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October 2014

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A sophisticated colour palette and eclectic accessories create a unique style (see page 35).









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WELCOME

AMONG THE INSPIRING HOMES WE'RE SHOWCASING IN THIS MONTH'S MAGAZINE IS a property that was stripped back to its structure in the 1980s by a previous owner (page 27). How interesting it must have been to step through the front door on the day of the viewing. It is architecturally fascinating and looks nothing like the Victorian terraced house that it started life as. On page 144 we have shown the recent transformation of a chapel that has also been a village hall. It's completely different in style to the home I previously mentioned, but it's a building that has been on just as much of a journey to become the home it is today. We've shown all types of converted buildings, which I think adds to the rich tapestry of our towns and villages. I've always wanted to get inside the factory at the other end of our village to see how close the developer got to the urban concept of warehouse living in the countryside. Whatever the style of building and the changes that have been wrought, ultimately our homes come from the heart.

Deborah

DEBORAH BARKER, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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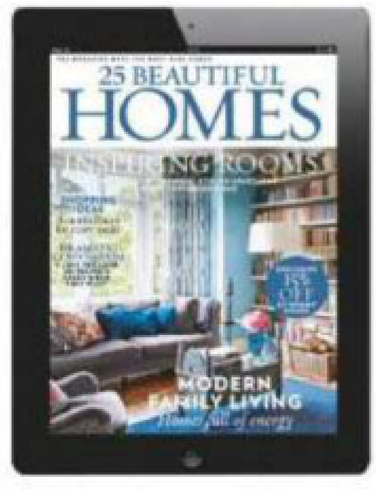
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COMING NEXT MONTH – ON SALE 2 OCTOBER



TO THE MANOR BORN
Classic colour schemes give this grand property an elegant, timeless feel



BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL
A pale palette makes the most of this house's abundant natural light



SHADES OF GREY
This home has been decorated in soothing tones that tie in with its waterfront location

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TRENDS | WHAT'S NEW | MUST-HAVE BUYS


1


2


3


4


5


6


7


8


9

PURPLE HAZE

Fill your home with opulent berry shades and deep plum hues for a warm, cosy vibe

1 ALL PLAID OUT
Arran crimond heather tartan floor lamp, £375, Alexander & Pearl
2 SIMPLE FORM
Carafe jug, £39, Toast
3 BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS
Peony flowers autumn bouquet of faux flowers, £42.50, QVC
4 DRINK UP
Handmade diamond decanter in Purple, £65, Jasmine Way
5 CLEARLY PRETTY
RHS Heather flower pot holder, £29, Dartington Crystal
6 EASY LIVING
Darcey sofa, £1,295, arloandjacob.com
7 COLOUR PURPLE
Metallic Purple 4-slice toaster, £34.99, Russell Hobbs
8 SOFT AND SUBTLE
Oran cushion in baby alpaca wool, £49, Urbanara
9 SNUGGLE UP
Floral cotton quilted throw, £45, Next

COMPILED BY ERICA MILLER



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

WOODLAND STYLE

Celebrate the season with rich, autumnal colours and striking nature-inspired motifs

1 ON THE WING
Owl lamp base, £155, Graham & Green
2 NATURE CALLS
Forest cushion, £9.99, Homebase
3 HOOKED ON A LOOK
Calligaris Memorabilia coat stand in wenge wood, £305, Lime Modern Living
4 HOLDING FIRM
Pinus bookends, £34, Oka
5 GOLDEN GARLAND
Gisela Graham faux-oak leaf wreath, £30, The Contemporary Home
6 CREATURE COMFORTS
Orwell & Good Owl pouffe, £100, Amara
7 FURRY FRIEND
Fable floral fox doorstop, £12, Wilko
8 SITTING PRETTY
Anni loveseat in Aquarelle fabric, £578, Harveys
9 WILD WOOD
Cow Parsley etched wooden placemats, £8.50 for two, Denby

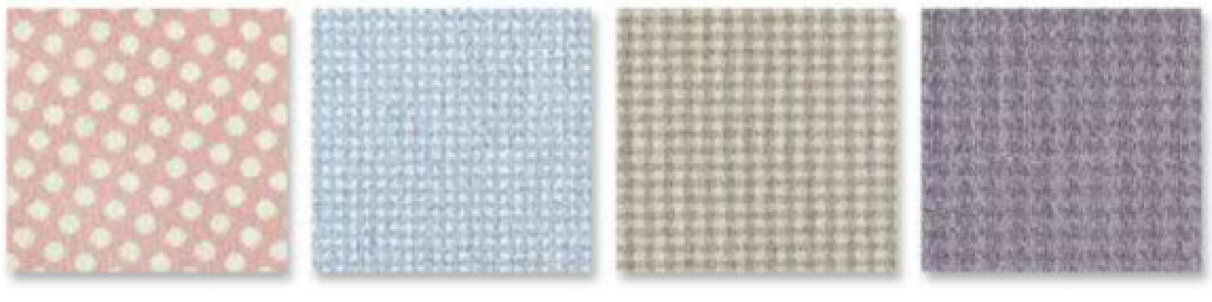
FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**

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Q&A

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



CHARCOAL BOTANICAL FABRIC

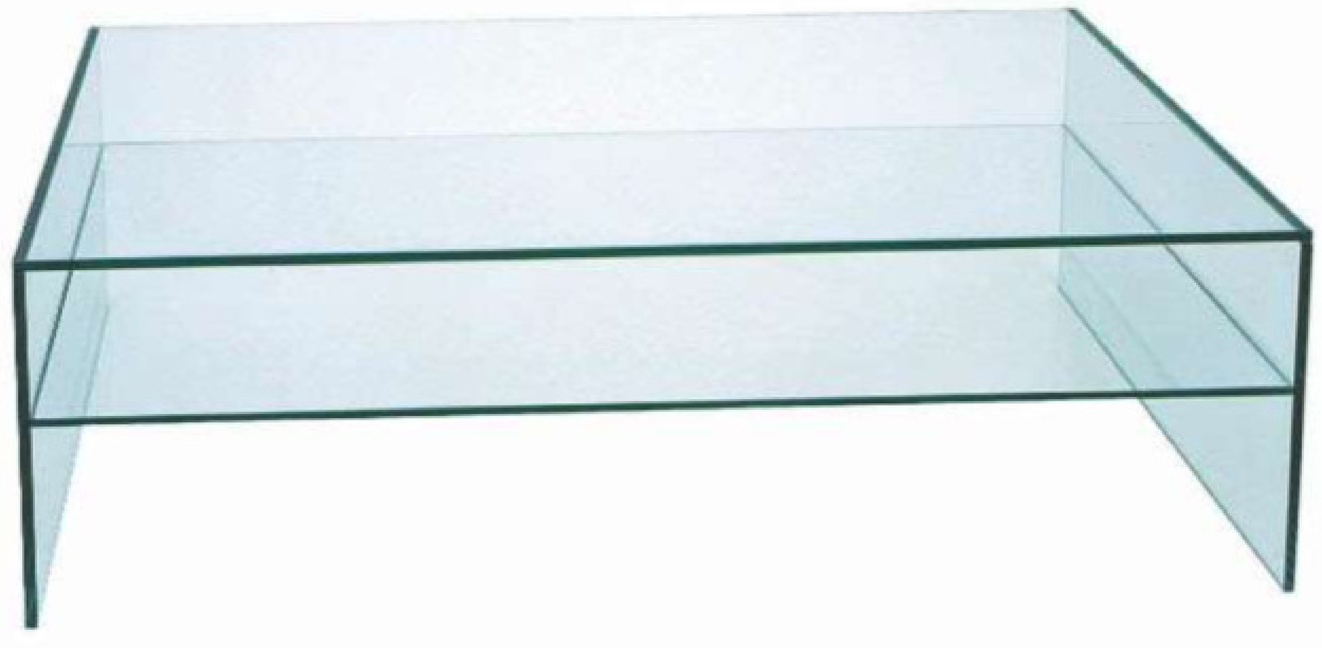
I've fallen in love with the blind fabric in Pauline Bingham's bathroom (p90, August 2014), and would like to use it for the blinds in my kitchen. Do you know who makes this design, or can you suggest something like it?
CAMILLA YATES, LONDON

A monochrome palette brings a chic, minimal edge to a classic floral print. Pauline's blind was made from a remnant of fabric that has now been discontinued, but for another print with a simple, evenly spaced design, this time featuring delicate fern leaves, I'd suggest Angel Ferns 221926, glazed cotton chintz, £29m, Sanderson Home (0844 543 9500, sanderson-uk.com). Alternatively, Cabbages & Roses (020 7352 7333, cabbagesandroses.com) has a few equally striking monochrome designs including the elegant Natural Hatley Black and the more blousy Paris Rose Black, shown right. Both are linen and cost £48m.

GLASS COFFEE TABLE

We've been searching high and low for a glass coffee table like the one in Diana and Peter Williams' home (p60, June 2014), and this is definitely the one! Can you tell us where they found it?
PAUL HARTEN, BY EMAIL

I get a lot of queries about glass coffee tables – I'm sure it is the transparency that appeals, as it means the piece doesn't appear bulky. The table you spotted is the 59980B rectangular coffee table, shown below, from Greenapple (01727 872525, greenapple.co.uk). It features a shelf, perfect for displaying magazines or coffee table tomes, measures H40cm x W120cm x D70cm, and costs around £699. Another contemporary glass design that would be worth a look is the Gem coffee table by Matthew Hilton for Habitat (0344 499 1111, habitat.co.uk), which features an interior shelf and two compartments that can be used for storage or display. It measures H35 x W83 x D56.7cm, £500.



CURVED FLOOR LAMP



Where can I find a floor lamp like the one in Karon and Mark Foxwell's home (p35, October 2013)?
MARGARET THORNTON, BY EMAIL

Karon told us that the lamps were prototypes purchased in Brussels more than 20 years ago, and tracking down a similar design has proved quite a challenge! For a curved wooden lamp base, have a look at The Hills design, by Mark Lindsell at Radwinter Wood (07796 398805, radwinterwood.com). Mark handcrafts the lamp from a solid block of oak on his family farm in East Anglia; the timber is placed in a steam chamber, then bent around a tractor wheel and left to set into a sweeping curve. The lamp measures around H188 x W91cm, £1,500 (lampshade not supplied). The Antigua drum tiered lampshade pictured, H28 x Dia45cm, costs £195 from A Rum Fellow (020 8245 6779, arumfellow.com).

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BLACK AND WHITE CHEVRON RUG

My 12-year-old son's bedroom is being redecorated in black and white, and I'd like to find a chevron-patterned flat-weave rug that will fit the new scheme. Do you have any suggestions?
CAROL WALKER, BRIGHTON

I love the graphic quality of a chevron pattern,and it's a great choice for enlivening a black and white scheme. Urban Outfitters (urbanoutfitters.com) sells a simple design at a very reasonable £69, W152 x L213cm. For a variety of sizes, try the Zigzag flat weave in a wool/cotton mix, shown far right, from West Elm (0800 404 9780, westelm.co.uk). It comes in three rug sizes and one runner size, from £109 for the smallest, W91 x L152cm. For an even bolder design, have a look at the Bridget flat-weave kilim in New Zealand wool, shown right, from Jonathan Adler (020 7589 9563, uk.jonathanadler.com). It comes in two sizes, from £599 for the W152 x L244cm version.





DARK PARQUET FLOORING

Do you know where I can source dark parquet wood herringbone flooring at a reasonable price? I have seen some costing £220sq m but wanted to know if there are any less expensive options?
FAYE WATTS, LONDON

I can certainly find herringbone flooring at a lower price, but remember installation costs for parquet are higher than for boards – expect to pay £50-£60sq m on top of the price of your timber. The Natural Wood Floor Co (020 8871 9771, naturalwoodfloor.co.uk) sells two types of engineered wood parquet in a dark hue: its oak baked parquet costs £57.50sq m, while walnut parquet costs from £57.99sq m. Alternatively, Junckers (01376 534700, junckers.co.uk) has a new solid hardwood, wide-board parquet floor that is pre-finished, so fitting costs will be lower. Have a look at its Whalebone Staves in black oak, shown above, £100sq m. For more affordable parquet, consider a reclaimed option, which offers lots of character but more work in terms of installation, as the blocks must be cleaned before fitting. Lassco (020 7394 8061, lassco.co.uk) has reclaimed parquet from as little as £20sq m for an end-of-run batch of, say, oak, pine or panga panga wood blocks – ideal if you only have a small surface to cover – or £35sq m for larger quantities. The company will be able to recommend which timbers can be stained to a dark finish and can put you in touch with fitters. For installation outside London, expect to pay between £60 and £80sq m; in London, £80 to £100sq m.

DECORATIVE SCISSORS

I would dearly love to find a large pair of scissors like the ones hanging on the wall in David Money's sitting room (p59, February 2014). They would make the perfect gift for my wonderful upholsterer.
KAY CLEARY, BY EMAIL

The homeowner bought his vintage scissors at the Lots Road Auctions (lotsroad.com), but I have found a new version that would make a wonderfully cutting-edge (sorry!) wall display. This giant scissors wallhanging is handmade from aluminium with moveable blades. It measures H76 x W30 x D2cm and costs £45 from Vintage Vibe (01622 629029, vintagevibe.co.uk). The company also sells the oversized aluminium cup and saucer pictured here, £42, and the fork and spoon, £80 for the set.



GET IN TOUCH

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Deborah

DEBORAH BARKER, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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STUDY
The room is an eclectic mix of modern and antique styles. Chesterfield Edwardian sofa, £454, Designer Sofas 4 U. Precious coffee table, £1,320, Roche Bobois. Teal Paintbox rug, £900, Bluebellgray

DIGGING DEEP

Conor O'Riain and Roisin Lafferty excavated their basement, rearranging the footprint of their home and creating a unique tiered garden in the process

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





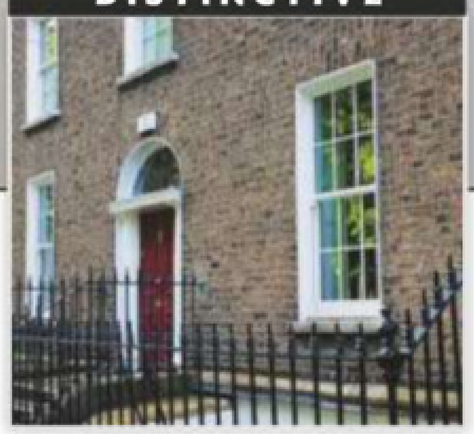


SITTING ROOM

The coffee table was a bench that used to sit around a tree. Roisin had a piece of glass cut to fit the top of it.

Cream sofas, from a selection at Natuzzi. For a comparable crystal chandelier, try the Starlight, from £131, Lights4Living.com. Curtain in Zeal fabric, £60m, Harlequin. Etsy has a selection of oriental-style cushions from £15. Dot painting, price on application, Kingston Lafferty Design

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Georgian terrace
LOCATION Dublin
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen/dining/living room, study, cloakroom, two bedrooms, walk-in wardrobe, shower room
PURCHASED 1994
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We were living in a flat not too far from here,' says Conor.

When Roisin Lafferty and her partner Conor O'Riain were given the opportunity to extend and restore Conor's family home, they were keen to do something different. But, as it was listed, they had to come up with innovative ideas to turn their visualisations into a reality. Luckily, as co-associate of a design practice, Roisin was the perfect person for the job.

Situated in one of Dublin's historic Georgian squares, the house was in a serious state of disrepair and had been rented out for more than 15 years. 'It was dated and damp and the garden was overgrown,' explains Roisin. 'The whole place needed to be rewired, replumbed and replastered. As well as installing a new kitchen and bathroom, we also wanted extra living space, which meant excavating the garden and basement.'

