says. 'Basically, if the rooms look good with slippers and newspaper strewn on the floor, then it has passed!'

BEFORE







GUEST ROOM
Pale paints maximise the feeling of space. Door and skirting in Shaded White estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



BATHROOM
Black and white tiling add a traditional look here. For similar try Topps Tiles white ceramic tiles, from £4 each



When she first viewed her West Oxfordshire cottage, Kate Pollard thought it was too small for her, but fortunately she decided to take a second look. 'I brought along my friend Ginnie, who suggested I add a small extension along the front of the house,' says Kate. 'I realised that it would give extra space to the sitting room and the kitchen, and that clinched the sale.'

The renovation of the property was made much easier because Kate co-owns a shop, Relics of Witney, which specialises in everything needed for house and furniture restoration. 'I spend a great deal of my time advising customers about their colour schemes and decorative projects, so it was a good feeling to be finally designing the interior of my own home,' smiles Kate.

The house has an interesting history. 'Colonel William Poole built it after his return from the battle of Waterloo,' says Kate. 'It was once licensed to sell beer and tobacco. During the 1950s it became a blacksmiths, and 30 years later it was extended to make three cottages – the middle one is mine so it's half 1820s and half 1986.'

Before the extension work started, Kate decorated the upstairs rooms, using a pale palette on the walls to keep the feeling of light and space. 'My background is in art and design and I have a keen interest in house decoration, especially walls and furniture,' says



MASTER BEDROOM
Kate's bedroom has a relaxed country feel. For similar bedlinen try the Avoca silken multi throw, £100, John Lewis

INSPIRATION *'My mum was a great influence and encouraged my early interest in colour'*





MASTER BEDROOM
A rustic-looking chair perfectly suits the style of this room. The Old Pill Factory has wooden chairs from £60



GUEST BEDROOM
Vintage cushions create an inviting room for overnight guests. Retro-style cushion covers, from £22, Notonthehighstreet.com. Curtains, from £12, Ikea

Kate. 'In the past I've worked with the renowned Annie Sloan and assisted her with her books and decorative paint courses. It was a great apprenticeship.' Kate's expertise is evident in most rooms, with painted furniture and decorative wardrobes introducing colour and texture into her home. 'At one point there were so many different shades of off-white, painted in patches on the walls,' says Kate, 'that a friend told me it looked like a stone wall.' Kate eventually decided to decorate all the interior walls in a warm white. 'I opted for a lovely thick, creamy paint which has a slight texture,' explains Kate.

The construction of the extension started in May 2011 and the main structural work was finished by the end of September. The aim was to not only add extra space to the front of the house, but also to join the two periods of build together, and enhance the inside and outside of the property. 'We had incredibly wet weather in the early stages – when the foundations were being dug I had to enter and leave the house by "walking the plank" across a moat,' recalls Kate.

With all the work complete, Kate began the interior design. 'I wanted to introduce some vibrant colours,' she says. 'I took my inspiration from prints by Ivon Hitchens and Howard Hodgkin, plus paintings by local artists and friends.' Lime green and burnt orange add the splash of colour Kate was looking for, while chunky knitted throws and retro textiles make her home wonderfully inviting.

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INSIDE OUT

Louise Duff and Greg Hulme created a vibrant, welcoming home that pays homage to the spectacular gardens that surround it

FEATURE EMMA J PAGE
PHOTOGRAPHY CAMERA PRESS/ BAUER MEDIA/BRIGID ARNOTT

COURTYARD
Greg designed and built the striking fireplace, making this area an all-season space. Commission an outdoor fireplace at Urban Fires, price on application

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Traditional Australian detached house built in 1915
LOCATION New South Wales, Australia
ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, library, sunroom, three bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms, separate study
PURCHASED 2000
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'Before moving here, we lived in a house close by,' says Louise.



REAR VERANDA
This pretty shaded area is ideal for outdoor entertaining. The Watercomb garden sofa, £549, Marks & Spencer, is an excellent alternative



SITTING ROOM
Fabrics featuring beautiful botanical designs draw on the couple's beloved garden.
For similar try the Bluebell three-seat sofa in natural flax pure Belgian linen, £1,495, Sofa.com. The Ono ottoman, from £660, upholstered in Rossini Velvet Teal, from The Sofa & Chair Company, has this look



KITCHEN
'Everyone likes to gather around the island,' says Louise. 'Its marble worktop is one of my favourite features.'
Prima Calacatta marble worktop in Radince Finish, from £105.56m, Solid Surfaces Direct, has a similar look. The Crescent bar stool in white, £33.50 each, Atlantic Shopping, is similar to the style shown here

Stumbling across a century-old former sheep station hidden in verdant grounds on New South Wales' central coast, Louise Duff and her partner Greg Hulme knew that they had unearthed something very special. 'We were looking for a project to get our teeth into and this house was crying out for attention,' recalls Louise. 'It's a wonderful little piece of history and it deserves protecting.'

A traditional single-storey farmstead, replete with high ceilings, attractive cornicing and original wooden floors, the property offers a generous amount of light, myriad suntraps and plenty of privacy. But the jewel in its crown is the garden that unfolds from every angle, with a magnificent mauve-blossomed jacaranda tree at its heart. Given the property's beautiful setting, the couple's aim was to simply restore the land to its former glory, sympathetically tweaking the house only to better enjoy the breathtaking landscape surrounding it.

Taking a considered and steady approach, Louise and Greg – who both lead busy lives running their own businesses in marketing and garden maintenance, respectively – began the renovations. 'It helped that Greg is quite the handyman,' reflects Louise. 'So we could do pretty much all the work ourselves. I think the trick is not to change everything and knock out walls left, right and centre, but to work with the bones and the history of a place and build on its innate beauty.'

True to form, inside, the couple installed a new kitchen, requisitioned part of the original veranda to create an en suite, renovated the remaining bathrooms and re-sanded the original floorboards. Small windows in the sitting room were replaced with larger ones to maximise the views and allow light to pour in. But outside was a different matter. The couple started from

DESIGN ADVICE *'Design from the heart and you can't go wrong. Build rooms around things with sentimental value and you'll create a timeless, individual look'*



LIBRARY
The couple's books are colour-coordinated for an eye-catching yet coherent look. The Morum flat-woven rug, £100, and a set of four Billy bookcases in white, £35 each, all Ikea, will echo this look. The Old Cinema sells metal vintage trunks, from £240



GUEST BEDROOM
The white wrought-iron bed and rustic-style throw add a touch of Provençal chic. Cologne & Cotton's Valencia quilt, £180 for a double; cushion, £35 each, are comparable



BATHROOM
Lovely views of the garden can be enjoyed from the tub. The Trend freestanding bath, £589, Bathstore, is comparable. The Stone Collection can create a similar bespoke bath mat



VERANDA
'This is where I like to relax at the end of the day,' says Louise. The Open-faced Antique Finish Metal clock, £60, Primrose, is near identical to this one

scratch, enlisting the help of garden designer Michael Cooke, whose simple but thoughtful work they admired. 'We wanted to design the garden around the existing mature trees and plants, incorporating room for chickens and a vegetable patch, as well as plenty of areas for entertaining,' explains Louise. And the result is a striking combination of open-air 'rooms', whose charm and comfort rival those inside the house itself. An inviting courtyard features an outdoor fireplace, perfect for evening relaxation, while two shady terraces make the most of the views across the lawn where Louise's home office is tucked away. 'The garden truly is our pride and joy,' says Louise. 'We spend hours nurturing and maintaining it, and we're probably more proud of our efforts there than anywhere else because it represents what sheer hard work can achieve, rather than money.'

An appreciation of simplicity and longevity extends to the pair's approach to their home's interior, too, which is decorated in a palette of soft neutrals, while windows are left unadorned so that light can stream in. Simple basics from Ikea, such as rugs and cushions, are combined with treasured pieces including an antique Biederman sofa re-covered in black-stripe satin, vintage French mirrors and favourite artwork, while an old sofa has been given a new look with a smart Manuel Canovas fabric.

Louise and Greg like nothing better than to enjoy the fruits of their labour. 'We love entertaining and sharing our home,' says Louise. 'A long alfresco lunch with our nearest and dearest is my idea of heaven. I also adore sitting under the canopy of the jacaranda tree with a good book. We love the seclusion the garden gives us. Enjoying a glass of wine together while relaxing on the verandah on a summer's night reminds us that our home is our sanctuary. This place really is very special.'