First, the pair had to adhere to strict planning conditions that delayed the onset of building works, meaning the process took three years. 'The issues were down to respecting the fabric of the building and choosing materials and design styles to complement the structure,' says Roisin.

One of the first major tasks the couple carried out was to build a new conservatory-style extension that allows plenty of light to flood into the

KITCHEN/DINING/LIVING ROOM
The stained glass panels add visual interest and prevent the all-white cabinetry from looking too stark.
Bespoke kitchen, £8,000, supplied by Mooney Kitchens. Glass-fronted cabinets, Kingston Lafferty Design, price on application, painted in James satin emulsion, £35 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. Silestone countertop, £5,600, Miller Brothers. Tolix steel stools, £206 each, Made In Design. For similar lights, try Vintage Holophane glass pendant, £72, Willie Duggan Lighting





DINING AREA
The conservatory-style extension makes the space lovely and bright.
Bramante dining table, £499, Made.com. New York leather chairs, £244 each, Calligaris



DESIGN TIP *'Mix the old with the new to prevent a look from dating. Pairing classic pieces with contemporary products and materials creates a unique space'*

MASTER BEDROOM
A feature wall and a large, ornate mirror add an elegant touch to this room.
The Bridgewater mirror, £975, The Chandelier & Mirror Company, is a good match. Artists Collection wallpaper by Casamance, £44 per roll, Stillorgan Decor. The Carbonne Ivory Chandelier, price on application, Vaughan, is a comparable design

DESIGN TIP *'Paint both old and new items to give them a whole new lease of life. The table in the garden was made using a salvaged door and combined with Ikea trestle legs'*



LIVING AREA
The staircase came from a salvage yard and was painted petrol blue.
Visit the Stained Glass Centre for a range of colourful panels



BATHROOM
Delicate blue pattern tiles are a charming addition to this neutral scheme.
Achieve the look with Florentina Lace tiles, £299sq m, Mandarin Stone. The Reggio basin, £79, clickbasin.co.uk, is a close match



GUEST BEDROOM
Add interest with different picture and mirror sizes.
Metal bedside light, £200, Industry Design. Sanela grey cushion cover, £8, Ikea. Birds on a Wire cushion, £31, Delve, is like this one

GARDEN
Roisin has created visual interest by adding tiers. Tractor seat stools, £65 each, Deckclad Architectural Salvage. Pick up a comparable seat for £99 at Melody Maison. Find similar flooring with Toulouse tiles, £191sq m, Fired Earth

revamped basement. 'It now incorporates a very large kitchen, dining and living area,' says Roisin. 'It also provides a really strong link with the garden, which is tiered to create level access from the extension. We wanted to maximise the garden's potential and produce a multi-level space that is visually exciting with an easy flow.' A focal point is the spiral staircase that leads to the basement from the ground floor.

Once the structural elements were complete, the couple focused on the interiors, and their creative flair is evident in every room. 'We sourced high-quality fixtures and fittings, including contemporary light fittings that we paired with elegant antique French chandeliers, to ensure no room looks the same,' explains Roisin. 'We also combined antique and modern furniture to keep things interesting.'

The chosen decor is subtle, with colour cleverly incorporated through patterned tiles and colourful stained glass panels in the kitchen. 'Everything is relatively neutral, and I also opted for a pale green in the study, which I thought suited the period of the house,' says Roisin.

Those three years of upheaval have paid off. 'It was great to utilise my skills on a large project, and now we can sit in the new extension and look out over the garden knowing it was worthwhile,' she concludes.

FOR STOCKISTS DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**

UP TO

HALF PRICE SALE

Vieux range. New this Summer from Harveys.
Seen with the Vieux sideboard.
harveysfurniture.co.uk

Harveys
the furniture store

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Behind the late-Victorian façade of James Anstead's terraced house is an extraordinary stripped-back interior filled with drama

FEATURE CAROLINE FOSTER | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DAVID PARMITER

DINING AREA
A tree growing inside is arguably the house's most striking feature, while quarry tile flooring extends from the kitchen into the garden to blur the two spaces even further. Quarry red floor tiles, £44.86sq m, Fired Earth, have this look. Franklin bar stools, £23 each; try Termosfar track lighting, £60, both Ikea

UNIQUE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Terraced house, built in the 1850s
LOCATION North London
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, study, cellar, five bedrooms (three en suite)
PURCHASED 2010
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'I lived in a mews cottage nearby, but wanted a house with an interesting interior,' says James.

SITTING ROOM

Exposed pipes, brickwork and up-and-over doors lend an urban feel. 'I chose furniture that would add warmth without competing with the strong interior,' says James.
Waltzer swivel love seat, from £745; try Wren five-light metal floor lamp, £350, both Heal's. Hilton armchairs, £899 each, Multiyork

DESIGN TIP *'Nature softens industrial-style interiors, so bring your garden indoors. Shabby-chic and vintage pieces also work well'*



STUDY
'This feels like a tree house for grown-ups,' says James. Shutterly Fabulous sells shutters, from £290sq m



KITCHEN
Wire shelves are in keeping with the warehouse-style interior. Vogue wall shelf, £50.38, Nisbets, is comparable



BATHROOM
A square-shaped washbasin brings a masculine edge. For similar sanitaryware try Bathstore.com





STAIRCASE
Brick walls make an ideal backdrop for James's collection of vintage posters. Air France poster, around £500, Chisholm Gallery

A traumatic event prompted James Anstead to move from his mews home in north London. 'I was happy in my home until I was burgled, which left me feeling unsafe in the area,' recalls James. 'So I set out to find a new home closer to my work.' Knowing exactly what he wanted, he went in search of the Holy Grail of properties: a townhouse with a unique interior.

'To find a house in this area is unusual, as it's dominated by flats and if a property remains intact, the interior can be bland,' says James. 'But as I pulled up outside this place, I was struck by how handsome it was and how it stood out from the others in the street – you could tell someone had invested considerable time and money in it.'

Walking through the front door for the first time is a moment James will never forget. 'I was completely unprepared for the impact of the interior and all I could do was gasp,' he says. 'To describe the house as "stripped back" would be an understatement. The sheer scale of the rooms was unbelievable. I knew it was the place for me.'

The radical conversion had been the work of previous owner Brian Muller, who wanted to create an interior with a cinematic quality in the 1980s. 'I discovered Muller trained in architecture, but was also an experimental film-maker, which explains the raised stage in my sitting room,' says James. 'Actor Stephen Fry has also owned this house, so it's obviously a home with dramatic appeal.' Stripped back to the structural fabric of brick, joists and lath, the property has had vast areas of floor and wall cut away to let light through. 'It might look ruthless to the untrained eye, but the result is spacious, bright and livable,' says James. 'I particularly love the glazed up-and-over doors on a pulley system – they certainly give your arms a workout.'

If the interior is unexpected, then the appearance of a mature tree growing in the kitchen and towering through two floors above is surreal. 'I love the look on people's faces when they visit for the first time,' says James. 'My home office is above the kitchen, and the original timber floorboards wrap around the branches. It's magical.'

With such an unusual interior, James gave careful consideration to the decor. 'The house has a strong personality, so I kept the interior minimal, favouring vintage-style furniture,' he says. 'It largely features warm neutrals and natural wood with splashes of colour in the form of vibrant French poster art. The brick walls are very gallery-like in appearance and the perfect place to hang my collection.'

Living in a one-off home has left a great impression on James, who has been inspired to undertake his own renovation project in future. 'I've nothing but the greatest respect for what the architect achieved here, and it was largely the reason I didn't want to make any drastic changes,' he says. 'It would be lovely to have a go at converting an old property myself one day, but I doubt I could ever top this.'

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**

GUEST BEDROOM

Chunky wooden furniture blends seamlessly with the exposed ceiling joists and laths.

Bentwood ash double bed, from £295, Muji. Ikea's Hedblomster cushion, £15, is a good alternative to this one

INSIGHT

Period features and industrial design



Wowed by James Anstead's extraordinary home? Stripping a house back to its bare bones can achieve striking results

James Anstead's Victorian terrace boasts exposed beams, joists and original lath-and-plaster walls combined with industrial-style fittings, large windows and an element of nature to create a unique property that retains its integrity.

BACK TO BASICS

Stripping a building back to its basic elements can be an effective way of bringing character and individuality to your home's interior. Whereas exposed brick and blockwork is not uncommon in modern new-builds, such an aesthetic is the exception rather than the rule when renovating older properties. But when done successfully, the results can be outstanding, as good brickwork and timber have inherent qualities that immediately bring additional interest to any space. Bear in mind, though, that this is a relatively extreme approach and it's vital to balance what is being lost against what effect may be gained. For instance, an older property may have particularly fine period features that deserve preservation. And if your home is listed, seek appropriate advice before proceeding. Exposing original timber floors, plaster and old beams can really improve a home, particularly when paired with industrial fittings.

WARM IT UP

In a renovation like this, do consider what should and shouldn't be exposed. Plasterwork is usually used not only to provide a smooth finish to walls but also to conceal pipes and cables, so unless you're opting for an extreme aesthetic, these will need to be hidden. Take advice from a local architect about how to achieve the stripped-back look without ruining the effect with unsightly or badly positioned services. And only embark on this approach if the materials underneath are worth exposing. Poor quality timbers or brickwork won't look striking, so attempt a small sample area first. Getting rid of painted walls and ceilings can often make rooms darker, so consult an architect on how to sustain good lighting levels. Balance an exposed space with plenty of glass to allow daylight to flood in, and soften simple industrial fittings with tactile furnishings for added comfort and a cosy feel.

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE...



- **As well as taking an architect's advice, do work with a reputable contractor. Stripping back will almost certainly involve some repairs to exposed walls or timbers, and these will need to be done well and sensitively.**
- Some elements might need to be replaced altogether. For example, you may choose to replace an old steel or timber beam. In this case, you will need a good builder and, just as likely, advice from a qualified structural engineer. Some exposed surfaces such as lath-and-plaster walls are much more delicate than others, so particular care needs to be taken when exposing elements such as these.
- **Beware asbestos, which can be present in some surfaces such as textured ceilings. You should always seek specialist advice before dealing with this kind of material.**
- Industrial-style features such as metal staircases can work incredibly well in stripped-back spaces. The robustness and simplicity of their materials and structure will complement the honesty and legibility of exposed surfaces.
- **Industrial fixtures and fittings such as lighting, radiators or functional worksurfaces will also produce visually interesting and powerful effects.**
- Think carefully about how you can use interior design to soften the space, for example, textiles that contrast successfully with the ruggedness of stripped-back surfaces will add much-needed warmth.

ROBIN BERTRAM, ASSOCIATE, HUDSON ARCHITECTS

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FEATURE EMMA J PAGE

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DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Three-storey Edwardian house
LOCATION
Southeast London
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, snug, kitchen-diner, library, study, utility, garden room, two bedrooms, two bathrooms
PURCHASED 1991
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'Before moving here we lived in a flat just off London's Old Kent Road,' says Egon.

ADDED ATTRACTION

Replacing an old lean-to with an extension gave Egon Walesch and Richard Goodwin's home a whole new lease of life

FEATURE NATALIE FLAUM | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ALISON HAMMOND

DINING AREA

'Bold floral arrangements can bring nature into a room,' says Egon. Contact Egon Walesch for interior and floral designs, egondesign.co.uk. Birds 'N' Bees wallpaper in Ochre, £300 per roll, Timorous Beasties. Cyclone dining table by Isamu Noguchi for Knoll, £569, Interior Addict. Harco Loor Big Bubbles pendant, from £960, Darklight Design, would work well here

UPSTAIRS SITTING ROOM

Treasured objects and stylish pieces come together to create a unique, eye-catching style.

Grand sofa by Nick Munro, £2,900, John Lewis. Santa & Cole Tripode G5 floor lamp with Natural shade, £393, Paper Rooms. Love cushion, £125, Fine Cell Work

DESIGN TIP

'Using colour to anchor a room really helps to bring eclectic furniture together, creating a cohesive look'

SNUG

Modern furniture and accessories update the original fireplace and old-fashioned radiator.

Wave sideboard in oak, £1,745; Matador armchair, £1,025 both Content by Conran



GARDEN ROOM
The angles of the roof in the new extension continue the lines of the original roof, with skylights filtering light into the space.
Designed by Sasaworks



KITCHEN
The couple sourced the haberdashery counter on eBay and had it adjusted to fit by a local cabinetmaker.
Magnet units painted in Farrow & Ball's Hague Blue estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres. Try Alexander & Pearl for a similar French antique chandelier



LIBRARY
Accents of blue give this quiet space a suitably soothing feel.
Walls painted in Farrow & Ball's Stone Blue estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres. Ercol Treviso desk by Matthew Hilton, £999, John Lewis

About 20 years ago, Egon Walesch, an interior and floral designer, and his partner Richard Goodwin went in search of a spacious property in the capital. 'We looked all over London for the right place, and finally, we found it – right where I worked in south London,' recalls Egon. When the couple went to view the house, they were instantly struck by how large and bright it was. 'The style was shabby but it had so much potential,' says Egon.

Egon and Richard went ahead and bought the three-storey terrace house, but experienced a somewhat chaotic moving day. 'The previous owners hadn't quite got their act together in time,' says Egon. 'When we got there, the old lean-to was still filled with dozens of old bicycles that spilt out into the garden, in fact, they weren't picked up until a few weeks after moving in.'

This lean-to was to become the focal point of the couple's biggest undertaking in terms of renovating the house – once they had submitted planning permission to demolish it and build an impressive extension in its place. The aim was to create a garden room that suited the style of the period property but would also add something new. 'We wanted to celebrate the building's original features but in a modern, novel way,' explains Egon.

The couple also had big plans for the garden. 'When it came to redesigning and landscaping the outside space, I used quite a few established plants, such as the lollipop bay trees,' says Egon. 'I also changed the shape of the lawn from a traditional rectangle to oval for added interest, and bespoke cedar fencing ensures privacy and forms a handsome backdrop for our plants,' he adds.

For the actual build, Egon and Richard hired a company they felt they could trust. 'The guys at Sasaworks were great at listening to our ideas,' recalls Egon. 'We spent many an enjoyable

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DESIGN TIP *'Contemporary art exhibitions are brilliant for colour combination ideas.'*

GARDEN ROOM
This bright, airy spot is perfect all-year-round thanks to cosy seating and a relaxing decor. Walls painted in Farrow & Ball's Lamp Room Grey estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres. Floor tiles, €72sq m, Mosaic del Sur

MASTER BEDROOM
Atmospheric nature-inspired wallpaper and dark grey tones are punctuated with bright pink accessories.
Woods wallpaper by Cole & Son, £70 per roll. Walls painted in Downpipe estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



BATHROOM
A trio of decorative plates by Gene Meyer inject a dose of colour.
'The traditional wooden ceiling clothes airer is very handy,' says Egon. For similar, try The Popular, from £39, Clothesmaid

coffee morning planning the project with them, and we really felt like our input was being fully taken on board.'

With the project complete, the open-plan kitchen-diner is a successful mix of modern, classic and vintage furnishings paired with a muted grey palette, bespoke open shelves and colourful contemporary artwork. The useful haberdashery cabinet was an eBay find and tailored to fit by a local cabinetmaker. 'It's great for storing linen, crockery and cutlery, and the toughened glass provides a practical worktop,' says Egon. 'What I love about the kitchen is that it's a superb sociable space, especially in the summer when the doors are flung open and guests can mill around and spill out into the garden.'

Thanks to Richard's talent in upholstery, the couple have upcycled interesting quirky furniture found in auctions and online. 'We work as a team, discussing colour options or design ideas,' says Egon. 'I'm inspired by nature, art and design and enjoy visiting historic buildings like Eltham Palace. Years ago, before the Millennium Village was built in Greenwich, we salvaged driftwood from the Thames and left it in the garden to dry out. It's now a decorative mantelpiece over the fireplace in the library. On a chilly autumn day, there's nothing better than to light a fire and snuggle up with a good book in there.'