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**

INSIGHT

Creating outdoor zones



Make use of your garden all year round, as Louise Duff and Greg Hulme do, by creating a series of linked spaces to accommodate entertaining, working and relaxing

Maximize your garden's potential, whatever its size, by delineating the space to suit your needs. Creating separate but complementary zones, from sheltered dining spots to hard-working vegetable patches, can be an effective way to enjoy an outside space all year-round.

BACK TO BASICS

Even in unpredictable British weather, a garden can still be a valuable extension to the home if you create a series of outdoor rooms or even one hard-working space. Garden designer Amanda Patton suggests making a list of everything you want to do there, from relaxing, growing, entertaining and playing with the children, to installing storage for a wood store, bins and garden items. 'A garden's multi-functional and just as you wouldn't want to eat, sleep and take a bath in the same room of the house, a garden benefits from having distinct zones for different activities,' she advises. Draw a sketch of your garden shape, including the property, and mark out the most logical position for each of your needs. Then draw lines between these requirements to give you the best locations for paths and linking areas. Consider the views of the garden from your home too, bearing in mind that it will be frequently looked at from the interior, so try siting sheds and compost heaps discreetly.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Playing with scale and light in the garden will also help to create subtle zones as well as making it appear larger. Patricia Fox of Aralia Garden Design suggests not cramming too much into any one space. 'Always consider the 'voids' or the 'white spaces' so the garden feels comfortable and spacious. Greenwave Design's Michelle Wake underlines the importance of space to spread out. 'Gardens need a social area where people can sit and eat, and perhaps cook. Site lounging and dining areas in the sunniest spot but allow space for a parasol – even rainy British gardens need shade on a hot day.' Finally, garden lighting companies can create different 'moods' in different zones which can be timed, operated manually as required, or even come on as you walk into each zone – which not only saves energy but creates a sense of drama.

EXPERT EYE

'A zoned area can look fussy if too many materials are used, so opt for a limited selection. For instance, in the garden, I like to match the brick used on the house, whether on a terrace, in a garden wall, or to create a pathway'

ROBERT FRIER, CHARLESWORTH DESIGN

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE...



- **'Try losing traditional boundaries. Hedges, for example, have the effect of making the space feel smaller. It's always good to hint at other areas beyond the one you are in, either through obvious pathways, or through gaps in the physical divisions such as 'windows' in hedges or portholes in wooden screens.**
- For a firm boundary, use decorative panels like slatted wooden screens or evergreen hedges – Portuguese laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*) is ideal. You can also vary the boundaries between zones seasonally – a screen of bright orange-stemmed Cornus 'midwinter fire' is wonderful in winter while providing a plain green screen in summer.
- **Create drama – not being able to see the entire garden at once invites exploration. Paths are enticing, so draw the eye to them by framing them, using plants or a structure such as a pergola.**

AMANDA PATTON, AMANDA PATTON LANDSCAPE & GARDEN DESIGN

ADDRESS BOOK

- **THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (RHS) 0845 260 5000, rhs.org.uk.** Become a member or you can find information on courses, plants at events at Britain's gardening charity.
- **SOCIETY OF GARDEN DESIGNERS 01989 566695, sgd.org.uk.** The professional association for garden designers in the UK.

FEATURE EMMA J PAGE

PEACE & LOVE

1

JENNIFER AND IAN BLACK HAVE CHOSEN ALL-WHITE DECOR FOR THEIR EDINBURGH APARTMENT, CREATING AN ELEGANT AND TRANQUIL HOME

2

FEATURE MAIRI MACDONALD | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DOUGLAS GIBB





3



After moving back to Edinburgh from Australia, Jennifer and Ian Black were ready for a property challenge. 'We'd been renting in Australia and hadn't got our teeth into a project for a while,' says Jennifer. However, when they were looking to buy, prices in Edinburgh were on a steady increase and competition for renovation properties was fierce. After several unsuccessful offers, the couple were determined not to miss out on this converted townhouse in the city's West End.

The top-floor flat had stunning views over private gardens and out towards the Firth of Forth, but the interior was less fabulous. 'The apartment's previous owners had a very dramatic and dated style, which overwhelmed the property,' says Jennifer. 'Although Ian saw potential, all I could see was the minuscule kitchen, the old-fashioned conservatory lean-to and the over-the-top paintwork.'

But Ian managed to persuade her that he was capable of transforming it and together they moved in. 'Ian was determined to do it all himself but most of the work was too big to be done on the weekends and evenings,' explains Jennifer. 'As soon as we had the money, he left his job to concentrate on the renovations full-time.'

With Ian tackling the rewiring, central heating and replumbing, the apartment was

1&2 SITTING ROOM **Ian made the mirror frame himself from MDF to echo the arch of the marble fireplace and windows. An artwork by Jonathan Freemantle above the sofa gives a striking blast of colour in the white scheme.** *Der Heilige Berg* painting, £3,800, Jonathan Freemantle. Bespoke cabinets, around £600, Jali. Fama MyApple love seat, £1,470, Sterling Furniture. Trista Swivel coffee table, £210, Furniture For You

3 KITCHEN-DINER **Glossy floors, units, worktops and furniture help to reflect the light.** Calligaris Hyper dining table, £1,320, MacDonald Furniture Galleries. *Stormy Sea, North Berwick* painting, £1,500, by Jonathan Freemantle

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Apartment in a converted Victorian townhouse
LOCATION Edinburgh
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, three bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 2001
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We lived in a two-bedroom 1970s house in, Australia,' says Jennifer.

FAVOURITE ITEM 'The love seat in the window of the sitting room is one of our best-loved pieces. It can be bought in any fabric but, obviously, we chose white'





uninhabitable so the couple put all their furniture into storage and decamped across town to Jennifer's mother's house for eight months. 'Ian is a great believer in not rushing things,' says Jennifer. 'But the mess was incredible – at one stage I couldn't see how we were ever going to live in the flat again, it was so bad.' With all the floorboards up and half the wall down in the hall, it's easy to understand her misgivings. Yet Ian's capabilities ensured the project soon started to take shape. A more solid construction with a cantilevered bay window and pitched glass roof became the hallway, the new kitchen was fitted into the largest of the bedrooms and the old kitchen returned to a third bedroom, which is currently being used as Ian's study.

In the sitting room, the original fireplace had been removed and a huge oak one installed. 'We couldn't sell it, so Ian used the pillars to prop up the ceiling, which allowed some boxed-in walls to be cut away to let in more light,' says Jennifer.

With all the structural work completed and the doors and floors sanded and varnished, Jennifer then painted the walls and woodwork white. 'We're both influenced by Australian houses, which are often simply decorated and have shiny wooden floors,' she says.

Over the years the couple have experimented with the occasional coloured wall but have always come back to white. 'It's the perfect backdrop for our paintings,' explains Jennifer. 'We love the work of South African artist Jonathan Freemantle who now lives and works in Edinburgh.'

Jennifer and Ian make a conscious effort to use as much white in their home as possible. 'I'm gradually painting our furniture white, too,' says Jennifer. 'It's a pure, clean shade that frees your mind and it definitely works here – we love it.'

1 MASTER BEDROOM
Painting all the old furniture white has created a fresh feel. The Belvoir quilt, from £250, and cushion covers, from £40, all The White Company, are similar. For bedside tables like these try Malm, £25; Mirrored Pax wardrobes, £105, all Ikea. The Selby Glass Ball lamps, £90, Laura Ashley, are a match

2 HALL
Formerly an unappealing lean-to, this has been rebuilt and now offers a light and lovely welcome. Bespoke radiator cabinet, Jali

3 BATHROOM
The couple created an opulent feel by setting a Jacuzzi against smoked mirror on the walls. Bath, £2,400, Jacuzzi. For similar smoked bevel-edge mirror tiles try Viewforth Glazing, £271.73sq m

4 GUEST BEDROOM
Faux fur and an animal-print rug add texture and pattern. The White Company sells a throw like this, £100. For a similar rug try The Rug Seller, from £25

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**

3

4

DESIGN TIP 'Plenty of white, blinds, shutters and mirrored wardrobes help to keep the rooms uncluttered and light'



SITTING ROOM
The double-height ceiling is emphasised by a chandelier.
The Rosevear chandelier, £1,780, The Chandelier & Mirror Company, is similar. Large early 19th-century settee, £2,700, Cotswold Design Centre

RETURN *of the* NATIVE

Cid Carr and Phil Evans left village life for the lights of London, but within two years they were back

FEATURE VICTORIA JENKINS
PHOTOGRAPHY WILLIAM GODDARD

Cid Carr and her husband, Phil Evans, were all set to find a home nearer London, having sold their country cottage and rented in the city. 'Then we got cold feet,' says Cid, an interior designer. Soon after, a friend put his cottage in their old village on the market and they realised how much they missed the place. So they bought the cottage and moved in with their daughter Coco, 21, a few doors down from the property they'd left only two years before.