The overall look has a timeless quality that will last for many more years to come, and any new additions will most certainly be of a quirky nature. 'We love creating interesting dynamics, mixing new contemporary styles with the traditional features of the house,' says Egon. 'Our house is full of history and has experienced many changes over the years, so we feel extremely proud that we've created a wonderfully unique home while celebrating the house's original charm and character.'

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**

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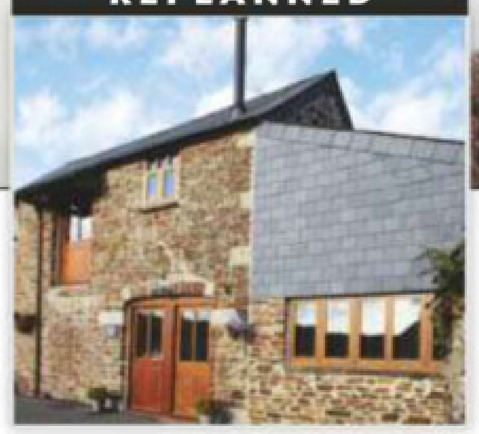
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OPEN-PLAN LIVING AREA
The open-plan top floor is light and airy, and the high exposed rafters and stone add to the spacious feel.
Chair, £690, Bryants of Tavistock. Paris large tan leather sofa, £2,500, Debenhams, is comparable. Roma Chenille throw in Sage, £69, John Lewis, is a match for this one



COUNTRY CONVERTS

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Converted barn, built 200 years ago
LOCATION Devon
ROOMS Sitting room/kitchen-diner, three bedrooms (one en suite), shower room
PURCHASED 2008
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We owned a house in Aberdeen for 15 years before we bought this place,' says Richard.

Richard and Ute McHowat have given an ancient barn a new lease of life without compromising its character

FEATURE NAOMI JONES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** BRIDGET PEIRSON

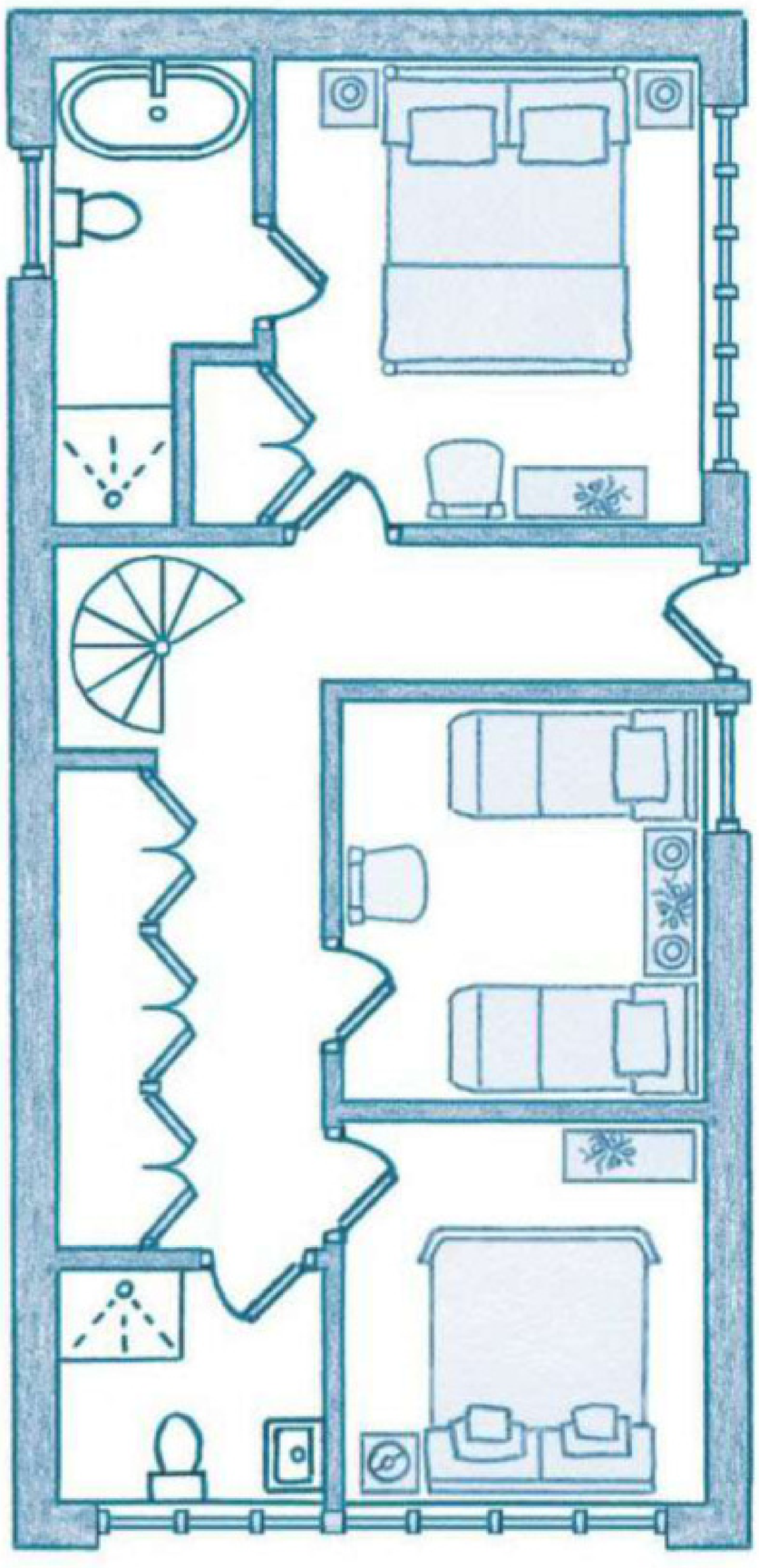
KITCHEN
The units and table legs were painted the same colour for a coherent look. Bespoke units, from £4,500, Pineland Furniture. Painted in Pigeon estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Pew chairs, £65 each, UK Architectural Antiques

SITTING ROOM
Richard hung old fishing rods above the door as a nod to one of the local pastimes. Dovre Astroline stove, from £1,249, Stovax. Fire Small Curve mugs, £4.12 each, Denby

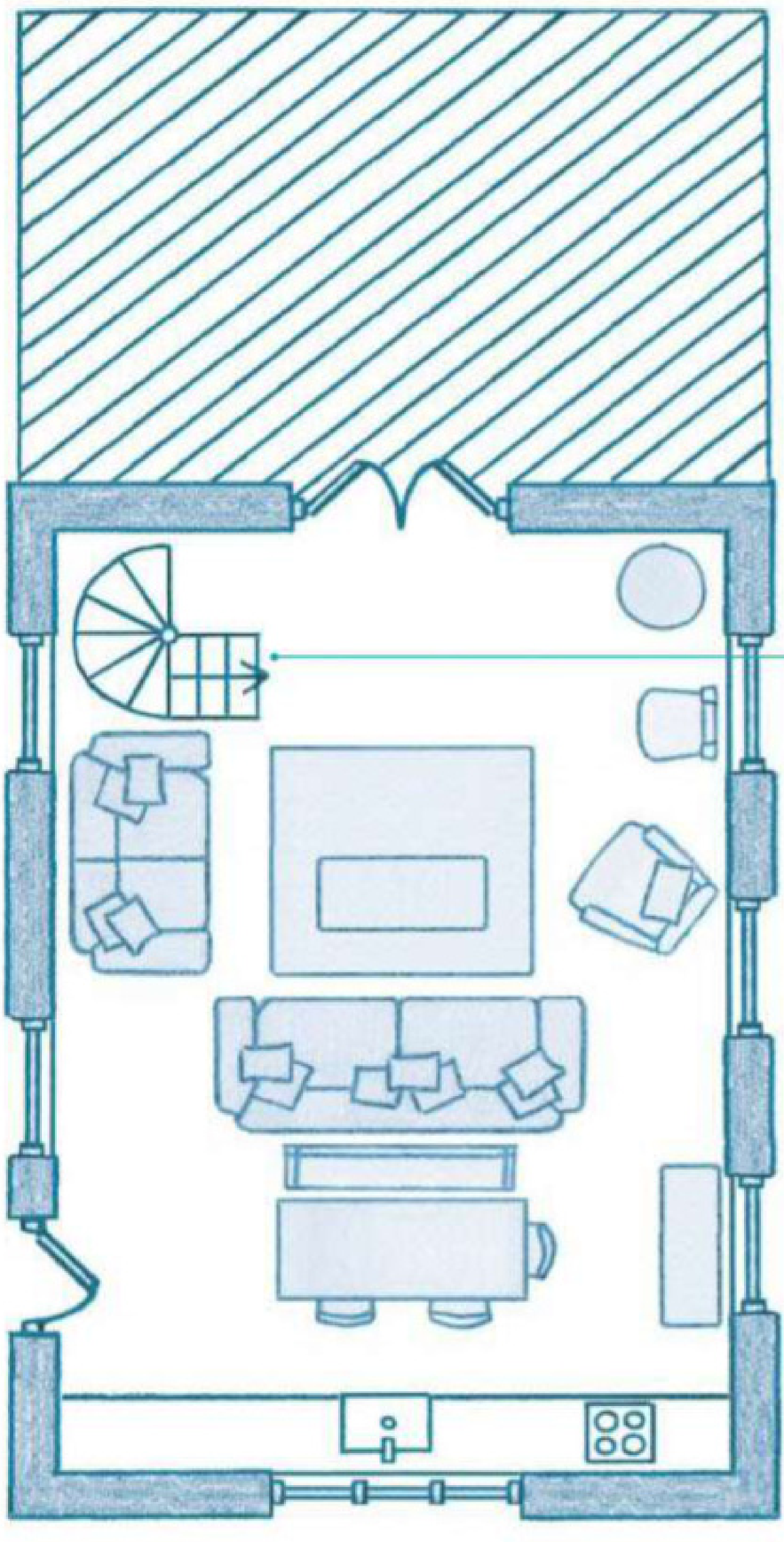
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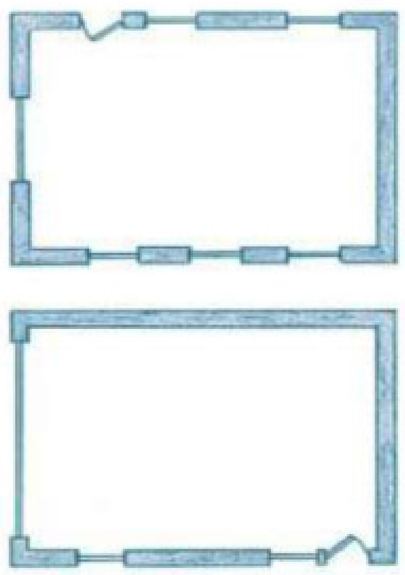
BEFORE

GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR







UPSIDE DOWN
The top floor used to provide storage for hay but is now an open-plan kitchen/sitting/dining room, with the bedrooms downstairs. The slate floors, stone walls and oak joinery offer an interesting mix of materials.

BEST BUY *'Delabole Cornish slate, which is in keeping with this area, was used on the floor downstairs – it's stunning, hardwearing and cleans up beautifully'*

When Richard McHowat's career in banking came to an end, he and his wife, Ute, never contemplated retirement; instead they looked for a new venture to keep them busy. As dog lovers, the pair considered starting up pet boarding kennels, but were dismayed not to be able to find the home they dreamt of in their chosen area.

Finally, in 2008, the couple saw this barn and decided to renovate it. It was being sold as part of a live-in business consisting of three converted barns, a farmhouse, two further barns, and 12 acres of land. 'I was taken aback by the location and its unspoilt views down the Thrushell Valley,' says Richard. Ute agrees: 'It was perfect – not too much space for the two of us, but with extra bedrooms for when our children, Martina, 30, and Thomas, 27, visit.'

Builder Rodney Wevill, who had already converted three of the barns on site, was called on for the biggest project yet: transforming this one into a three-bedroom home with an open-plan kitchen-diner and sitting room on the top floor that would make the most of the vaulted ceiling and breathtaking valley views. 'Rodney figured out how to squeeze in two double bedrooms and a twin downstairs, and recommended a spiral staircase to save precious space,' explains Richard. 'He also suggested we build a sun deck off the sitting area, above an extension that would become the master



MASTER BEDROOM
This wrought-iron four-poster bed makes an elegant statement.
Mulberry black canopy bed, from £745, Celtic Beds. Ludde sheepskin, £30, Ikea. Lene Bjerre Alena check velvet bedspread, £211, Occa-Home, would work here



TWIN ROOM
A cream and green scheme suits the country location.
Beds from a selection at Dreams. Mathis chest of drawers, £900, Sweetpea & Willow, has this look



SHOWER ROOM
Clean lines lend a contemporary feel.
Roca Khroma countertop basin, £160, Heatandplumb.com, is similar

suite.' Rodney was also excellent at liaising with building control. 'Insulation was a sticky issue,' explains Richard, 'because when you have a beautiful old barn with stone walls, you're in danger of losing a lot of the character when you cover them up. By insulating the floor, roof and three walls, we were able to leave one wall exposed.'

With the conversion completed on schedule, Ute could get to work on the interiors. Magazines provided inspiration for the country-style decoration, as well as useful contacts for sourcing furniture and antiques. 'The pews in the kitchen, for instance, came from a cathedral,' says Ute. 'They have a wonderful patina and are extremely sturdy, so will last for many more years.' Magazines also suggested which paints would be suitable for the units, though choosing from an array of Farrow & Ball shades proved tricky. 'We had about eight samples for the kitchen, so we asked Rodney to paint a spare cabinet door with our selection,' recalls Ute. 'He came back the next day with the door painted in stripes and we chose Pigeon, which we'd used for the sun deck. We didn't want too many colours and felt it would be good to tie in that end of the room with the kitchen.'

With Ute's carefully sourced accessories, plus window treatments in florals and checks, the look has come together beautifully. 'We've had some fantastic people working on the barn,' says Richard. 'We're proud of what we've achieved and very happy to call this place home.'

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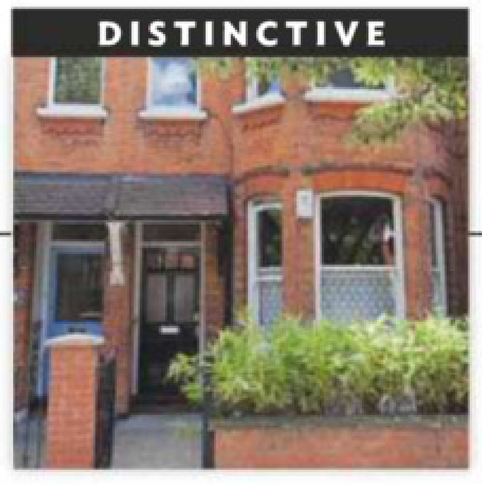


KITCHEN
'When the window's open, the chandelier makes a pretty twinkling sound and it has a natural movement I love,' says Nicky.
MID101 round table with four chairs, £2,980, excluding fabric, Chelsea Textiles

EASTERN PROMISE

Nicky Bailey fell in love with a striking picture and designed her whole home around it

FEATURE KATIE TREGGIDEN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** BRUCE HEMMING



DISTINCTIVE

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Two-bedroom Victorian flat
LOCATION West London
ROOMS Sitting room/kitchen-diner, study, bedroom, two bathrooms
PURCHASED 2013
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'I lived in a flat in Chelsea before moving here,' says Nicky.