'We'd always really liked our friend's home, although the layout is quite linear,' says Cid. 'The front door is at one end and you have to walk through every room to get anywhere. But there's a lovely vibe.' The 1760s cottage had once been two separate estate workers' homes and still had its own well in the back garden. Another attractive feature was the gallery overlooking the sitting room, added by a previous owner, an artist-printer who needed space for her printing press.

Structurally, the house was in sound condition, so Cid and Phil started updating the decor by



PAVILION
Vintage chairs are an apt match for the summerhouse.
Lloyd Loom chairs painted in Magic Stone spray paint, £8.98 for 400ml, Valspar



KITCHEN
Blue tongue-and-groove contrasts with the cream cabinetry and wooden worksurfaces.
Tongue-and-groove painted in Juniper Ash oil eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. Carisbrooke dining table, £349, Barker & Stonehouse



UNIQUE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Georgian cottage
LOCATION Oxfordshire
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, study, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, shower room
PURCHASED 2013
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We lived in another cottage, a few doors down,' says Cid.



STUDY
Cid custom-mixed the paint on the bookshelves.
Demi-lune table, £395, Windsor House Antiques



STAIRS
Cid removed the doors on this bookcase to create more space.
Interior design by Cid Carr at The Fountayne



MASTER BEDROOM
The gold of the painting is picked out by a cushion and flowers in a similar shade.
The Fountayne sells silk cushions, £75 each



GALLERY
This is used as an additional working area.
Chaise longue, £250, York Racecourse car boot

getting rid of unwanted bookcases and the old carpets. 'We're both neat freaks and the place is small so it needed a big clear-out,' says Cid. 'We spent the first few months ripping up electric blue carpeting then repainted throughout with soothing-yet-characterful blues and greys.'

In the sitting room, the couple loved the existing slate fireplace, wonky skirting and squeaking floorboards. 'They were at least 50 years old,' says Cid. 'The ones upstairs weren't in good condition so I painted them ebony.

The couple also completely refurbished the two bathrooms and downstairs shower room, while the kitchen was in such good condition they kept it – once they'd repainted the green walls and blue units white. At first Cid and Phil installed a huge armoire they'd had for years, but later moved it into their bedroom to use as a wardrobe.

DESIGN TIP

'I draw inspiration from just about everything – vintage book illustrations, old movies, museums, other people's houses and foreign travel to name but a few'

'Then we painted our headboard in the same matching grey,' says Cid. 'That sums up our style. We tend to find old furniture and refurbish it – even pulling items off skips. For years, we lived near London's Portobello Road, where all the antiques dealers gather, so we were on the spot for bargains and we've also bought lots of things from France.

'You could say this is a laissez-faire house,' she smiles. 'It's relaxed and imperfect, but full of things we've gathered and love.'

MASTER BEDROOM
The armoire was bought 20 years ago and has served many purposes,' says Cid. 'We call it the cupboard that keeps on giving.'
French armoire, £900; French wicker bed, £450, both Golborne Road market

MASTER BATHROOM
'You can't fail to relax in here,' says Cid. 'It has a cosy monastic feel.'
Turkish Blue acrylic eggshell paint, £48 for 2.5 litres, Sanderson Spectrum. Lefroy Brooks Classic roll-top bath, £1,237; Lefroy Brooks La Chapelle basin, £281, both Fairfield Bathrooms

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**

THE SOURCE

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

DESIGN IDEAS



POCKET DOORS

PAGES 34 – 39

To make maximum use of floor space in their connecting reception rooms, Andrea and Michael Murray have installed a pocket door, which can be opened to enjoy views of the garden or shut for privacy. A pocket door is a sliding door that, when fully open, is hidden in a compartment or wall cavity in the adjacent wall. Pocket doors usually travel on rollers suspended from an overhead track, or tracks along the floor. One disadvantage of this type of door is that it involves hidden parts and hardware, which can be difficult to repair. Fixing a problem may require removing the door and trim and opening up the wall.







UPHOLSTERED HEADBOARD

PAGES 69 – 71

Every room needs a focal point and Joanne Tutton has created one in her guest bedroom with an oversized upholstered headboard. A simple way to update a tired bedroom, the headboard is enjoying a revival. Available in many styles and shapes, from classic and contemporary to winged or curved, it can be upholstered in your own fabric to match other soft furnishings in the room. Warm, luxurious fabrics such as velvet or wool work particularly well. Deep or shallow buttoning is a look that's currently popular, especially with piped or studded detail. One practical option is to have a simple cover made with side ties, so it can be removed for washing. For maximum impact, dress the bed, as Joanne has, by layering up pillows and cushions that contrast with the headboard.



PANELLED MIRROR WALL

PAGES 85 – 88

A panelled wall of mirrors helps create a sense of light and space in Sally Homan's sitting room. Simple white surrounds give the wall a modern, graphic touch, while the panels also work as frames for some of Sally's paintings. Pale walls, furnishings and floor coverings help further open up the space. As well as making a statement, mirrors add drama and are a great way of reflecting the shape of a room. A wall of mirrors like this can give the illusion of increasing the length or width of a space. Remember, however, that mirrors will also draw attention to the items within the room, effectively 'doubling' these, so this is a trick that works best in uncluttered areas. In a less contemporary setting, a collection of vintage mirrors hung on a wall will have a similar effect.



OUTDOOR SEATING AREAS

There's nothing more enjoyable in summer than sitting outside in the sunshine. Whether you're entertaining family and friends or simply relaxing with a book, take a look at these stylish ideas...



VERANDAH SEATING

PAGES 96 – 100

Louise Duff and Greg Hulme have created a seamless extension of their home with a covered porch, which is a stylish space for relaxing. When investing in outdoor furniture, it should be comfortable, hardwearing and easy to maintain. Like most things, you get what you pay for so invest in the best you can afford. Teak is a long-lasting tropical hardwood that not only looks smart but has a natural resistance to fungal and insect attack. It weathers naturally to a mellow shade of silver-grey, to keep the wood golden in tone, sand and apply teak oil once or twice a year. Create your own tranquil retreat with the Garden Trading Chastleton day bed in reclaimed teak (shown below), £600, Occa-Home.







BENCH-STYLE DINING FURNITURE

PAGES 46 – 49

The Zachrisson family have created a sunny decked area for alfresco dining, with a chunky wooden table and bench-style seating. A pretty tablecloth and cushions add a homely touch. Above, a smart wooden table and matching benches provide a stylish setting for informal outdoor entertaining. On the decked patio, a half-tiled wall gives the scene a distinctly Mediterranean feel. The two benches tuck neatly beneath the table when not in use. House wooden dining set, £499, John Lewis.



SUN LOUNGERS

PAGES 22 – 27

A secluded raised deck in Breda Clifford's pretty garden makes the perfect location for a pair of stylish sun loungers. Smart red cushions add a hit of colour and ensure that guests can stretch out in comfort. Garden furniture made from premium-quality timber, such as teak, is robust and solid, and will serve you for years to come. Not only does it blend beautifully into a natural setting, but it doesn't absorb heat like metal furniture. Wood is also a stable choice in windy weather, too. For an elegant and luxurious option try the Chesapeake lounger in solid teak (shown right), from £805, Barlow Tyrie. It's adjustable into four positions and has back wheels to make it easy to move around to follow that elusive sunshine.



INSPIRED SHOPPING



BRIGHT IDEA

PAGES 114 – 116

The O'Reillys have painted their dining chairs in vibrant shades. Update your own chairs with these Annie Sloan chalk paints in English Yellow and Aubusson Blue, £18.95 for a litre.







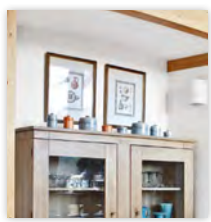
BRING TO LIGHT

PAGES 85 – 88

Sally Homan has fitted discreet wall lights in her guest bedroom, which is an ideal solution for a small space. Emulate the look with this Grey and Copper wall light, £105, Idyll Home.







FINE DISPLAY

PAGES 72 – 74

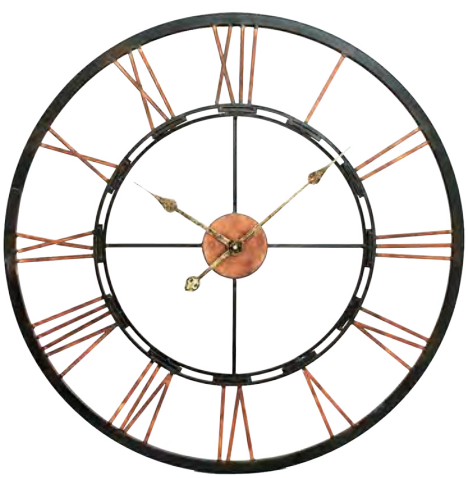
An artistic assortment of pottery fits the mood perfectly in Juliette Barrell and Tim Crisp's dining area. Start a collection with the Indie large patterned vase, £22, Habitat.



ON THE SIDE

PAGES 69 – 71

Sleek and contemporary, a white sideboard takes pride of place in the Tutton's sitting room. Get a similar look with this Cattelan Tropez sideboard in a matt lacquer finish, £2,590, Fishpools.





TIME PIECE

PAGES 96 – 100

An oversized metal clock adds a distinctive touch to Louise Duff and Greg Hulme's porch. This Large Metal wall clock in antique brass, £59, Puji, is comparable.





CHIC STORAGE

PAGES 50 – 53

A vibrant chest of drawers creates an eye-catching feature in Madeleine Dupont's kitchen. For something equally striking try the Louis chest of drawers, £599, Living It Up.





CLASSIC BEAUTY

PAGES 46 – 49

Elegant and timeless, the matching armchairs in the Zachrissons' family room would work well in many schemes. We like this Lille armchair in oatmeal linen, £299, Swoon Editions.





TEA TIME

PAGES 80 – 82

If you admire the charming accessories in Céline Lamour and Marc Pillonetto's kitchen, then try the Falcon enamel teapot, £20, Heal's.



ON THE TABLE

PAGES 122 – 125

A zinc-top dining table is ideal for a busy family and adds modern good looks to the Milners' dining area. Steal their style with this Daddy Zinc kitchen table, from £545, Loaf.

5 OF THE BEST
STONE FLOORING

Durable, practical and naturally beautiful, we take a look at stone flooring options, from marble and slate to travertine, sandstone and limestone.



FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**

John and Edith O'Reilly's idyllic home combines the best of past and present

CHARMED LIFE

FEATURE PENNY CRAWFORD-COLLINS
PHOTOGRAPHY PHILIP LAUTERBACH

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Thatched cottage
LOCATION County Wexford
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, three bedrooms two bathrooms
PURCHASED 2003
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We lived in a modern house in Dublin,' says John.

Edith and John O'Reilly loved holidaying in County Wexford so much that they eventually decided they would like something a little more permanent. 'We both adore this part of Ireland, it's full of rural beauty with stunning beaches and lots of wildlife,' says John. 'But we never thought seriously about buying until we saw the cottage.'

The pair, who have four children, Sean, Adam, Adele and Callan, weren't looking for a new home in earnest, but when they stumbled across this picture-postcard property with its far-reaching coastal views, they were immediately seduced. It may look as though it's been part of the rural landscape for centuries, but the cottage was knocked down and completely rebuilt 20 years ago. 'The previous owners took the opportunity to extend the property, enlarging the kitchen and adding an extra bedroom and bathroom,' explains John. 'Their approach to the rebuild was very sensitive, and they even wrote a book about their experience in the process.'

As a result, the cottage retains plenty of character, with beautiful mature gardens and a pretty stream. Situated at the end of a quiet country lane, just a hundred yards from a sandy beach, it ticked all the boxes for family living so



SITTING ROOM
The characterful mix of old and new furniture includes the rocking chair which was left by the previous owners. Hicks & Hicks sells large metal lanterns, £85 each. Butterfly Garden rug, £1,366, Ceadogan Rugs





DECORATING TIP

'If you decide on an all-white palette but want to inject some colour, paint your furniture in bright shades. This worked really well with the dining chairs in the kitchen'

DINING AREA
John and Edith found the chairs locally and gave them a coat of paint. For a similar table, try Sonoma Light dining table, £649, Marks & Spencer



KITCHEN
'We painted the island and limewashed the units for a more rustic look,' says John. New White estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



SITTING ROOM
Built-in shelving creates plenty of display storage for books and games. Pip Morning Glory cushion, £20.50, Pip Studio is comparable. Bower lambswool throw, £49, Avoca, has the same look



MASTER BEDROOM
'The bed was originally a four-poster. We just cut the posts down,' says John. Antique Rose Bouquet duvet cover, £65, Cath Kidston, would work well in this scheme



BATHROOM
'We both love the traditional look in here,' says John. Wessex freestanding roll-top bath, £1,392, Heritage Bathrooms looks similar



CHILDREN'S ROOM
The loft-style bedroom is perfect for the children, with its quaint window and lime-washed ceiling panels. Wool cellular blanket £66, The Wool Company, is a close match

John, Edith and their children decamped from their modern home in Dublin.

Although the house didn't require any structural work, the couple decided to replace the thatched roof. 'Thatching a roof is a costly job and we needed to do our research,' explains John. 'It's such a specialist task and we really wanted to get it right.'

The cottage has an endearingly quirky layout, featuring a wooden staircase off the sitting room which leads to a loft-style bedroom. Downstairs, a pretty bedroom with an open fire and en suite is tucked away beside the kitchen-diner.

The kitchen, with its lime-washed cabinets, has a traditional charm. 'It's not a huge space,' says John, 'but the double-height ceiling with roof lights makes it feel really airy, while the large central island provides plenty of workspace.' Whitewashed walls, exposed beams, natural stone, wooden floors and tongue-and-groove doors exude a simple, rustic atmosphere, while a combination of new and secondhand pieces keeps the look casual. 'We bought a lot of the furniture with the house,' explains John, 'so we've ended up with a mix of antique and modern styles.'

The family is so settled here that they can't imagine living anywhere else. Summer days are spent on the beach before returning home to open fires on chillier evenings. 'The cottage and the surrounding area have a calm and spiritual feel,' reflects John. 'We are all so pleased to have moved here. It's a home that we enjoy for its beauty and its unique ability to restore and refresh.'

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 147

TIME TO NEST

CAITRIONA AND SHAUN ROY FOUND THE IDEAL FAMILY HOME FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER IN THEIR LIVES AND WASTED NO TIME IN CREATING A SPACE FUSING COMFORT AND STYLE

FEATURE ALIX BATEMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH



DINING AREA
Caitriona tinted the existing kitchen worktop to match the dining table, tying both areas together.
Tongue-and-groove panelling, 915 x 516mm, £9.29, Homebase. Jak grey dining chair, £60 each, Habitat

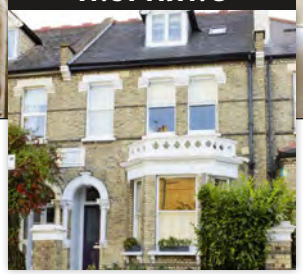


KITCHEN-DINER
The French poster adds a pop of colour to this neutral scheme.
Walls painted in Lime White estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Orangina print in Eggshell Confetti white frame, £104, Art.co.uk Weathered oak stools, £145 each, Cox & Cox



HALL
'The built-in shelving was one of the first features I loved about the house,' says Caitriona.
Find similar-style baskets, from £6, at Prestige Wicker

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
A late-Victorian terraced house
LOCATION
South-west London
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, family room, kitchen-diner, four bedrooms, three bathrooms
PURCHASED 2012
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We used to live in a flat nearby,' says Caitriona.

SITTING ROOM
Linen-upholstered furniture, white wooden shutters and eclectic accessories create an elegant feel in this space. Grande black cotton large empire lampshade, £80, Habitat. The Black wooden frame convex mirror, £102, Galaxy Stores, is a close match

Living in a small flat and with plans to start a family, Caitriona and Shaun Roy knew the time had come to begin searching for a new home. 'Initially, we considered knocking through to the flat above, which we also owned,' says Caitriona, 'but Shaun, an experienced commercial property agent, thought it wouldn't be financially viable, so we decided to seek a larger property elsewhere.' Viewing houses as far afield as The Cotswolds, the couple eventually decided that their neighbourhood in south-west London, with its rich architecture and close proximity to leafy parks for their dog Monty, was as good as anywhere.

Luckily, before long a handsome Victorian terrace house in their local area caught their eye. 'It was spot on in terms of size and location,' says Caitriona. 'We also liked its wider than average entrance hall and wonderful feel of space. In fact, we instantly knew that it had the potential to be the capacious, comfortable family home we were looking for.'