An artwork inspired the scheme for Nicky Bailey's apartment – to the extent that she had chosen the piece before she even bought the place. 'I saw a striking picture of geisha girls in the window of a gallery on London's King's Road and I just loved it,' she says. 'I was drawn to the colours and the serene look on the girls' faces, plus I enjoy the scale of the piece and its composition.'

Nicky, who is an interior designer, spotted the artwork at the same time as she was busy flat-hunting. 'I was looking at other apartments and almost thinking, "That picture won't work in this flat," and ruling properties out on that basis,' she laughs. The piece, entitled *Hear No, See No, Speak No*, is now the focal point of Nicky's sitting room. It hangs on a wall that originally featured exposed brick, but which was subsequently plastered and painted to provide a simple backdrop. Nicky knew that the large, contemporary artwork would be the first step in imbuing the whole flat with a more modern feel. 'I realised that it would be a brilliant start to a scheme for the rest of the room and, in turn, the rest of the property,' she says. 'Once I'd found it, I had a clear vision of what I wanted to do.'

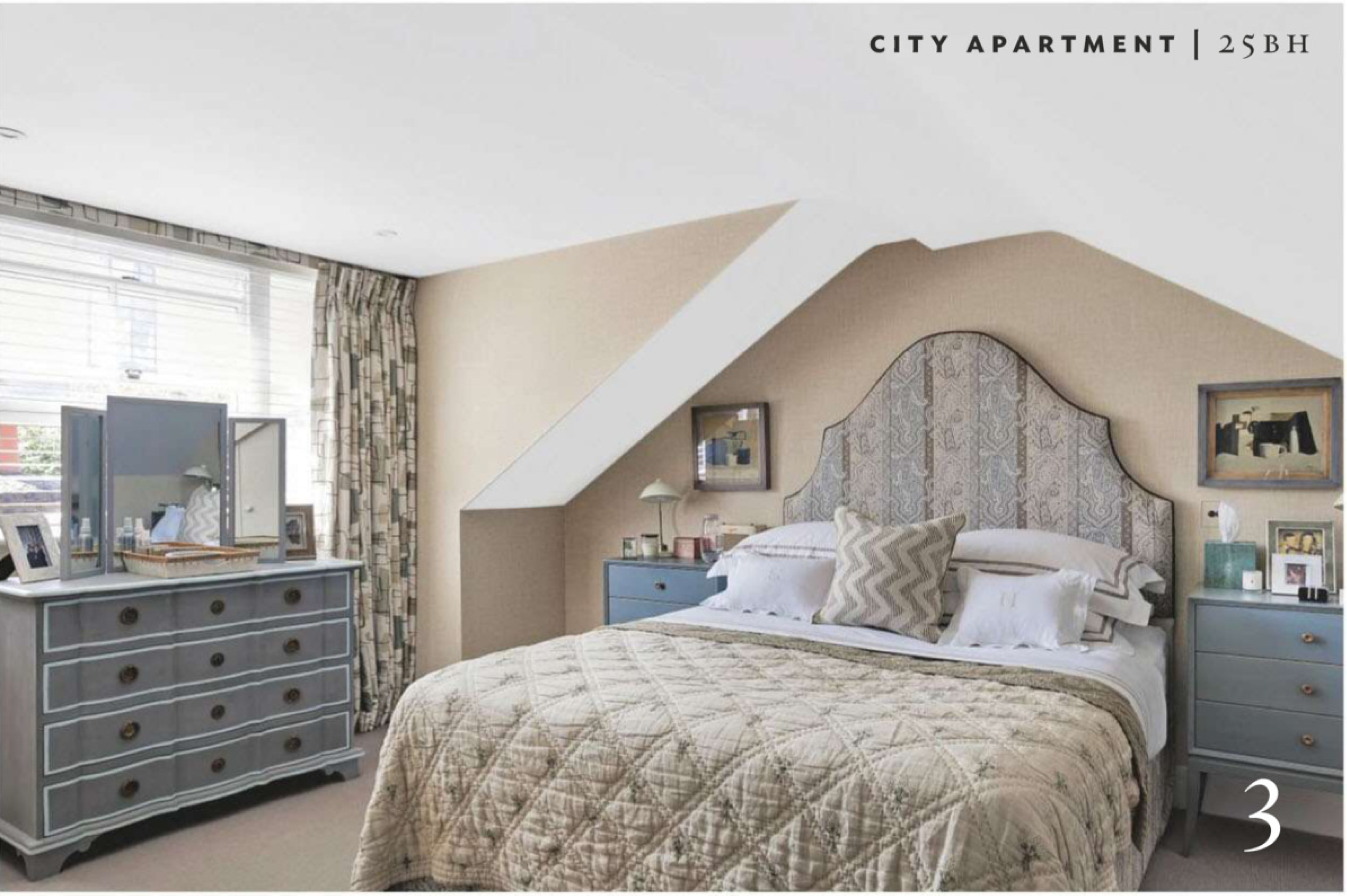
Nicky's biggest challenge in approaching an interior design scheme in this way was to let the art shine, rather than including things that either matched it too obviously or vied

SITTING ROOM

'The aubergine lamp picks up on a colour from the artwork and looks beautiful in the light from the window,' says Nicky. Alfie table lamp, £1,395, William Yeoward. Damascus design flatweave rug, from £607sq m, Robert Stephenson. Oscar armchair (above), £745, Loaf. Walls painted in 9-099, £36 for 2.5 litres, 1950s Colours range, Papers and Paint


1


2



with it for attention. 'My natural inclination was to replicate one of the fabrics from the geishas' kimonos, but that would have looked too contrived,' she says. 'It was quite difficult to find things that were simple enough not to compete with it, without being too plain.'

The first thing Nicky chose was the wall paint. She wanted to create a subtle link to the montage, while keeping the bright, airy feel she had loved when she viewed the flat. 'It's the ideal non-colour. It's neither green, nor grey, nor blue. It has the perfect balance of warmth and coolness, and it goes with everything,' she says of the hue she used.

Nicky opted for a simple off-white sofa and picked out accent colours in the cushions and lamps. 'I wanted to subtly echo the tones in the artwork, without the room feeling too over-designed,' she says. 'I like putting lots of fabrics together and making a scheme rich with colour and pattern, so I really had to rein that back.' Having been quite restrained in the main living space, Nicky indulged her love of pattern in the master bathroom with an Hermès wallpaper.

'It was a little extravagance. Hermès has only recently started producing furnishing fabrics and wallpapers, and I've always adored the brand. Then I saw that wallpaper and simply fell in love with it. It's better than a handbag,' she laughs. 'I'm sure it's received more compliments than a Birkin bag would have had, and it's just as stylish!'

Elsewhere, the decor is calm and subdued with colourful accents and focal points adding interest. 'I wander around the flat and I get little snapshots of colour as I'm walking through a door, looking across a room, or in the reflection in a mirror,' says Nicky. 'The flat is a nice surprise to return to – coming home feels like a bit of a treat. But my favourite view is definitively looking across the sofa at my geisha girls. After all, they were the inspiration for this beautiful flat.'

1 STUDY
Although Nicky rarely uses the sofa, it adds a homely touch to her work space.
Pavilion sofa bed, £1,425, Loaf. William pedestal desk, £2,150, Oka. Charles chair, £531 excluding fabric, The Dining Chair Company. Blind and cushions in Paradise Tree fabric in navy blue, £140m, Colefax and Fowler. Walls painted in Stone IV matt emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Paint & Paper Library

2 BATHROOM
A simple suite allows the intricately patterned wallpaper to take centre stage.
Hermès Optique Chaine D'ancre wallpaper, £187 per roll, Dedar. 2nd Floor counter basin, £216, CP Hart, is a good alternative to this one. Suffolk bathroom mirror wall lights, £324 each; 7-inch tapered square white card shades, £30 each, both Vaughan

3 MASTER BEDROOM
Muted shades of biscuit and soft grey continue here, creating a restful feel.
Ile De Rey chest of drawers, £795, Graham and Green

FAVOURITE SHOP *'I love Claremont on Elystan Street in Chelsea. When I'm working on a project, I know I'll always find fabrics there that elevate a scheme from good to gorgeous'*



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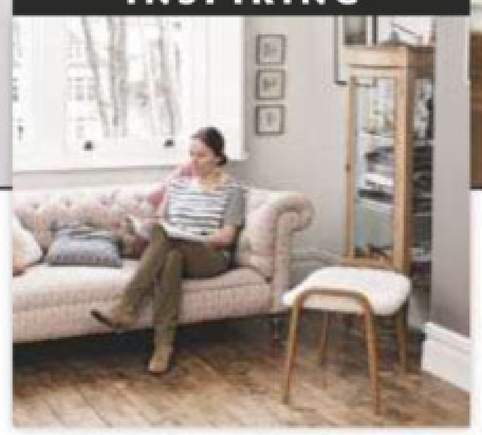
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RESTORE & REVIVE

HANNAH AND ROB BROWN RECONFIGURED THEIR HOME TO ACHIEVE A LIGHTER, BRIGHTER FAMILY-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

FEATURE LISA MOSES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MATT ANTROBUS

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Victorian terrace
LOCATION Bristol
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, two studies, four bedrooms (one en suite), dressing room, bathroom
PURCHASED 2009
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We lived in a basement flat in London,' says Hannah.

DINING AREA
The rustic shelves are made from old spare joists taken from the roof. Eames-style DSW chair, £49.99, Vertigo Interiors. For a similar oak dining table try Pendleton, from £799, John Lewis

A complete renovation project was exactly what Hannah Brown and her husband Rob were looking for when they moved from London to Bristol four years ago. Although it was daunting, Hannah relished the challenge. 'I'd recently finished an interior-design course and I was eager to use my new skills,' she says. Her vision was a home that combined her love of modern design with vintage finds. 'I can't resist a good rummage if I come across a second-hand shop,' she explains. 'Most of my buys aren't expensive, but I like everything to have a place so it doesn't become junk.'

The couple had been living in their flat in London for five years, but with a growing family that includes Lucas, now 11, and Hal, 8, they needed a larger home. 'We couldn't find anything that suited us budget-wise, so we decided to take the leap and move to Bristol,' explains Hannah. 'We knew it would offer some more affordable options, plus we could be nearer to my mum, who lives in Exeter.' The pair quickly discovered a traditional Victorian four-storey terrace. 'It was a bit of a wreck,' says Hannah, 'but it offered great views across Bristol as well as the opportunity for us to extend and alter the layout.' Rob, a graphic designer, made comprehensive 3D plans of the house and soon work was underway. The revisions included a modern and bright basement kitchen extending out to a garden deck, and new bi-fold doors, while upstairs, a bedroom was sacrificed for a spacious bathroom.

Hannah chose a palette of soft shades throughout with the odd darker accent colour for contrast. And to save money, she did all the painting and decorating herself. 'I'd rather spend the money on exciting pieces of furniture,' she says. 'So Hal would go to nursery each morning and I'd get on with the painting.

'Living with two small children while carrying out the renovations didn't really faze us, though sometimes we'd return from weekend camping trips feeling it was more comfortable being away!

'I wanted to create a cosy home with a timeless feel that would suit all the family and we're happy with the results. I really enjoyed the experience,' says Hannah. Now she is already thinking about her next project and a loft conversion is at the top of her list.



SITTING ROOM
The pale scheme maximises the light streaming through the windows.
Maltby three-seater sofa, £2,030, Sofa.com, has a similar look. Lamino easy chair, from £1,561, Skandium

LESSONS LEARNT

'Sometimes living with a space for a while is a good idea, as it gives you the chance to see what works best'

KITCHEN

'We put glass doors in here, which give us fantastic views,' says Hannah. Scrabble-style placemats, £10 each, The Letteroom. Blackboard paint, £5.95 for 500ml, Wilko





MASTER BEDROOM

'The artwork is framed wrapping paper,' says Hannah. Cushions, from £45, Hannah Brown Interiors



FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**





FAMILY MATTERS

WITH A BABY ON THE WAY, ANNABEL AND STEVE JESSOP SET ABOUT CREATING A HOME FULL OF LIGHT, SPACE AND PERSONALITY

FEATURE & PHOTOGRAPHY JO SHELDRAKE



SITTING ROOM
Ensuring privacy, plenty of light and an up-to-date look, Annabel opted for frosted glass stickers over curtains or blinds. White matt frosted window film, £25m, The Window Film Company. Hampshire mirror in White, from £165, Brissi

KITCHEN
This open-plan space effortlessly blends outside and indoor areas. Original BTC Titan 3 pendant in Putty Grey, from £263, Lights4Living.com. Vintage 1920s glass dishes and crockery, £15-£40, A Piece of History, Portobello Road Market. Try Atlantic Shopping for retro-style bar stools, from £50 each



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Mid terrace, built in 1930
LOCATION
Northwest London
ROOMS Sitting room/dining room/kitchen, cloakroom, utility room, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 2010
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We lived in an apartment in Notting Hill before moving to this place,' says Annabel.



With their first baby on the way, Annabel and Steve Jessop did what many soon-to-be parents do and moved from their maisonette in west London to a larger property. Having found the layout of most Victorian homes narrower and the rooms smaller, they soon had their sights on a 1930s house complete with a loft conversion, situated in a busy residential area nearby. With a kitchen extension in mind, the couple could see the potential of the period property, and although the decor was pretty tired and the house had been untouched for years, it was in a habitable condition. 'The renovation gave us the chance to create a home that worked for us with a new baby,' says Annabel.

The family, including Ethan, now 3, lived in the house for three years before they embarked on the work. Annabel decided against using an architect or an interior designer as she had a clear idea of what she wanted to create. And despite being warned against submitting her own planning and building control applications, Annabel, a former lawyer, found the process fairly uncomplicated. 'Our main aim was to simply create an inside-out feel, linking the house and garden with one large, bright, multifunctional open-plan living space,' she explains.

The couple's first project was to say goodbye to the small galley kitchen by demolishing three external walls. 'Once this was done, it was fantastic to see the space open up and the light flood in,' recalls Annabel. Two pitched roofs were then removed and a new flat roof structure with sliding doors was built, complete with a skylight. 'Living in the house while the work was going on was not ideal – but we got used to the cloud of black dust and not having hot water or a washing machine for three months,' says Annabel. 'Fortunately, it was worth the wait, as we incorporated a ground-floor utility room and cloakroom into the build, which are both exceptionally handy,' she adds.