The house was in a tired but liveable state when they moved in but influenced by a break in the countryside, Caitriona set about creating a relaxed look, combining weathered oak, log baskets and big comfy sofas and armchairs. Hoping a baby would be along soon, Caitriona wanted to create an interior suited to their upcoming role as parents. 'The decor in our last flat was quite cutesy with florals and a strong retro vibe,' she recalls. 'For our new home, I wanted a far more grown-up look.'

Recognising the powerful transformative effect of colour, the couple painted the walls in tones of muted cream, blue and



GUEST BEDROOM
'A spare room is ideal for being a bit braver with the choice of decor,' says Caitriona.
New England mirror in grey, £240, Brissi. Flynn armchair in Biscuit Beige, £129, Made.com



BATHROOM
A roll-top tub and monochrome tiles lend a classic look.
Cambridge bath, £399, Bathstore, is similar



GUEST BEDROOM
Here, understated elegance is key.
Marie headboard, £325, Loaf



FINN'S NURSERY
Scandi style inspired this room, with a vibrant print adding a playful touch.
Apple print (unframed), from £16.99; white cotton bunting, from £10, both Notonthehighstreet.com

DESIGN TIP

'Buying vintage furniture guarantees more character – and it's cheaper!'

green for a subtle, soothing look. Layered textures, such as linen upholstery, velvet cushions and woollen throws brought each room together seamlessly. Aiming for a relaxed and lived-in feel, Caitriona strived to forge a style that would give the impression of having evolved over time, rather than being contrived. 'I like an element of luxury, but tempered with individual, homely touches,' she explains.

To further enhance her low-key but discerning approach, Caitriona married antique and traditional furnishings with eye-catching accessories. For instance, in the sitting room, mercury glass vases sit alongside dark wood and brass collectibles, while wooden flooring lends a warm ambience – as well as being a practical choice for a family home.

Downstairs, black-burnished fire surrounds and gilded frames create contrast and prevent the neutral tones from becoming indistinct, while the bedrooms resonate Scandi chic. Feminine but not overly girlie pieces unite gentle chalky tones with carefully selected Victorian and Edwardian furniture from the couple's forays to reclamations yards and antiques fairs. 'If you choose interesting, timeless pieces you can build whole room schemes around them,' advises Caitriona.

The resulting atmosphere has the charm of a country boutique hotel. The interior exudes a characterful aesthetic that is perfectly suited to a couple embarking on family life. With the arrival of baby Finn, the home produced with so much love, care and stylish flair now fulfils its role to a tee. 'It's all come together perfectly,' smiles Caitriona.

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**

RAPID RESPONSE

Melanie and Jamie Milner gave themselves a tight deadline to turn an old farmhouse from so-so to stunning

FEATURE JUDI GOODWIN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** TIM IMRIE/ABODE

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Stone farmhouse and barn
LOCATION West Yorkshire
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen/diner, snug, back hall/boot room, study, cloakroom, four bedrooms (three en suite), playroom, bathroom
PURCHASED 2013
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'Before moving here we lived in a barn, which we renovated,' says Melanie, 'but we grew out of it.'

SITTING ROOM
Neutral-coloured sofas in different textures have been mixed and matched for a relaxed feel. Lansdowne sofa, £3,995, Duresta, covered in Kelburn Check in Old Blue, £92m, Colefax and Fowler. Large stools, £770 each, Harpers Interiors. Josephine reading chairs, £2,600 each, Zoffany, covered in Blakeney Slate, £72m, Colefax and Fowler. Console table, £1,191, Jan Cavelle





After six years in their renovated barn, Melanie and Jamie Milner wanted more space and a garden for their two children, Harriet, who is now 14, and Joe, six. The 17th-century farmhouse with an attached barn they found in a small West Yorkshire village was ideal. It was in good condition, but the couple really wanted to put their own stamp on the place. Understandably, though, they didn't relish the idea of living there surrounded by decorators, so they gave themselves a five-month deadline to transform the entire house before the move – no small task, considering it has four bedrooms, four bathrooms and a sitting room and snug. They also planned to convert the two garages into a gym and a study for Jamie, who is a company director.

'We had a very clear idea of what we wanted,' says Melanie. 'And we were very lucky to be able to afford to take on all the work at once.' Their last home was modern and minimalist, but the couple wanted a more comfortable, classic style with a modern twist, and looked to their favourite hotel on the shores of Loch Lomond for inspiration.

The Milners already knew some reliable local tradesmen who had helped them renovate their previous home, and they had worked with interior designer Michael Metcalfe of Harpers Interiors, so they had a good workforce on board. But there was

1 DINING AREA
Furniture brought from their previous home adds a modern touch to the traditional setting. For a similar bespoke table, try Tom Faulkner. Vitra Eames DSW chairs, £328, Utility. Walls painted in Stone flat emulsion, £39 for 2.5 litres, Zoffany

2 KITCHEN
The painted Pippy oak cabinetry was installed by the previous owners. VBK720 double Belfast sink, £522, Franke. Aga S Series Six-Four in Black, £4,095, Bower & Child





MASTER BEDROOM
Purple touches add vibrant contrast.
Chaise upholstered in two shades of Papilio, £76.50m; reversible throw in Soumak, £69m, both Osborne & Little. Cow wall lights, £600 each, Porta Romana

DESIGN ADVICE *'Choose your workforce with care. Ask around for recommendations or stick with local people you've used before. Finding tradesmen on the internet is not always the best way'*



STUDY
Jamie's office is masculine, classic and comfortable.
Tartan chairs, £1,192 each, Harpers Interiors, covered in Lomond Tartan, £98m, Osborne & Little



BATHROOM
The copper bath is a luxurious touch.
Babylon copper bath, £5,700, Fired Earth. For a similar chair, try sellingantiques.co.uk





1 DRESSING ROOM
This space adjoining the master bedroom conceals ample storage.
Louis Ghost chair in Crystal, £223, Philippe Starck for Kartell at John Lewis

2 JOE'S BEDROOM
The couple's son chose his own bunk bed, which includes a pull-out desk.
Noah bunk bed, £1,145, Feather & Black. Stars and Stripe rug, £95, Aspace

3 MASTER EN SUITE
Twin basins mean there's no battle to get in the bathroom first.
Eclipse basins, £550 each, Fired Earth

4 GUEST BEDROOM
Overnight visitors are treated to a sumptuous setting.
Coriander bed in nickel finish, £2,995, And So To Bed

definitely no time for a room-by room-approach – at planning meetings with Michael, they would discuss several rooms at once and make choices at breakneck speed. 'Jamie likes to make quick decisions and act immediately. I'm more of a thinker,' admits Melanie. 'So at the time it felt risky, but Michael kept us on track and it was fun.'

Initially, the farmhouse and barn had been two separate properties, built at right angles to each other. The previous owners had joined them together by adding an extension to create an L shape. This fairly recent addition has now become an elegant dining room that leads into the sitting room through double doors. The neutral colours are compatible – soft grey in the dining room and mushroom in the sitting room – and were inspired by the large stone fireplace.

By the time the family moved in last year, the house was virtually complete, bar a few finishing touches. But despite the rush, there is nothing the couple would have done differently. 'We both really enjoyed the process because we like design,' says Jamie. 'If you take on a big project, you've got to love it and throw yourself into it and then have faith in the decisions you've made.'

All the family are thrilled with the new home. 'It's turned out better than we ever imagined,' says Jamie. 'The open-plan arrangement of our last place wasn't ideal for our family's lifestyle. This is a cosier and calmer house, and we feel so much more relaxed.'





FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**

STUDY
'I love the vibrancy of the blue wall, which provides a colourful backdrop for the artwork I've collected,' says Max. Andaman Sea matt emulsion, £34 for 2.5 litres, Fired Earth, is a similar shade

UNIQUE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Renovated farmhouse built in the 1700s
LOCATION Sluis, Netherlands
ROOMS Sitting room, garden room, kitchen/breakfast room, study, two bedrooms, dressing room, two bathrooms
PURCHASED 2012
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'I lived in a similar farmhouse in a nearby village,' says Max.

COOL, CALM & COLLECTED

In the hands of avid collector Max Schilte, an ancient farmhouse has been brought back to life

FEATURE KAREN JENSEN-JONES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** LIVING INSIDE /CLAUDE SMEKENS





Nestled in the countryside, not far from the sea in a small market town in the Netherlands, sits the charming and colourful home of interior designer Max Schilte. With a busy work schedule, Max and his late partner Harry craved a peaceful bolthole where they could unwind from work. 'We were both very busy and longed for somewhere quiet to rest and relax,' says Max. 'When we found this house in a small town steeped in history, we knew it was just right. Even though it needed a lot of work, its blissful location close to the sea and surrounded by countryside made it the perfect home.'

Renovating the simple farmhouse was a welcome labour of love. 'It was very dated, but we wanted to respect the original features and the integrity of the house,' explains Max. 'So we extended it thoughtfully with the original shape in mind. It was particularly important to make the most of the views as we loved to watch the changing seasons and landscape.' Max took charge of the interiors, a job that's not only his profession, but also his great passion in life. 'I have a never-ending urge to arrange and rearrange my surroundings,' he admits. 'This house is bursting with vibrant colour and precious objects, which give me so much positive energy.'

FAVOURITE ROOM 'I don't have one favourite room, but what I do love are the amazing views, which are all different depending on which room you are in'

As an avid collector of beautiful items for his home and for his clients, Max has amassed a remarkable set of pieces from around the globe. 'This house calls for a cosy decor and for me that includes my collections,' he explains. 'I like to think in terms of colour, and finding the exact hue often requires an intense search, but it really can make all the difference to the way a room looks and feels.'

Despite his love of beautiful objects, especially his old pottery from Provence and Umbria, Max doesn't believe that you need to spend a lot of money on furnishings and accessories. 'Many of the pieces in my home are not high-end, but they're the right combination when put together with everything else. What matters when planning a new interior is to base it around a few pieces you really like,' he advises.

Although Max always has itchy fingers to start new projects, he's not planning to move any time soon. Not long after they came to this house, nearly two years ago, Max's partner sadly passed away, but the house and its contents have brought great comfort to him. 'I've realised that sentimental possessions and memories are the most important part of a home,' he reflects. 'And I'm hoping to add a few more along the way. Things don't stay still for too long in this house.'



GARDEN ROOM
The rustic furniture and neutral blind are enlivened with Max's pottery. Blind fabric in Highland Natural, £39.50m, Ian Mankin, has a similar look. Jim Lawrence sells the Dunhill lantern, £188, which will recreate this look



KITCHEN
'Blue is my favourite colour and I love the elegance of toile wallpaper,' says Max.
Pillemont toile wallpaper, £45.95 per roll, Sanderson, is a close match



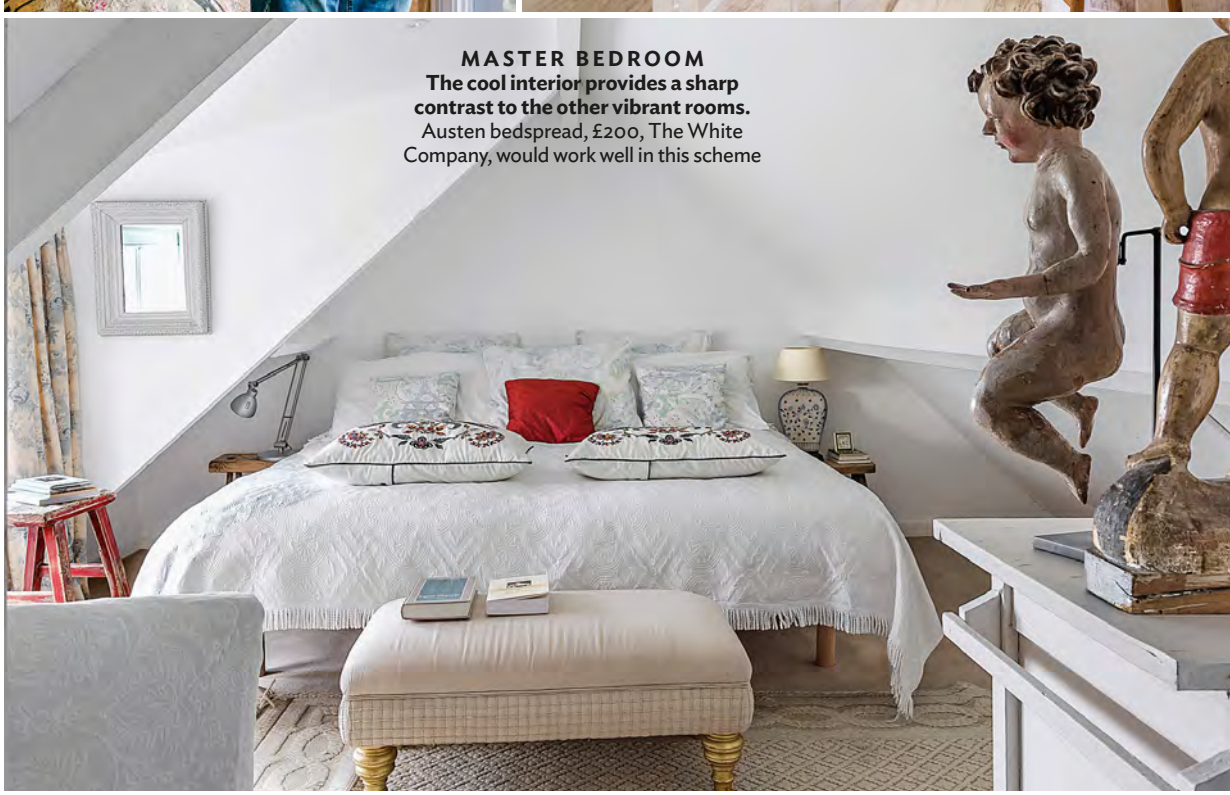
SITTING ROOM
'Don't be afraid to experiment with colour and new arrangements,' says Max.
B&B Italia Beverly folding armchair, £3,270, Chaplins, is comparable







BATHROOM
Even in this room, Max has carefully arranged a striking display of objects.
Ronda countertop sinks, £99 each, Victoria Plumb, are similar



MASTER BEDROOM
The cool interior provides a sharp contrast to the other vibrant rooms.
Austen bedspread, £200, The White Company, would work well in this scheme



SITTING ROOM
French-inspired linen-covered sofas and antique tables create a stylish look. Petworth striped linen sofa, £1,026, Sofas & Stuff. Fox handmade cushion, £76.99, Peter Silk of Helmsley. York taupe rug, £79, Rugs of the World

Out of the blue

Jane and Stephen Cain discovered a Georgian terrace in saintly surroundings

FEATURE SUZANNE WEBSTER | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JEREMY PHILLIPS

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Early Georgian terraced house
LOCATION York
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, cellar, four bedrooms, two bathrooms
PURCHASED 2013
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We also live in a stone farmhouse on the Yorkshire Moors,' says Jane.



Tucked away in the shadow of majestic York Minster, Jane and Stephen Cain's Georgian terrace is a little more modest in scale than the ancient cathedral, but it's certainly no wallflower. Immaculately restored and full of personal touches, it's an ideal base for the pair and their two children Christian, 13, and Maisie, 11, when they crave a city escape from their country farmhouse.

Having recently sold their business, Jane and Stephen were looking for a project they could throw themselves into, and it was while they were strolling along an elegant mews just a stone's throw from the cathedral that Stephen spotted a for sale sign outside this Grade II-listed flat-fronted terrace. The couple wasted no time in viewing the property, and knew it was right as soon as they stepped across the threshold. 'The house was so charming,' says Jane. 'It was once owned by the church and needed a little attention, but we both have strong connections to York Minster as our children attend the Minster school, so we already felt that we'd formed a sentimental attachment to both the house and the area.'

The couple couldn't make any structural alterations to the listed house, but they were allowed to overhaul it decor-wise. First the family tackled the unloved kitchen, installing new units and worktops. 'The house had only had one private owner in its history and we

KITCHEN-DINER

The simple curved units work well in this angular room. Shaker cream cabinetry, £3,345 for a seven-unit run, Magnet. Hay Coolie pendant lights, £90 each, Fritz Fryer

UTILITY ROOM

The double butler sink, installed by the previous owner, is practical and charming. Shaws Classic Shaker 900 sink, £599, has a similar look

DINING AREA

The French farmhouse table and painted bench are perfect for entertaining. Bench and walls painted in Parma Gray estate emulsion, £36 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Notonthehighstreet sells similar wall clocks, £39

GUEST BEDROOM
Jane has added pops of bright colour to the neutral background. Brigitte Herrod vintage heart button canvas, £185, Rockett St George. Jelly Bean Mint Choc rug, £195, Rugs of the World

wanted to preserve as many of the features as we could, such as the butler sink in the utility room,' says Jane. Characterful additions were made in the form of ecclesiastical furniture to reference the building's past, including a church pew and a lectern. Stephen also bought a minster stone at auction, currently displayed on the sitting room wall as a reminder of the strong connection between the terrace and its neighbouring cathedral.