Once all the structural work was complete, Annabel enjoyed spending hours on the internet looking for decorating and furnishing inspiration, which resulted in her ordering almost everything online, including the entire kitchen. 'Finding good-quality, contemporary cabinetry in pale grey proved more straightforward than I imagined,' says Annabel, who sourced the units from CK Kitchens. 'We matched it with a white Corian worktop and an island unit,

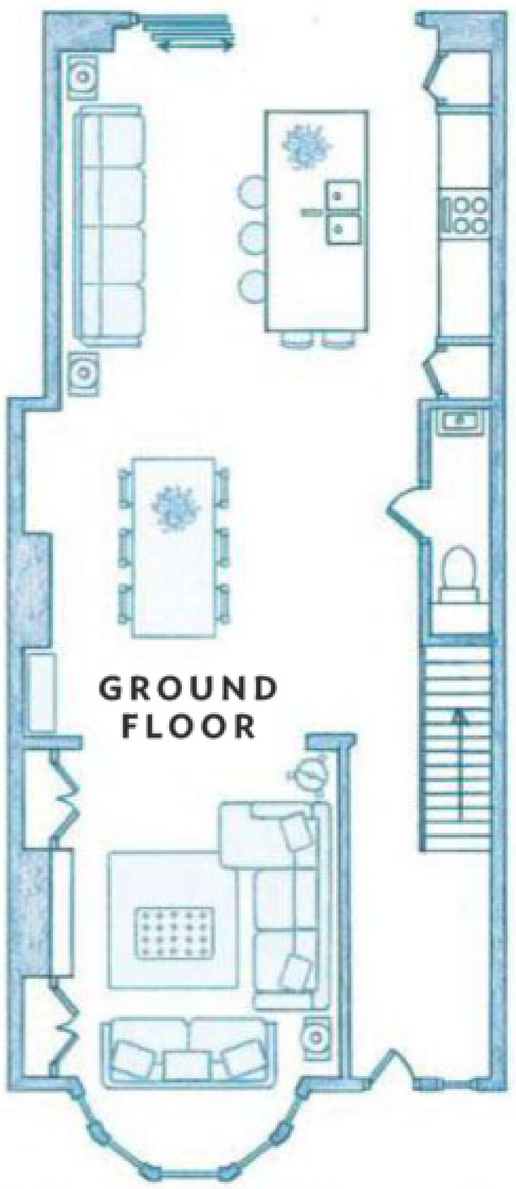
FAVOURITE ROOM 'The design and layout of our open-plan living area works brilliantly, as we get to use all the space on a daily basis – and it's perfect for entertaining, too'

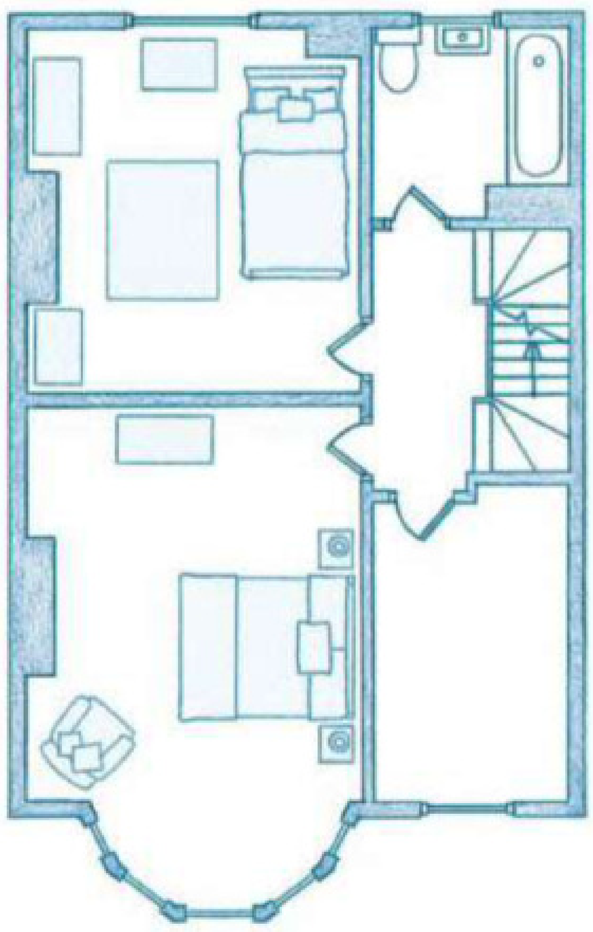
DINING ROOM

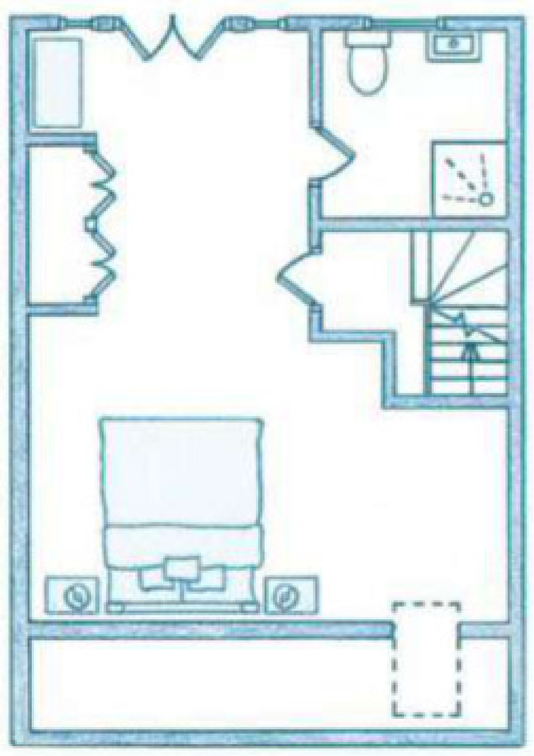
Contemporary artwork adds interest and colour.

Try The Furniture Market for a chunky solid-oak dining table like this one, £449. Clarence 9-light chandeliers, £495 each, both India Jane

AFTER







BEFORE





MASTER BEDROOM
Annabel wanted to find a bed made from reclaimed oak beams, and loved this chunky design. Wooden bed, £2,000, Eat Sleep Live. Try The White Company for a similar white throw

DESIGN INSPIRATION
'Instead of delegating all of the work to an interior designer or architect, I found most of my ideas online'



ETHAN'S BEDROOM
Offsetting primary coloured furnishings against the plain white walls keeps this room feeling fresh. Kiddiewinkles Wild West Kiddies wigwam, £220, Simply Rooms. Noah single bed, £499, Feather & Black

which adds character and definition.' A solid-oak dining table takes centre stage in the dining area, while the couple's unique collection of modern artwork makes a strong statement and blends beautifully with the bold splashes of colour provided by the teal blue sofa and purple lampshades.

Unfortunately, the original fireplaces on the ground floor had been removed and bricked over, so once the space had been opened up, the couple installed a woodburning stove in the sitting room – a feature that is now appreciated by all the family, especially once the weather turns.

Annabel was also keen to restore the fireplaces upstairs and salvaged two original 1930s fire surrounds. 'After a good clean and a repaint they looked great,' she says. 'It's lovely to marry some period features with a contemporary style.'

The couple painted the garden fencing in a warm neutral hue to open up the space further. 'We also painstakingly removed the pebble dash on the exterior of the house,' says Annabel. 'It's been hard work, but great to breathe new life into the space. It's now an ideal family home for us.'

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 155

AWARD WINNING HANDCRAFTED KITCHENS





"This is my dream kitchen. The whole process from start to finish was great fun, with the team at Chalon providing their expert advice on design and colour. It works brilliantly as a family kitchen right at the heart of our home, and is the perfect place for me to bake and to work whether for entertaining, recipe development or baking classes."

Miranda Gore Browne

MIRANDA GORE BROWNE
Author & Finalist on The Great British Bake Off

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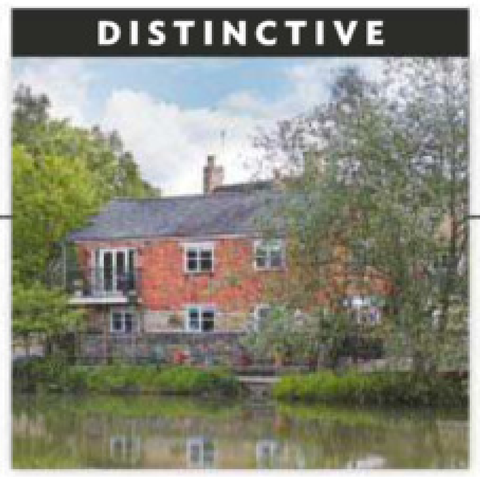
With an eye for bright colour and a love of nature-inspired accessories, Faith Bailey has turned her picturesque riverside two-storey house into a bright, welcoming home

FEATURE AMANDER MEADE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RACHAEL SMITH



SITTING AREA
Eclectic furniture and unusual accessories create a unique look. For a similar lampshade try Lush Designs. Spindle floor lamp in Dark mahogany, £135, Dormy House

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Two-storey riverside house
LOCATION Lincolnshire
ROOMS Hall, open-plan living/dining/kitchen area, three bedrooms, two bathrooms
PURCHASED 2013
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We used to live in a rental house nearby,' says Faith.



DINING AREA

Faith's extending dining table is ideal for large dinner parties, seating up to 12 people if needed.

Antique French dining table, £599, Homes Direct 365, is similar. 8-light crystal chandelier by Endon Lighting, £240, Wayfair.co.uk, is a close match for the one shown here

KITCHEN

Classic white-and-oak Shaker-style units paired with neutral-coloured flooring lend a fuss-free simplicity to this bright room.
For similar flooring try Rosso Honed & Filled Travertine floor tiles, £1 per tile, Stonewheel. Liège dining table, £800, Maisons du Monde, is comparable to the one shown here



FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 155

When make-up artist Faith Bailey and her son Sid, 11, moved in to their pretty riverside townhouse, Faith began her 'style revolution'. 'The previous owner kept the house in excellent condition,' she recalls, 'but it was full of antiques and sporting memorabilia.' The look today is very different – bright and light with a truly eclectic mix of styles loosely blending 1950s, 60s and 70s vintage cool with high-street bargains and a healthy dose of salvage.

UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS

Deciding a conventional layout wasn't for her, Faith opted for a large open-plan living area with a separate kitchen on the first floor, and three bedrooms downstairs. The kitchen is light and airy with simple wooden dining furniture and classic vintage glassware and ceramics. Keen to give the rest of the house an equally fresh feel, Faith painted all the walls a clean white, emphasising the high ceilings, as well as providing a neutral base for her colourful furnishings. 'I adore colour but I decided to give the dining area a more formal monochrome theme,' she says. 'It injects a little glamour into my dinner parties.' Thanks to clever placement of furniture, Faith has managed to create two different sitting areas within the open-plan format – one is cosy and relaxed, the other, which has chairs placed around the French windows, provides a perfect spot for watching the beautiful River Welland flow by.

Downstairs, all the bedrooms feature colourful linen and soft furnishings teamed with vintage furniture. 'I like a simple look for bedrooms, with just a few well-chosen items to avoid cluttering what I feel should be a peaceful space,' explains Faith.

GO WITH THE FLOW

A keen upcycler, Faith loves to seek out and restore old furniture. 'The striped changing screen in the hall was rescued from my father's pub and dates back to the 18th century – my clients love it,' she says.

Both mother and son are happy and settled in their home and have no plans to move. 'I know I won't be able to resist indulging my passion for rescuing items from the unlikeliest of places,' laughs Faith, 'so the look of our house will continue to ebb and flow – just like the river – but that's what makes it such a warm, interesting place.'



GUEST ROOM
'I enjoy using colourful fabrics to reinvent a piece of furniture,' says Faith.
Leirvik bed frame, £79; rug, £30, both Ikea. Paisley bedding set by Matthew Williamson, from £25, Debenhams, is similar

FAVOURITE FEATURE *'I love the upside-down layout. The light upstairs suits daytime living – and the river views are lovely – while downstairs has a more subdued vibe that comes into its own in the evening'*



HALL
Clients love Faith's retro-styled consultation area, especially the vintage barber's chair.
Find similar on eBay



BATHROOM
White fittings and natural stone are a timeless match.
Try Natural travertine tiles in Walnut, £85sq m, Topps Tiles

PERIOD CHARM

Eye-catching wallcoverings and pops of colour liven up Maggie Betton's traditional home

FEATURE PAT GARRATT | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RACHAEL SMITH





DRAWING ROOM
Rich mauve sofas add a touch of luxury and the wood-burning stove (above) creates a cosy feel. Lovely Sofas has a wide range of chesterfields, from £715. The Morso Badger 3112 cast-iron stove, from £1,260, Kindle Stoves, is similar. Thacket table, £102, oakfurnituresolutions.co.uk

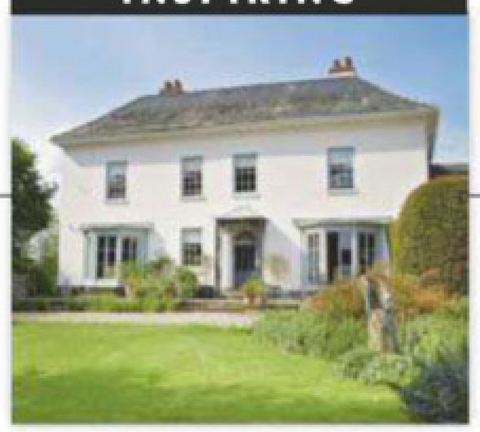


Our vicar told us that this house was about to be sold, as he'd recently visited there,' says Maggie Betton. 'So we managed to buy it before it came on the market.' Such are the benefits of house hunting in the area you already live in.

Maggie and her husband Mike had moved to the Lincolnshire countryside from Hampshire nine years previously. With their three young children, Charlotte now 25, Seb, 21, and Timmy, 16, the family had initially settled in a modern house a couple of villages away. But when the opportunity arose to buy this beautiful Georgian property in three acres of land, they didn't hesitate. 'The house was old-fashioned, but I didn't mind as it gave me the chance to completely revamp the decor,' recalls Maggie, who makes unique lampshades using quirky paper and fabrics for her company, Hill House Design.

The Bettons' first job was to tackle the dark kitchen. 'We made the window lower so we could see the view and widened the fireplace because we

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Grade II listed Georgian villa
LOCATION Lincolnshire
ROOMS Sitting room, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, boot room, study, five bedrooms, three bathrooms
PURCHASED 2000
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We had a smaller, modern house not far from here,' says Maggie.

KITCHEN
Practical yet homely, this room is the hub of the house. The oak table and mismatched chairs are ideal for informal meals. The Pantry table, £445, from loaf.com, would work here. The wallpaper panel, below, is Fornasetti's Boemia, £177 per panel, designerwallpapers.co.uk







1

FUTURE PLANS

'We would love to expand into the old servants' quarters in the attic to create more bedrooms and bathrooms'



2



3



4

wanted to replace the single Aga with a double version,' she says. The shabby vinyl floor made way for hardwearing limestone tiles, and dated pine units were ripped out for a modern island and smart maple-fronted cupboards.

The ground floor layout also needed rethinking. 'To get to the sitting room from the kitchen you had to walk a long way round through the hall,' Maggie explains. 'So we created a door into the sitting room from the kitchen.'

The old utility room was turned into a large entrance hall, and to the side, two rooms that were used for coal and storage are now a utility room and study. And upstairs, the family bathroom was also modernised. 'It didn't have a shower, which we thought essential,' says Maggie, who nevertheless retained the original basin and roll-top bath.

In Charlotte's bedroom and below in the dining room, the Bettons were given permission to open up two large windows that had been bricked up during the Georgian period, when the laws of that time decreed that the more windows a house had, the more tax the owners had to pay.

The dining room is perfect for formal meals, and the Victorian table can seat up to 12 people. 'We asked our carpenter to enlarge our old table,' says Maggie.

Maggie's son Timmy was also given free rein to redecorate his room. The result is an inspiring collage of old sheet music, maps and vintage postcards all pasted onto the walls, complemented with stacks of vinyl records and an old record player. 'Decorating an old property with verve and style is no easy task,' says Maggie. 'But as a family, we've tried to pool our creative talents and we couldn't be happier with the results.'



5



6

I **DINING ROOM**
The swan-themed wallpaper is a dramatic focal point in the room. Nina Campbell Swan Lake wallpaper, £59 a roll, wallpaperdirect.com. The Dutch dining chair, £169, Quality Furnishings of Sussex, would fit here

2 **BATHROOM**
Maggie added warmth with a bold red theme, including floor tiles. For a similar colour, try Salsa Red paint mixing bathroom + soft sheen, £27.99 for 2.5 litres, Dulux. The Cambridge bath with traditional cast iron feet, £619, Bathstore, is a match

3, 4 & 5
TIMMY'S BEDROOM
Timmy scoured car boot sales and junk shops to decorate his room. The table used to belong to his grandmother. The H&F Plank Vintage Farmhouse Dining Table, from £449, homeandfurniture.co.uk, is comparable. For a similar chair colour, try St Giles Blue full gloss, £20 for 750ml, Farrow & Ball. You can find French window shutters at Antiques Atlas. For vintage typewriters, visit Typewriters.co.uk. The Dixie desk lamp, £325, from Christopher Wray, is a match

6 **MASTER BEDROOM**
Maggie chose a mix of vintage, antique and repro furniture. For a selection of floral and patterned cushions, try Amara.com. Drum lampshade in Liberty print paisley fabric, from £43, Hill House Design. Try the Tosca metal bedstead, £525, Feather & Black, for a vintage style. Decorative Country Living stocks vintage feather eiderdowns, from £90

FOR STOCKISTS DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**

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SITTING ROOM
'The curvaceous staircase creates the wow factor in this room,' says Kate.
Omnia Apta L-shaped seating collection, price on application, B&B Italia

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Converted barn built in 1850
LOCATION West Yorkshire
ROOMS Hall/sitting room/dining room, kitchen, utility room, cinema room, five bedrooms (four en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 2006
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We lived in a farmhouse near Bradford,' says Kate.