The renovation took the family a little longer than they had anticipated. 'There were a few unexpected niggles along the way,' recalls Jane. 'At one point, we were having new lighting installed at the top of the house, only to discover that there was an unusual amount of daylight coming through the roof and several ridge tiles were broken.'

Having navigated the pitfalls, the couple turned their attention to the more pleasant task of furnishing their new home. They

GUEST BEDROOM
The antique display cabinet is an elegant addition. Antique tall chest bought from Thomlinsons Antiques. The French House sells antique display cabinets

BATHROOM
Large grey tiles create an impact in this simple scheme. Jewel tiles, £39sq m, Topps Tiles, would create a similar look

FAVOURITE SHOP *'Peter Silk of Helmsley. I love the fact that you can arrive at the shop with a vague idea for a piece of upholstered furniture and Peter will turn it into a reality'*

GUEST BEDROOM
A mixture of woollen throws and striped linen ticking creates a pretty, layered look.
Wool checked throw, £22, Delightful Living. Larsson Antique French Grey bedside table, £295, Neptune

opted for a palette of muted Farrow & Ball tones, which set the scene for a collection of antique chairs, tables and armoires, many of them with a touching history. 'We found a letter in the top of a wardrobe, revealing that it had been bought by the owner's father, a ship's captain, in 1906,' says Jane. In another chest of drawers, the couple unearthed a sticker with the original owner's request that it be passed on to her daughter. 'We've found ourselves custodians of these pieces now, which is quite remarkable,' says Stephen.

With the work now complete, the family spend much of their time here, and when they can't, they are happy to let it out. But with its special history, it looks set to become a family treasure. 'Its position is so atmospheric,' reflects Stephen. 'We feel very blessed to have taken on this house and look forward to our children continuing to grow up in this unique place.'



MASTER BEDROOM
A mix of cool greys and pale blue create a relaxing haven.
Walls painted in Skylight matt emulsion, £32.50 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Brick Lane headboard, from £327, Sofas & Stuff. The White Company's Clarence silk quilt, £275, is similar

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO **PAGE 147**



GUEST BEDROOM
Jane has created an intimate dressing table with a selection of antique bottles.
For a similar lamp, try Love Light, £69.50



HALL/DINING ROOM
The couple opened up the entrance hall and original dining room to create a bright, open-plan space. Oak Plank flooring, £60m, Hargreaves Reclaimed Flooring, is similar to the boards shown here

INSPIRING

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Converted 16th-century stable block
LOCATION Glasgow
ROOMS Hall/dining room, open-plan kitchen/sitting room, drawing room, den, three bedrooms, three bathrooms (two en suite), studio
PURCHASED 2008
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We lived in a townhouse in Glasgow's West End,' says Nikky.

NATURAL MIX

FEATURE MAIRI MACDONALD | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DOUGLAS GIBB

KITCHEN
This simple scheme is offset beautifully by dark wooden flooring and a large, abstract oil painting by Nikky. Pronorm Vida high-gloss kitchen, £25,000, Cameron Interiors. London bar stool, £69.99 each, Bar Stools



SITTING AREA
Splashes of deep pink are tempered by slate greys and natural timber.
Melee lampshade, £80; Small Petal Ecstasy cushion, £27.50, both Nikky d'Aguilar Designs. For a similar sofa, £2,000, try Velvet Shades Interiors

Inspired by the countryside, Nikky d'Aguilar filled her family home with beautiful botanical prints and vibrant colours

When artist Nikky d'Aguilar and her husband, Jonathan, first saw this converted stable block overlooking a loch and surrounded by lush greenery, they were struck by its idyllic setting.

'We both wanted to live in the country and to work from home,' explains Nikky. 'I needed a studio and Jonathan needed an office, as we were launching our company, which prints my paintings onto fabric to make scarves, bags and home accessories.'

But with two teenage daughters, Molly, 19, and Ella, 17, the couple were concerned about living somewhere too remote. 'Fortunately, this property is a mere 20-minute car journey from Glasgow's West End,' says Nikky. 'Plus, it didn't need masses of work as it had already been beautifully converted in the 1970s by its former owner, who was an architect.' However, despite its sympathetic renovations, the 16th-century building was in need of modernisation. 'The layout simply didn't work for a family with teenage children,' explains Nikky. 'One bathroom served all three bedrooms, while one bedroom was accessed through another. Plus, the kitchen was a galley at the back of the house. Still, we knew it had enormous potential.'

Having moved from a traditional Victorian townhouse with large, symmetrical rooms, Nikky and Jonathan had to think very carefully about the changes needed to ensure their new home would work for them. 'We wanted to make the house more suitable for modern living,' says Nikky. 'But our main objective was to link the inside and outside areas. It was also essential that we retained the quirkiness of the original building,' she adds. With this in mind, the d'Aguilars





SITTING AREA
Keeping firewood in a built-in storage area near the hearth is practical and adds ambience.
The Double Rattan Armchair, £749, Lockstock & Barrel, is similar in style



DRAWING ROOM
Rich colours and luxurious furnishings lend an understated opulence.
The Browning sofa, from £2,499, Sofa Workshop; Castle Meadow acrylic eggshell paint, £49.50 for 2.5 litres, Fired Earth, will suit this space. For a similar antique rug, from £1,200, try RL Rose

extended the galley kitchen into an open-plan sitting area, therefore creating the bright, spacious 'inside-outside' living area they craved. They also replaced the old windows with an expansive wall of glass, which opened out onto the garden to fully maximise the wonderful natural light and spectacular views of the loch and beyond.

Upstairs, the rooms were reorganised to provide a master bedroom with a dressing room. 'We also added an en suite above the original part of the stable block, says Nikky. 'While at the other end of the house, we created a separate space for Molly and Ella, with a bedroom each (one en suite), a bathroom and a cosy den.' Back downstairs in the kitchen, Nikky chose simple, modern all-white cabinetry, keeping the focus on the amazing panorama outside. Meanwhile, in the oldest part of the house – the unusual hexagonal drawing room with its huge fireplace and seven windows – she chose a strong olive green hue for the walls, creating maximum impact and offsetting the couple's furniture and paintings beautifully. 'It creates a wonderful intimate atmposphere, especially at night,' she says.

Peppered throughout each room are pieces of Nikky's work. An oil painting inspired by spring snowdrops hangs in the dining room, while a dramatic seascape divides the kitchen from the sitting area. Every corner is enlivened by accessories featuring her colourful prints.

'As an artist, I've found this house and its exquisite setting a constant source of inspiration,' reflects Nikky. 'But living here works for the whole family. Our daughters love this house, and Jonathan and I enjoy working together from home. We have meetings over a cup of tea while looking out over our gorgeous garden. It's idyllic.'





ELLA'S BEDROOM
Vibrant pink walls add a pretty, modern vibe.
Hibiscus Pink emulsion paint, £16 for 1.25 litres, Habitat at Homebase



DRESSING ROOM.
The fitted cupboards were made by a local joiner.
INFO T/C...



MASTER BEDROOM
A large wallhanging from South Africa is an eye-catching focal point.
The Palais bed, £4,850, And So to Bed, is a comparable style to the one shown here. The Heathfield & Co Opera 3-ball table lamp, £460, Occa-Home is close match to Nikky's

FAVOURITE FEATURE *'What I love most about this house is the hexagonal drawing room. Although it has six sides, it has seven windows all looking out over a different view'*



BATHROOM
A beautiful antique oak kitchen dresser has been transformed into a double-sink unit with a marble top.
For a similar roll-top bath, from £299, try Victoria Plumb

INSIGHT

Creating a contemporary extension



If you aim to blend a new building with old, as the d'Aguilars did, consider these points first

A striking minimalist glass box unites two wings of the d'Aguilar's 16th century home, formerly a stable, making a bold architectural statement in the process. Blending old and new in this way has a mutually rejuvenating effect, but to make it work, you'll need to carefully consider scale, proportion and material.

PRACTICALITIES

If you're thinking of extending a period home, there are several options available, including building an addition that uses similar materials to the existing property. But executed properly, a pared-back modern extension can add real wow factor. Using plenty of glass to create a box shape has the advantage of being visually lightweight, so that the extension complements the period building rather than being in competition with it. A modern look such as the d'Aguilar's suggests that a home has evolved organically over time. An extension like this serves as a great linking device between two properties, or wings. But it can look just as good to the rear of a smaller period terrace, providing its scale is kept in check – additions like this are great for extending existing layouts, such as kitchen and dining rooms.

ON THE RISE

Check whether you'll need to apply for planning permission, bearing in mind that some extensions can be built under Permitted Development, including those that do not cover more than 50% of the original garden area and as long as your property is not listed or part of a conservation area. Two-storey extensions will always require permission. A rule of thumb is that a well-designed modern extension will often be preferred to a pastiche design. Consider too that English Heritage will also need to be consulted alongside the local planning authority when proposing alterations or extensions to Grade I or Grade II* properties. It often favours modern extensions that appear as separate elements to the existing house.

EXPERT EYE

'There's a current trend towards blurring the boundary between inside and out. Large sliding glazing and continuous flooring from interior to exterior helps create this clean look'

MAX BABBÉ, DIRECTOR, SOUP

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE...



- **'A modern extension works well if it complements the character of the adjacent original house. The most successful additions encourage this dialogue between old and new.**
- Think carefully about how you would like to use the new space from the outset. Be prepared to develop the brief with an architect to iron out all the relevant issues, ensuring that the space is being used to its best potential. A good brief is everything.
- **It's often productive to put traditional and contemporary materials together, if the surroundings support this. Context is an important consideration when selecting materials – what works well in one location may not work in others.'**

SHAHRIAR NASSER, DIRECTOR, BELSIZE ARCHITECTS

ADDRESS BOOK

- **ROYAL TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE**
020 7929 9494, rtpi.org.uk.
The Planning Aid advice line offers up to 15 minutes of free planning advice to callers.
- **ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS**
020 7580 5533, architecture.com
The UK's professional body, offering extensive information to homeowners and self-builders.
- **BELSIZE ARCHITECTS**
020 7482 4420, belsizearchitects.com.
Award-winning architectural practice, specialising in modern extensions.

FEATURE EMMA J PAGE

SITTING ROOM
Originally a dining room, the classic, cream room looks vibrant with sophisticated black detailing.
Saltire wooden side table, £199, Oka. Buttress six-arm black chandelier, £195; Claridges table lamp, £199, both The French Bedroom Company, are a good match

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Edwardian villa
LOCATION North London
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, study, six bedrooms, two bathrooms
PURCHASED 2012
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We lived in a house in the South of France for six years before moving here in 2011,' says Lisa.

A BOLD APPROACH

The prospect of converting three flats back into an elegant family home held no fear for Lisa Thornton-Allan

FEATURE RUTH CORBETT | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RACHAEL SMITH

INSPIRATION 'I'm a chandelier freak so there's one in every room. We've picked





1 HALL
Lisa researched specialist suppliers to find appropriate glazed tiles to frame the original fireplace.
Similar Italian glass chandelier, £395, Graham and Green. Blue replica tiles, £4.62 per tile, Victorian Ceramics. Framed black-and-white photograph by Paul Thornton-Allan

2 DINING ROOM
Repositioned at the back of the house, the dining room is filled with light and the chandelier makes a stunning focal point.
Metropolis extendable dining table, £6,480, Justin Van Breda. Flynn Scoop Back chairs, £129, Made



Lisa Thornton-Allan, her husband Paul and their three children, Josh, 20, Joseph, 18, and Louis, 15, had lived in the South of France for six years before returning to Britain and settling in a leafy north London enclave. Lisa, an interior designer, felt that the city would be the perfect place to grow her client base, as well as being a great environment for her teenage boys to continue their education. 'We loved that the area was very family friendly and the fact that there's so much open space nearby,' she explains. 'There's a real feeling of community about the area and it's been exciting to become a part of it.'

The Edwardian villa was the first house the couple looked at when they arrived. It had been converted into three flats and needed a lot of work to turn it back into a family home. 'Having just completed a major renovation project in France, we weren't keen to take on another one, especially as it was slightly

them up from our travels, and they act as reminders of the different trips we've enjoyed'



above our budget, so we continued to look at other properties,' says Lisa. 'But this place was always at the back of our mind.' Eventually, Lisa and Paul decided to buy the place, after which they spent an uncomfortable 18 months living with the builders while they transformed the property into an elegant home.

The couple loved the large rooms and high ceilings and knew that there was plenty of scope for improvement. Various staircases led to different flats and to a main downstairs kitchen that was too small for the scale of the space. Without an obvious solution to the kitchen design, Lisa decided to start off at the top and work her way down, focusing on bedrooms and bathrooms first. 'By the time we'd got halfway down the house, I'd come up with a plan,' she explains.

In her professional life Lisa spends a lot of time thinking about kitchens. She often collaborates with designer Charlie Smallbone, creating bespoke kitchens for many of her clients' homes, so it's not surprising that she wanted her own to be

3 **KITCHEN**
Polished parquet flooring and bespoke furniture create a sophisticated look.
Bespoke Lateral kitchen, £65,000, Rock & Bone. Built-in Wolf single electric oven, £4,600, John Lewis. Velvet-covered Albert bar stools, £770 each, The Sofa & Chair Company. Walls painted in Cornforth White estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

DESIGN TIP 'Black adds a feeling of elegance. People tend to shy away from it, but





1 **MASTER BATHROOM**
Lisa found an old console table in a French brocante, topped it with marble and fitted it with a basin to create an elegant vanity unit.
Roman Blind made in Francesco Jacquard fabric, £102m, Colefax and Fowler

2 **MASTER BEDROOM**
Two rooms were knocked into one to create a sumptuous bedroom suite.
Walls painted in Basswood matt emulsion, £34 for 2.5 litres, Fired Earth. Huxley table lamp, £350, Andrew Martin is similar. Bespoke headboard by Thornton-Allan Interiors

truly special. 'I realised that the sitting room at the back of the house would make a perfect kitchen. So after taking out the chimney breast minimise its size, we installed double doors from the entrance hall, and French windows and a Juliet balcony at the far end, which gives the impression that you could walk out into the garden,' says Lisa.

Everything in this elegant and highly practical kitchen has been meticulously planned. 'I spent a lot of time with Charlie discussing the ergonomics and the special idiosyncrasies that make a kitchen a personal space. He takes a very holistic approach, focusing on whether you're a serious cook, or you like to entertain – basically whatever works best for you and your cooking style.'

To this end, the positioning and finish to every cupboard, drawer and surface has been mulled over endlessly to ensure the best results. 'I wanted a slightly 1920s vibe, so we added glass shelves and a mottled antique mirror to reflect that,' says Lisa. On the practical

you can paint entire rooms in black as long as there's enough light coming in'



3



4

side, Paul also had invaluable input, coming up with the idea of a coffered ceiling to hide all the electrics as well as the extractor. 'It's nice not to have a bulky extractor hanging over the island, and the cost was minimal,' says Lisa. 'The planning officer was so impressed, he said he was going to pinch the idea for other projects!'

Lisa believes that a good sense of flow is an essential aspect of designing a home. This is particularly evident on the ground floor, where the kitchen, hall, dining and living rooms have all been cleverly repositioned. 'We wanted the sitting room to be elegant but comfortable,' she says. 'As our children are now older, we felt confident that we could go cream.'

Light and relaxing throughout, with dark wood floors and a classic scheme that nods to the style of the 1920s Gatsby era, the interior has a contemporary look with safari-print accessories, modern lighting and black detailing. The finished result is a home that's a fitting testament to the many hours of love and attention that Lisa Thornton-Allen has lavished on it.

3 BATHROOM
Cream metro wall tiles and minimal fittings lend a cool, sleek Art-Deco look.
Fired Earth sells similar Retro Metro tiles, £75sq m. Radial stainless steel corner cabinet, £99, Victoria Plumb, is comparable

4 JOSEPH'S BEDROOM
Lisa chose a masculine, gentleman's club feel.
Ralph Lauren Home Club Stripe charcoal Oxford pillowcases, £55 per pair, Amara. Ralph Lauren Home Spalding Stripe in black and white, £47 per roll, Wallpaper Direct. For a similar cowhide rug, try City Cows, £299

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 147**

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recycle



ROOM ENVY

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

Do you love nothing more than a long soak in the tub after a hard day at work? Then you're more likely to lie back and drift off into a bubbly state of bliss if your bathroom is as inviting as this one. Spacious and flooded with natural light, the simple yet sophisticated scheme blends classic and contemporary influences beautifully. The elegant clawfoot roll-top bath is the star of the show, with the industrial-style lettering above – reminding you to wash as well as wallow – adding a playful touch. Metro wall tiles in mint green create a fresh, soothing feel and give a nod to the cool, retro vibe that shows no sign of abating, while a traditional-style cast-iron radiator adds old-school charm. The large, freestanding wooden chest of drawers is a chic alternative to basic bathroom cabinets and provides ample storage for towels and toiletries. Modern with a classic twist, this smart space definitely gets our vote.

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