UP AND AWAY

Sleek shapes and soft colours emphasise the sense of space in Kate and Michael Calvert's newly restored barn

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** SPIKE POWELL



HALL
The elegant curved console (top right) reflects the sculptural lines of the staircase.
Bespoke spiral staircase, price on request, Bisca





DINING ROOM
'We always wanted a square pale beech table to seat eight,' says Kate. 'So Michelle came up with this stylish design.'
Voile curtains made up in Casares fabric, £64m, Designers Guild



For some people, renovating houses becomes a lifelong hobby. Every project sharpens their skills and fuels their appetite for the next. Not so with Kate and Michael Calvert. Having modernised two run-down properties near Harrogate, they vowed never to take on another building project, especially with children Mabel, 14, Harris, 12, and Wilf, 9, needing a more peaceful home life. 'Our dogs Heather, a border collie, and Dexter, a shih-tzu, never liked builders' dust either,' laughs Kate.

'We were thinking about our next move and constantly keeping an eye on the market, but I was dreading having to choose yet another tap, bath, or type of flooring,' she says. 'So we were delighted to spot an advert in a local newspaper for a converted barn complete with state-of-the-art appliances and plenty of design integrity. And best of all, no building work was needed. It had quality written all over it.'

Sure enough, on their first visit, they found everything they had hoped for. 'It's a perfect location and is close to tennis courts for the children, who are keen players, plus it has a cinema room in the basement,' says Kate. 'The barn is surrounded by countryside, but it forms part of a group of three converted farm buildings around a communal green space. It felt like a friendly village.'

Being Yorkshire born and bred, it wasn't surprising that Kate and Michael jumped at the opportunity to live in a property overlooking the legendary Wharfe Valley. 'We loved the wonderful views from the barn,' says Kate. 'The original huge arched openings

KITCHEN
Exposed roof trusses make a dramatic feature. Nuvola cabinetry with stainless steel and black granite worktops, price on application, Dada. Crystal pendant chandelier, price on application, Caroline Gardner

DECORATING TIP

'Lighting roof spaces is always a challenge. Anything that shines up is useful. We have a lot of uplighters inset into beams'



GUEST BATHROOM
Dark tiles provide a sharp contrast.
Trend freestanding bath, £679, Bathstore, is similar to this one





GUEST BEDROOM
Two floral cushions add a splash of colour.
Walls painted in Slipper Satin estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



MASTER BEDROOM
Exposed timbers and roof trusses from the original barn stand out against neutral walls.
Walls painted in Joa's White estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Twiggy occasional tables, £195 each, Graham and Green

have now been glazed and they frame the magnificent vista, which also helps make the property bright and very uplifting.'

Like so many families, the Calverts moved to acquire more room for their growing children, and the feeling of space in this barn is instantly evident. Entering through the glass front door, visitors are treated to an immediate view of the whole space – three storeys high and open to the rafters. 'That makes it ideal for entertaining, too,' says Kate. The mezzanine bedroom floor is linked to the ground floor by a curvaceous staircase, which gracefully divides the dining and sitting areas. 'The staircase is a work of art in its own right,' says Kate. 'It's very sculptural and is one of our favourite features.'

Without any structural work to do, Kate could concentrate on the decorative details as soon as the family moved in. 'With the help of interior designer Michelle Hyett, I focused on colour schemes, furniture and accessories,' she says. 'We started with a blank canvas as I was keen to replace some of my old furniture which didn't work in this space.' As a result, the pair opted for a large antique mirror that is casually propped against the wall in the dining area, and a modern corner sofa to delineate the space in the sitting room. Whitewashed walls, wood floors and pale stone create an oasis-like effect throughout. 'We mixed in a few old pieces along with the new, just enough to give each room character and variety,' says Kate.

With the curtains and blinds hung and the furniture in place, the family really felt at home. 'Coming down in the morning to panoramic views always lifts my spirits,' says Kate. 'Living with this light and space is a permanent tonic. We couldn't imagine being anywhere else.'

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 155













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AGE OF ELEGANCE

SOPHIE LAMBERT AND PHILLIPPE ALRIC RESTORED A MAJESTIC FRENCH PROPERTY FROM A DILAPITATED RUIN INTO A STYLISH FAMILY HOME

FEATURE PRISCILLA POLLARA | **PHOTOGRAPHY** BIANCA BUFI

SITTING ROOM
Rustic accessories imbue this soothing, sophisticated scheme with a relaxed vibe. Delphine French armchairs, £495 each, The French Bedroom Company, are similar. Fallen Fruits metal wire decorative bird cage, £49 for two, Wayfair.co.uk

DINING ROOM

A white-painted ceiling and furniture with a weathered effect lend a shabby-chic feel. Empire chandelier, £995; Rosen dining chairs, £325 each, The Swedish Chair, are a good match



DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Gated property built in the early 1900s
LOCATION Paris
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, two separate pavilion buildings, stables
PURCHASED 1999
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'Before moving here, we lived in a small house in Paris,' says Sophie.



I

FUTURE PLANS

'I really want to replace all the door frames in the house, but mostly, I'd love to build a swimming pool in the grounds'

Follow *25 Beautiful Homes* on **Facebook and Twitter**

Sophie Lambert and Phillippe Alric spent nearly a decade gradually restoring their home to make it what it is today: an elegant and informal family space, filled with light and plenty of treasured antique pieces. But it wasn't always so.

Originally, the property comprised a main dwelling, two detached pavilions, a saddlery and 40 stables. Located in a northwestern suburb of Paris, it also came with a prestigious past, having once been owned by the American millionaire Frank Jay Gould in the 1920s. 'Incredibly, you'd never have known that it boasted a gilded history,' says Sophie, who runs an antiques shop, Au Temps des Cerises, nearby. 'The neighbourhood felt pretty much abandoned, and this house in particular was left to ruin. It had no roof, no electricity, and no water – basically it was a total wreck!'

But the couple, who were specifically looking for a home that would allow Phillippe, an equestrian instructor, to keep horses on the premises – as well as somewhere for Sophie to host private sales – were immediately hooked. 'So we didn't give up on the idea of turning the house into a lovely family home, despite everything being a complete mess,' says Sophie.

Instead of modernising the crumbling main house, Sophie and Phillippe decided to restore its former glory, opting for Gustavian







1 & 2 KITCHEN
A palette of duck egg blue, cream and warm terracotta complements the traditional feel of the house.
Chelsea Textiles' side table with curved base and wood top, price on request, is comparable. Vintage galvanised watering can, £60, and Wine table, £1,250, both Petersham Nurseries, will achieve a similar look. Handmade classic tiles in Terracotta, £2.39 per tile, Fired Earth, are a good alternative

3 HALL
Lime-washed floorboards and pale furniture help make this potentially dark area feel spacious and bright.
Oka's Hogarth distressed vintage pine sideboard, £1,150, is a good match

I

interiors. In keeping with the pastel period style, the interior is an elegant mix of bleached wood, pale painted furniture, rustic exposed beams and a soft palette of grey, cream and white. 'At its core, our style is simple and pure,' explains Sophie. 'I've always liked a weathered effect and lots of white.'

But in parts of the house, drastic changes were inevitable. Walls were torn down and replaced with wood panelling, while on the first floor, new lime-washed floorboards were laid in place of the original parquet flooring, which was beyond repair. Driven by the desire to fit some large orangery doors bought in an antiques shop, the couple opted for an open-plan layout for the extension on the ground floor. 'The kitchen, sitting and dining room can now flow as one large, bright space,' explains Sophie. 'It's definitely our favourite part of the house.'

When it came to filling up the palatial rooms, Sophie travelled to Scandinavia for beautiful antiques. 'I'm glad that very little in our house is modern,' she says. Meanwhile, the two 19th-century pavilions became, as hoped, a clubhouse for Phillippe, and a space for Sophie's exhibitions.

The couple, along with their two children César, 18, and Violette, 10, have been happily living in the property for more than 15 years now, and they continue to be proud of their home. 'The neighbourhood is quite trendy now, but while most of the houses around here have a classic French style, ours is different,' says Sophie. 'It really is the most wonderful place to live.'

DECORATING TIP 'Find a common theme when it comes to colours to create a sense of cohesion'



2



3

1 MASTER BEDROOM
A low-slung bed creates a laid-back feel.
Plain Voiles curtains in Latte, £9.99 for a pair, Yorkshire Linen Co, are a match. Roman column bedside lamp, £85, Oka, is similar

2 VIOLETTE'S BEDROOM
Wooden toys provide an old-fashioned elegance in this pretty space.
Find a good selection of antique dolls houses and accessories at The Dolls House Store. Gustavian single bed, £875, The Swedish Chair Company, is comparable

3 BATHROOM
Charming ornamental accessories add character to this all-white scheme.
Large Gustavian mirror, £495, The Swedish Chair Co, would suit this room. Burgundy Delights sells similar vintage French linen torchons (tea towels), £29.99 for a pair

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**

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LOOK OF LOVE

Liz and Corentin Lamour put heart and soul into creating a unique family getaway out of an old farm building

FEATURE NAOMI JONES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** BRENT DARBY

UNIQUE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
200-year-old barn
LOCATION Brittany, France
ROOMS Open-plan kitchen/sitting/dining room, two bedrooms, shower room
PURCHASED 2000
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We also own a converted pigsty in Brittany, which we've lived in for nearly 10 years,' says Liz.

SITTING ROOM
Slate grey and terracotta are an eye-catching colour combination.
Multi Stem wallpaper, £62 a roll; cushion, £40, both Orla Kiely. Karlstad three-seater sofa, £425, Ikea, is a good alternative

KITCHEN-DINER
Wooden slats separate the cooking and seating areas while adding visual interest. Grace table, £840, Fabiia, is a match. Fired Earth sells reclaimed terracotta flooring, £110sq m

DINING AREA
Every inch is used for storage. Parker oak chair, £150, Habitat, is similar

MASTER BEDROOM
Wool blankets and underfloor heating keep this space cosy.
Blankets, from £85, Bronte by Moon. Blanche bedside tables, £107 each, Flora Furniture, are a good alternative

With its exposed stone walls, tumbled terracotta flooring and painted beams, this family getaway in Brittany has a welcoming, tactile character – even before you begin to take in its colourful furnishings and quirky features. Owners Liz and Corentin Lamour have embraced the agricultural style and rural location of their converted barn, introducing personality with interesting brocante and salvaged finds.

Corentin's grandparents owned the property previously and had only ever used it for storage. The couple's first job was to empty the building of bottles of cider, hay, straw and farming paraphernalia that had lain untouched for decades. 'We found bits of machinery and metal, which we kept to reuse,' says Liz. 'It's important to reflect the history of a building at the same time as updating it.' Having agreed on a layout and finished the repairs, the couple then installed a spiral staircase to provide access to the old hayloft, now a mezzanine where their children, Dara, 11, Molly, 10, Una, 8, and Roisin, 6, like to bunk up.

When the Lamours designed the kitchen and shower room, function and ease were paramount. 'The more furniture you have on the floor, the harder it is to keep clean,' says Liz. 'So I chose an open-plan shower with a floating basin unit. And in the kitchen, good storage is essential, so we opted for as much cupboard space as possible.' Liz and Corentin are always hands-on when it comes to renovations and have worked on several projects together. Corentin takes care of the heavier building work, plumbing, plastering and wiring, while Liz is happy to tackle the floors. 'We've used rustic terracotta floor tiles, which was quite a challenge to lay as no two are the same thickness,' she says.

Although Liz takes on some of the grittier jobs, her real passion is for design. Her choice of a charcoal-grey sofa picks up on the colour of the exposed stone, while shots of orange in the form of cushions and feature wallpaper reference the terracotta and lend a fresh feel. 'Corentin's family own a brocante not far from here, so he has a good eye, too,' says Liz.

The couple love to travel all over France and beyond, picking up unusual items wherever they go. Vintage enamelware, tin signs and a retro typewriter have all made their way into this special property. But the pièce de résistance has to be the old metal porch, which would once have stood outside a much grander house. 'I fell in love with it, even though I wasn't sure what I'd do with it,' admits Liz. 'Corentin was the one who came up with the idea of making a bold feature of it inside the cottage.' Now filled with interesting objects, the structure makes a memorable statement in this modest dwelling.

With their combined efforts and original design ideas, Liz and Corentin have created a home from home that their family can enjoy for years to come. And with their imagination and passion for vintage pieces, it's a sure bet the barn's interior will be forever evolving.

DESIGN TIP *'When choosing a colour scheme, think sober and elegant – that way you won't get tired of the colours. Wallpaper is really good for adding a vibrancy and pattern that can be changed every few years to create a new look very easily'*

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BEDROOM
An old porch is a striking indoor feature.
Try SalvoWeb to track down a metal porch



CHILDREN'S ROOM
Hot-orange carpet adds a bold splash of colour and helps coordinate this space with the rest of the barn.
Forbo Westbond Ibond carpet tiles in Flamenco, £45sq m, Meadee Flooring, would work here. Multi Spot blanket, £85, Bronte by Moon



SHOWER ROOM
Utilitarian chic prevails here, with a floating vanity for easy cleaning.
Godmorgon/Odensvik vanity unit, £310, Ikea, is near identical to this one. Cult Furniture's enamel shade, £29.99, is a match for this light fitting

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**

The power of soft.



OPEN HOUSE

DINING ROOM
Neutral hues and luxurious finishes create an elegant look. Bespoke cupboards and glazed doors by Philip Dowse Interiors. Regency Rosewood breakfast table, from £1,000, Garners Antiques. Roxy grey dining chairs, £85 each, Atlantic Shopping

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
A 19th-century ironstone cottage
LOCATION Rutland
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms (two en suite)
PURCHASED 2013
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'Before moving here, we used to live in a converted dairy barn in Leicestershire,' says Sue.

After updating their previously dark and cramped home, the world's a brighter place for Sue and Philip Dowse

FEATURE KAREN JENSEN-JONES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** CLIVE DOYLE



SITTING ROOM
'I love the buzz of the kitchen when everyone gathers but I also like relaxing in here,' says Sue. 'It has a very soothing atmosphere.'
Four-seater sofa and scatter cushions, £998; armchair, £599; footstool, £279, all from the Vista range at DFS. Bespoke fireplace, Finnemore Stonemasons. *Moona Lisa* cow painting, price on application, Caroline Shotton



KITCHEN
Plain cabinetry and pale walls keep this contemporary space bright and airy.
Bespoke units by Philip Dowse Interiors. Jasper bar stools, £79.50 each, Atlantic Shopping. Walls painted in Wimborne White estate eggshell, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



When Sue and Philip Dowse decided it was time to downsize from their large converted barn in Leicestershire, a mid-19th-century ironstone cottage in nearby Rutland was their chosen destination. 'I very felt nervous about moving, as I loved my home – it's where Philip and I brought up our two children,' says Sue, whose daughter Lara still lives with them. 'And my first thoughts when we viewed this property were that it was small, dark and dingy, and needed completely updating.'

As the pair have their own interior design and renovation business, the prospect of overhauling the cottage wasn't too daunting. In fact, once Philip and his team got to work, the whole renovation took just 11 weeks to complete. 'There were as many as 30 people working on it at one time,' recalls Sue, 'and there were a few issues, such as woodworm and damp. But that sort of thing is to be expected in such an old house.'

Space and light were at the forefront of the redesign. 'We knocked down the wall between the kitchen and dining room, removed a chimney breast and added glass doors to open up the space,' explains Sue. 'Then we raised the roof in the kitchen and vaulted the ceilings in the stairwell and master bedroom to create more light.' The couple also installed a master en suite with a sunken bath, which Philip made himself. 'Although this meant sacrificing a small bedroom, there's actually more of a sense of space upstairs.'

Sue and Philip's company also manufactures kitchens, so a smart, state-of-the-art scheme was in order. 'Over the years, I've seen just about every design there is, so I knew exactly what I wanted,' says Sue. 'Philip is the one with the artistic vision and he's always chosen our kitchens in the past, but it was definitely my turn this time.'

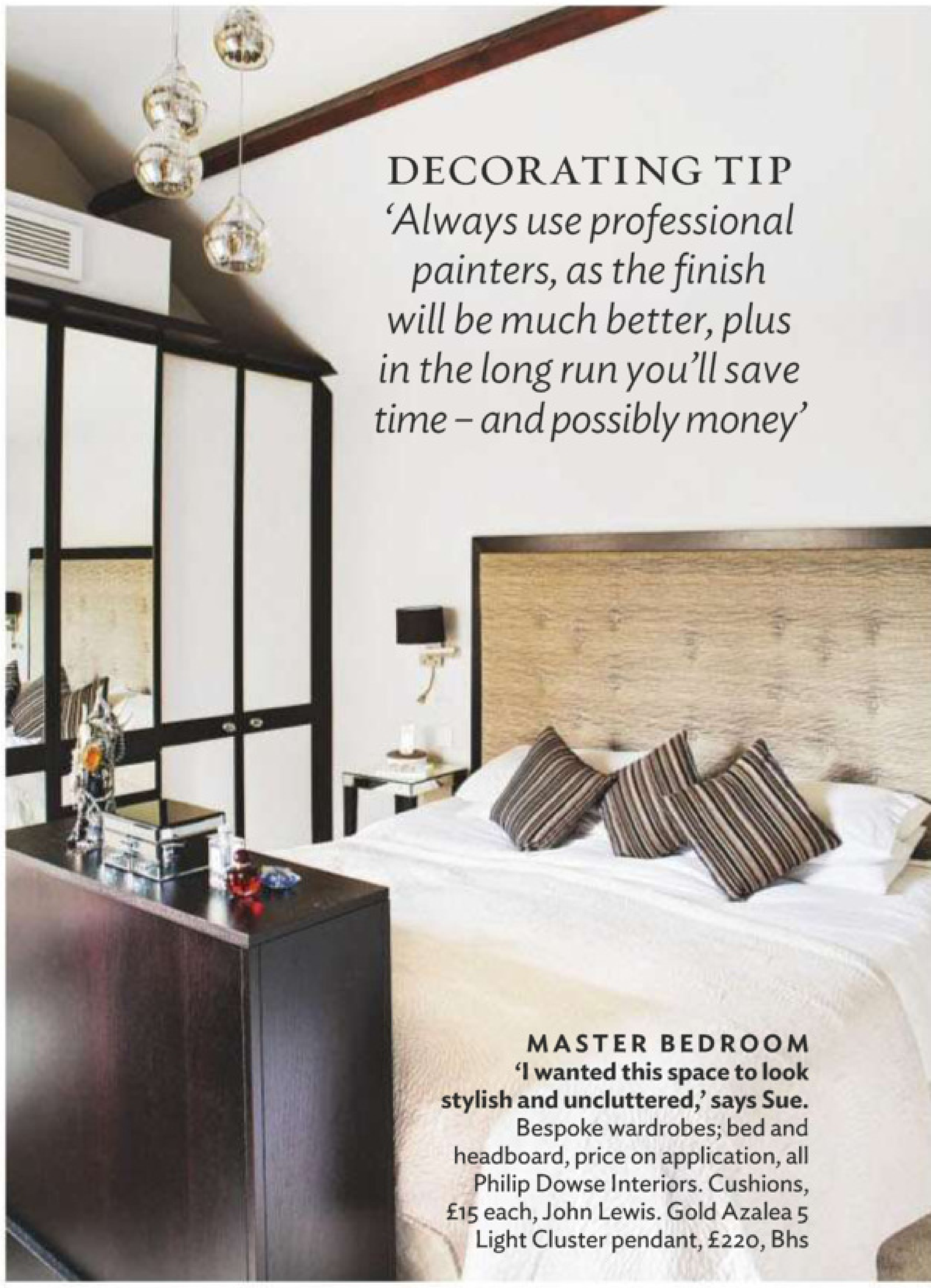
Keen for the kitchen to be the hub of the house, Sue insisted on a large open-plan area for food prep and socialising. 'I don't like having to face the wall while I'm cooking so an island was something I knew would work well,' she says. 'I love chatting and wanted people to congregate around me without getting in the way, while I work on the other side of the unit.' Sue relayed her ideas to her husband, who handmade chic painted cabinetry, fitted underfloor heating below honed porcelain floor tiles and installed top-of-the-range built-in appliances.

Once everything was complete, Sue immediately felt the benefits of downsizing. 'I'm very house-proud, and I used to spend the whole time cleaning and tidying up our old house,' she says. 'But this place is so compact and low maintenance, it means I have much more time for socialising and enjoying the lovely home we've created.'

So, despite those initial worries, Sue is delighted with her new home. 'I remember feeling so uncertain about the move,' she says, 'but now I can't wait to get started on the garden.'

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DECORATING TIP

'Always use professional painters, as the finish will be much better, plus in the long run you'll save time – and possibly money'

MASTER BEDROOM

'I wanted this space to look stylish and uncluttered,' says Sue. Bespoke wardrobes; bed and headboard, price on application, all Philip Dowse Interiors. Cushions, £15 each, John Lewis. Gold Azalea 5 Light Cluster pendant, £220, Bhs



LARA'S BEDROOM

The couple's daughter designed this elegant boudoir herself. Heather Embroidered Dot quilt, £150, Laura Ashley. Ceiling lamp, £175, Nicky Cornell. Walls painted in Pavilion Gray estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



MASTER EN SUITE

Sparkling mosaic tiles and a sunken bath add glamour. Mosaic shower tiles, from £25 per sheet, Porcelanosa. Take a look at Modern Shaggy rug, £15.95, Amazon

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**

CALM & COLLECTED

A pale palette and upcycled furniture have given Justine and John Harrison's period home a fresh farmhouse feel

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ROBERT SANDERSON

DINING AREA
A few coats of paint have transformed the old furniture Justine picked up at auction. Chairs painted in Stony Ground, estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Take a look at upcycled Shabby Chic farmhouse table and four solid-wood chairs, £350, Ongar Furniture Boutique

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Country house, built in 1920
LOCATION Kent
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner/family room, snug, study, utility room, cloakroom, four bedrooms (one en suite), dressing room, bathroom
PURCHASED 2011
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'Before moving here, we lived in a contemporary house in a village nearby,' says Justine.

KITCHEN

Existing cabinetry was spray-painted an off-white shade for an instant update.
Units painted in Shaded White estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Range cooker, £1,300, Stoves. Antique Craquele splashback tiles, £61.20sq m, Tile & Stone Medway

FAMILY ROOM

'I spent ages choosing the right fabric for the Roman blinds,' says Justine. 'The topiary design ties in perfectly with the formal character of the garden beyond.'
Topiary linen blind fabric from Clarke & Clarke's Clarisse collection, £22m. French-painted Provence 2 storage drawer coffee table, £287, Azura Furniture, would work well here

SITTING ROOM
Luxury furniture, textiles and wallpaper lend an air of glamour to this formal space. Tivoli damask wallpaper, £42.50 per roll; John Sankey Mitford loungers, £2,550 each; bespoke leather footstool, £1,000, all Woodcocks Interiors

FAVOURITE SHOP 'I love going to country auctions, as I usually find pretty pieces of furniture to transform'



Justine and John Harrison both have a passion for renovating houses and love moving for the sheer joy of starting all over again. However, they looked at 75 different properties over a period of two years before finding their current home, which they instantly fell in love with. Reading the particulars, the couple thought it sounded too good to be true and that there had to be a catch, such as a noisy railway line at the end of the garden or a builder's yard next door. But, as it turned out, there wasn't a catch, or any major defects that couldn't be easily remedied.

The property itself – a beautiful 1920s house in Kent that is surrounded by six acres of garden and meadows and overlooking an area of outstanding natural beauty – had been significantly improved by its previous owners. 'They had added a wonderfully large family living space, but our only problem was upstairs, where there were two minuscule bathrooms backing onto each other, and two of the six bedrooms were extremely small,' says Justine. As John has a flair for organising space, he and local architect Leslie Rumjahn designed a new layout, which included knocking the two bathrooms into one and turning the tiny bedrooms into a fabulous dressing room for Justine.

After the builders had finished working upstairs, they removed the travertine tiles in the sitting room and hall, and replaced them with wood flooring. Then one of the garages was transformed into a studio, where Justine paints furniture – her upcycled pieces forming the basis of the restful rural look she wanted for the interior. 'Our previous home was very contemporary and furnished mostly in black, chrome and leather, with a sitting room painted a deep red, which looked very striking and cosy,' says Justine. 'For this place, I wanted a different and more grown-up look that was light, refreshing and welcoming.'

With this in mind, Justine had the existing dark-oak kitchen resprayed and she painted the wooden dining chairs and the coffee table in the family room in white, pale grey and light green shades. 'I've always enjoyed transforming old furniture,' explains Justine. 'And I've become one of those people who can't drive past a junk shop or auction house without stopping.' The shabby chic theme, which reminds Justine of her childhood home, continues throughout the property, except for the formal sitting room, which features a series of shimmering finishes for a bolder, more glamorous look perfectly suited to evening entertaining.

Decorative additions, such as dried lavender hung inside a pretty vintage frame and floral-themed artwork, echo the property's rural setting. 'I was brought up in the country and I really enjoy the lifestyle,' says Justine. 'My uncle was a gamekeeper, my mum owned a livery yard, and I loved riding and being around horses, so I feel completely at home here. John and I are so happy with how this project has turned out and we're in no hurry to take on another one.'

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 155


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1 GUEST BEDROOM
Warm yellow bedlinen helps brighten this north-facing room. Walls painted in Frayed Hessian 4 matt emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5 litres, Dulux. Harmony Victoria brass bed, £235, Direct Bedroom, is a match

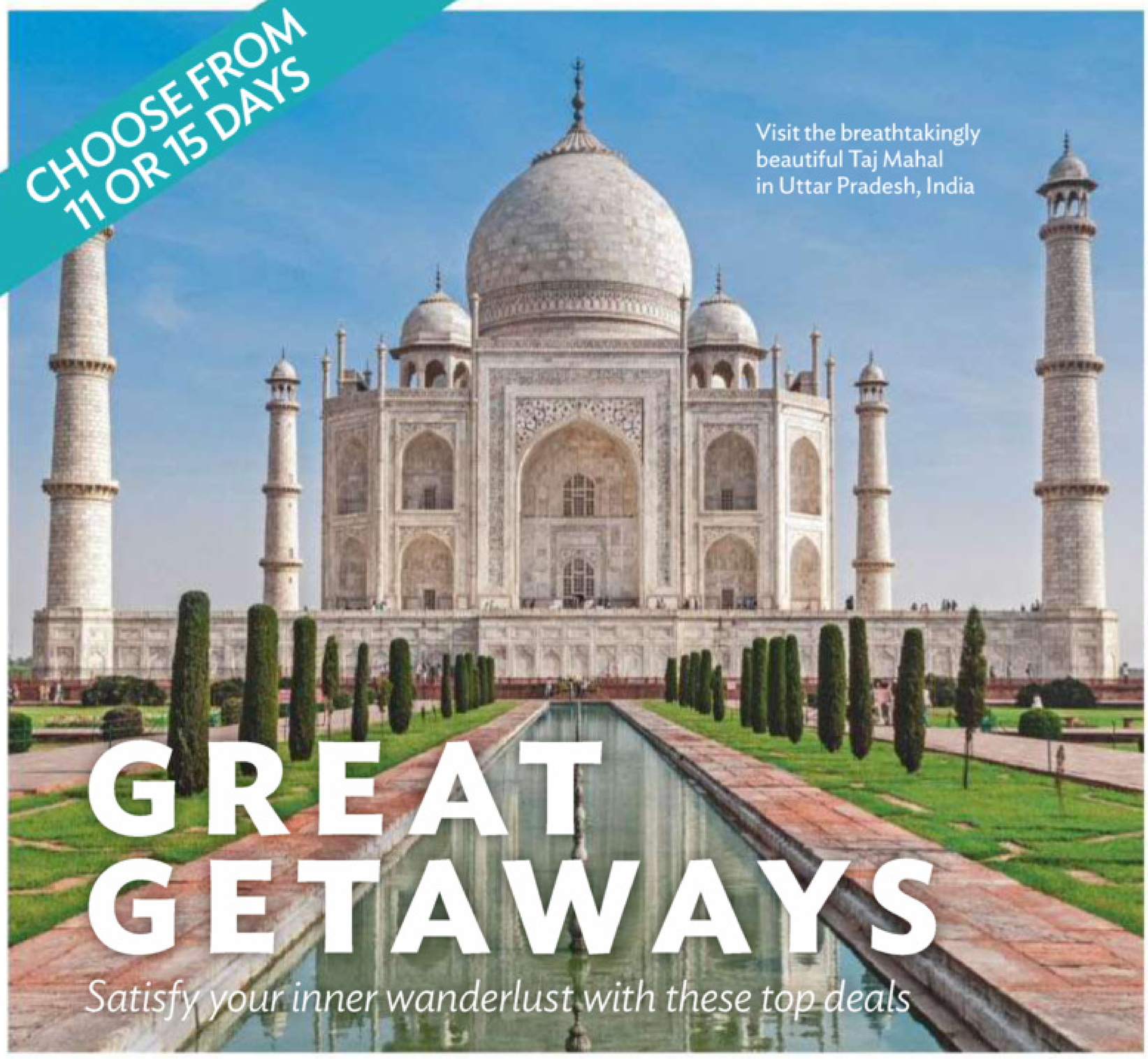
2 DRESSING ROOM
Justine's shoe collection is the main focal point in this scheme. Homes Direct 365 sells a range of colourful tailor's mannequins, £60

3 MASTER EN SUITE
This glossy monochrome design is elegant and indulgent. Marlborough slipper bath, £2,000, Victoria + Albert. Isabelle Roman blind fabric, £75m, Manuel Canovas. Walls painted in Lily matt emulsion, £29.50 for 2.5 litres, Neptune. Classic white lever bath shower mixer tap with standpipes, £1,264, Lefroy Brooks

4 MASTER BEDROOM
Warm, neutral hues combine to create a suitably relaxed ambience. Malaysian chest painted in Shaded White estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Provencal white French armchair, £347, French Bedroom Company, is comparable. Albany Collection quilt, £375, The White Company. Made-to-measure Jewell Silk curtains by Fit to Drop, price on application. Walls painted in Skimming Stone estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



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REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Detached villa, built in the late 1800s
LOCATION Isle of Man
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, drawing room, sunroom, kitchen, dining room, study, cloakroom, five bedrooms, family bathroom
PURCHASED 1999
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We used to live in a modern house in Douglas,' says David.

BOLD MOVE

HALL
Original encaustic floor tiles make an arresting first impression. Grasmere floor tiles, £325sq m, Walls And Floors, are a good match

David Creane fell for an imposing period home just minutes from the coast and secured the property before his wife Valerie had even set eyes on it

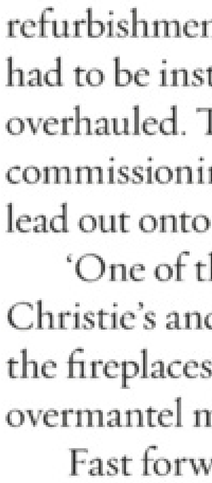
FEATURE KATHY HURST | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MARIANNE McCOURT

DRAWING ROOM
Dark sofas are ideal against a neutral scheme. Sofas reupholstered in Osborne & Little Stanza Chenille, £50m, TM Interiors. Walls painted in Savage Ground modern emulsion, £39 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball









Few people would be brave enough to purchase a property before their partner had seen it, but when estate agent David Creane shook hands on a colonial-style Victorian home on the Isle of Man, his wife Valerie was unaware of the deal. 'Fortunately, my husband knows my tastes and was convinced I'd love the house as much as he did,' recalls Valerie. 'He and the owner reached a gentlemen's agreement.'

With its lime kitchen units and avocado and pastel pink bath suites, the house was far from their dream home. But David was seduced by the ornate plasterwork, coving and original stained-glass windows. 'The property has only changed hands a few times and its period features were intact,' he says.

Valerie escaped to her native Ireland while the initial refurbishment took place – a new kitchen and bathroom had to be installed and existing plumbing and electrics were overhauled. The couple also opened up the drawing room, commissioning stained glass for the French windows that lead out onto a terrace with a pavilion and croquet lawn.

'One of the high points was sourcing antique furniture from Christie's and Sotheby's auction houses; namely club fenders for the fireplaces, Regency-era marbled-topped hall tables and overmantel mirrors,' says David. 'I got such a buzz out of it.'

Fast forward a decade and they called in interior designer Lucy Swales to remodel the top-floor guest suites in a fresh, modern style. She chose a colour scheme of soft cream, sage green and duck egg blue for the walls and many of the fabrics. 'My greatest challenge was to balance David and Valerie's desire for a more contemporary look with the property's architectural features,' Lucy explains. 'The feel is now classic-contemporary, with a traditional ambience.' The couple are delighted with her work: sumptuous bedrooms with oversized beds and luxurious fabrics plus Art Deco-inspired sofas upholstered in rich fabrics. The entrance hall was also transformed with elegant silk wallpaper to complement the Victorian floor tiles.

Although David had wanted to live in the country, he doesn't regret putting down roots in town. 'I can walk to work, and at weekends Valerie and I will head to the beach,' he says. 'We feel blessed to have bought a home that brings us so much joy.'

1 & 2 KITCHEN

A small room was transformed into a cosy, open-plan space. Cabinetry by Andrew Williamson Furniture, repainted in Stone V flat emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Paint & Paper Library. Chairs reupholstered in Peregrina Giacomo fabric, £58m, Osborne & Little. Contes PurePlank flooring, £36sq m, Havwoods

3 SITTING ROOM

'Antiques and objets d'art come alive in here,' says David. Sofas reupholstered in Kintyre Chenille, £63m, Osborne & Little. Curtains in Brunswick Floral, £25m, John Lewis, would work here

4 GUEST BEDROOM

An overscaled headboard designed by Lucy Swales is a striking focal point. Headboard, £650, Powell's Upholstery. Chest of drawers painted in Matchstick estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

5 MASTER BEDROOM

The half-tester silk bed canopy is an opulent touch. Canopy made up of Regal Silk vol 3 Frost, £43m, James Hare, and Lorca Melusine silk, £40m, Osborne & Little. Curtains in Brockham Old Blue fabric, £139m, Colefax and Fowler

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**

DESIGN TIP *'Get the professionals in and don't worry about their fee – you'll get it back 100 per cent in the way they're able to lift a scheme'*

4

5

BATHROOM
This was converted from a bedroom and the couple chose a Victorian-style suite.
The Dawlish Victorian Slipper bath, £795, The Cast Iron Bath Company, fits the scheme

FRENCH *connection*

Stephanie and Ludovic Riglet have infused their London flat with plenty of Gallic charm

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ROBERT SANDERSON

SITTING ROOM
This space has a period feel with an original fireplace, stone-coloured walls and grey upholstery.
Walls painted in Elephant's Breath estate emulsion, £34 50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Charlotte three-seater sofa, £1,595, Maison. Orange velvet cushions, £45 each, Oka

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Garden flat built in 1840
LOCATION Richmond
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, study, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 2012
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We rented a terraced house in Richmond,' says Stephanie.



DINING ROOM
'I hide the dark-wood table with pretty striped cloths to match the colours in the garden,' says Stephanie. Henley Stripe fabric in Mint/Pink, £29.50m, would suit this scheme. Louis Ghost chairs, £197 each, The Conran Shop. Loire long iron candle holder, £89, India Jane



KITCHEN
Blue tiles and accessories help the room flow seamlessly into the dining area. Moustier Cloud wall tiles, £250sq m, Fired Earth. Metod Maximera grey kitchen units, from £79 for a two-drawer base unit, Ikea



HALL
Bold wallpaper, which Stephanie spotted in a hotel, makes an impact. Spalding Stripe wallpaper, £47 per roll, Ralph Lauren



When Stephanie Riglet suggested to her French husband Ludovic that they leave Paris so she could fulfil her lifelong ambition of living in London, the odds were stacked in her favour. 'He works for an international company, which gives him the option to move abroad,' explains Stephanie, who grew up in Gloucestershire. After exploring various parts of the UK, Ludovic caught the London bug, arranged a job transfer, and the family moved to Richmond. The couple's daughters, Emma, 15, and Juliette, 12, were thrilled. 'They're crazy about horses and Richmond Park is an ideal place to ride,' says Stephanie. 'Ludovic and I also fell in love with the area's independent shops and metropolitan buzz.'

The family considered buying a big house on the outskirts of the area, but soon settled on a garden flat closer to the action. 'It's a two-minute walk from the high street and has an amazing garden,' says Stephanie of their elegant apartment. 'We've never liked the idea of living in one big open-plan space, because I'm not keen on having the kitchen on permanent display. This flat is ideal because it has a winter-style sitting room with an open fire, and a summery family/dining room opening onto the garden.'

The couple's sole challenge was how to reconfigure the layout to create an extra bedroom as there were only three and they had hoped for four, so one could be used as a study. Their only option was to turn the large bathroom into a master

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MAIN BEDROOM
With no room for a bedside table, the couple made good use of a ledge under the window.
China Blue Fretwork cushion (left), £96; Lacy Heart cushion (right), £81, both Jan Constantine. Hellas cushion (centre), £59, Oka

EMMA'S BEDROOM
The daybed doubles up as a sofa, while transparent furniture adds an airy feel.
Charlotta daybed, £895, Maison. Finnvard trestle with shelf, £25 each, Ikea. Glass table top, £150, Habitat

bedroom. 'Once the sanitaryware was removed, there was only just room for a king-size bed,' says Stephanie. 'Every night, we have to scramble into bed from the bottom end.' When it comes to furnishing a small room, Stephanie champions the merits of glass and Perspex furniture. 'It impinges less on the sense of space than solid shapes do. The glass-topped desk in Emma's room almost seems to float, and, for the same reason, I chose a glass dressing table and Perspex chair for our bedroom,' she says.

Making the most of the view over the garden, the summer family/dining room now has an elegant pastel colour scheme to complement the blue hydrangeas outside. 'In Paris, we had deep red curtains, but here, I left the family room windows undressed to allow maximum light in,' explains Stephanie. 'After all, we're not overlooked, so why would we need curtains?'

Despite their move here, the family haven't lost their taste for French interiors. 'India Jane is my favourite shop,' says Stephanie. 'Its furniture is a mixture of Gallic and Far Eastern-inspired pieces and I'm drawn to its elegant look, which reminds me of chic French farmhouses. I love an emphasis on grey and linen textures.' Her design choices are especially evident in the family's winter sitting room, with its rich wood furniture, rust-brown cushions and elegant grey sofas. 'This is my favourite room,' says Stephanie. 'We'll often sit in front of a crackling fire as the autumn nights set in. Thankfully, it's safe to say that Ludovic has been won over to life in the UK.'

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**

BATHROOM
A Swiss chalet provided the inspiration for this rustic scheme.
The Old Cinema has a selection of vintage and antique mirrors

INSIGHT

Making the most of a small bedroom



If you're keen to maximise a particularly cosy bedroom like Stephanie and Ludovic Riglet, consider these points first

Even the most humble of box rooms can be a comfortable bedroom, and clever use of furniture can turn it into a multifunctional space, too. Careful planning and a dash of inspiration are all that's needed.

OUTSIDE THE BOX

The key to a successful compact bedroom is to create adequate storage within a functional layout. Often in a small guest room, a couple of large, hard-working pieces of furniture will achieve a less cluttered look than several small pieces. Consider how the space can serve more than one function, such as doubling up as a workstation. Try incorporating a wall bed instead of a traditional sofa bed. It takes a standard mattress, can offer greater comfort, and will fold away completely to look like a wardrobe or cabinet. If you have adequate ceiling height, consider bespoke options, such as a simple mezzanine incorporating a sleeping area on a raised platform with a wardrobe or shelving below.

FORM AND FUNCTION

Another option is to go for a statement bed and little else, as the Riglets have done. If you follow this route, use a bed that incorporates storage. Debra McQuin at McQuin Partnership suggests creative thinking. 'If there's no space for a headboard, then paint one on the wall and use wall-mounted lights,' she says. And in all bedrooms, small or large, a sense of luxury comes from a good mattress and high thread-count sheets. These make the most difference to a sense of well-being.'

EXPERT EYE

'No matter how small your bedroom is, a chair is always practical. If it seems to eat too much space, consider opting for something less obtrusive such as a Ghost chair by Philippe Starck.'

NICOLA HOLDEN, NICOLA HOLDEN DESIGNS

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE...



- **'Play up to a room's assets. If it's small and dark, don't try to change it, opt for a cosy feel instead. And don't be afraid to place a large piece of furniture in a compact space. It will look much better than a number of smaller pieces.**
- Maximise storage by choosing clever multifunctional furniture, using the walls and height of the room as well as the floor space.
- **Provide one or two key focal points to draw the eye to the outer areas of the room, for example a striking piece of artwork, or headboard covered in stunning fabric.**
- Lighting helps to visually maximise the space. You could try lighting the narrower sides of the room to provide a sense of width, with wall lights or tiltable recessed spotlights. Choose lampshades that allow light to reflect upwards if you have a low ceiling.
- **When it comes to wooden flooring, use visual tricks to provide a sense of width or length. It can be laid diagonally to make a room appear wider, or run it parallel to the longest wall to elongate the space. Buy wide planks as they look less confining.**
- Make sure furniture isn't too bulky. Transparent surfaces and open structures will give the impression of an item taking less space.
- **Think about the entrance door – if you can't re-hang it so that it opens away from the room, consider installing sliding pocket doors that don't eat into the usable space.'**

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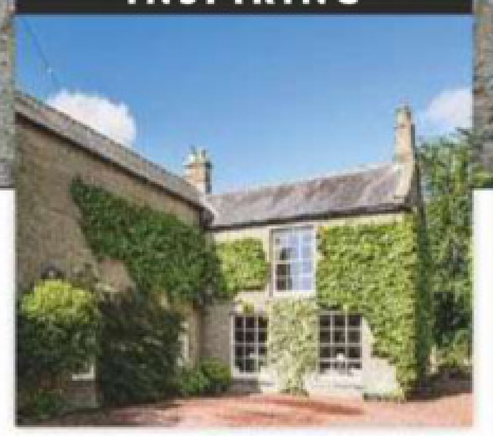
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HOME *of two* HALVES

Kathryn and Graham Trueman's rustic farmhouse spans two eras, but clever decorating has ensured a cohesive flow throughout

FEATURE KAREN WILSON
PHOTOGRAPHY JILL TATE

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
A 265-year-old stone farmhouse with Georgian additions
LOCATION Northumberland
ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, study, conservatory, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 2002
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We lived in a rented farmhouse nearby,' says Kathryn.

KITCHEN
The oak-painted farmhouse kitchen features a mixture of granite and beech worktops. Fired Earth's reclaimed terracotta floor tiles, £109sq m, would suit this scheme





KITCHEN
This room was originally an outside barn and the stone wall is a reminder of its heritage.
Old Charm carver chair, £309, Hunters of Derby, is similar

When Kathryn Trueman spotted a For Sale board outside a stone farmhouse while walking her dogs 12 years ago, it was love at first sight. 'I turned the dogs around and walked straight home to call the estate agent,' says Kathryn, who had been living in rented accommodation nearby with her property-investor husband Graham. 'We hadn't looked at any other houses, but we instantly loved this one even though the decor was rather sparse, and the place hadn't been touched for 20 years. As soon as we went to view it we knew we wanted it, and we knew we could put our own stamp on the place.'

First built as a farmhouse, before later being turned into a doctor's surgery, the original part of the house includes the dining room, kitchen and office, and was built in 1750 as a single-storey dwelling, while the first floor and sitting room were added in 1800.

Having secured the sale, the couple spent six months renovating the property before they moved in with Graham's then teenage



SITTING ROOM
Kathryn opted for autumnal shades of pale green, grey and russet.
Walls painted in French Gray estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

FAVOURITE SHOP 'I love Rutherfords of Morpeth. I can never go to its homeware department without buying something'





CONSERVATORY
'We love the all-year-round views from here,' says Kathryn. Rainbow multispot throw, £79.95; Skye check cushion and rainbow multispot cushion, both £49.95, Barker & Stonehouse

children Hannah and Harry, plus Kathryn's son Adam. As well as adding a new kitchen and bathrooms, they exposed three stone walls and three boarded-up inglenooks. 'There were a lot of unattractive fireplaces but I guessed there would be lovely ones behind them,' says Kathryn. 'I kept poking holes in the walls till I found them, then our builder Dennis McMillan carried on!'

Decor-wise, Kathryn is keen on a Franco-Italian style which is rooted in a love of the Mediterranean. 'I try to make the most of the features that are there – the more rustic the better. I like things to flow if possible but then have something a bit mad in a corner.' The dining room, for instance, features a striking candelabra, a painted French dresser, plus eye-catching artwork and floral arrangements. 'I think I've always been quite creative,' says Kathryn, who has recently opened a bridal shop with her son. 'I've loved collecting things since I was a child and later I went on to study fashion.' Her flair can be seen throughout the house including in her favourite



DINING ROOM
The original parquet flooring appealed to Kathryn. 'It's on a slant like a lot of the house, but I quite like that,' she says. La Maison Chic sells similar French-style dressers, from £1,038





MASTER BEDROOM

Kathryn loves the huge master bedroom which enjoys views stretching for 30 miles. Barker & Stonehouse's Treville sleigh bed frame, £815, is a close match. Water hyacinth blanket box, £17, Dunelm, has a similar look

room, the atmospheric north-facing kitchen. 'It's always so welcoming and warm in here because of the Aga,' she says.

With their children now grown up – and Graham's youngest, Hannah, soon to fly the nest – the Truemans considered downsizing this year. However it wasn't to be. 'I was having a glass of wine in the garden when two horses put their heads over the fence and our two-year-old grandson Archie started stroking them,' says Kathryn. 'I turned to Graham and said, "I've changed my mind. I don't think I want to move anymore – I love it here too much." He was so relieved as he'd been having second thoughts as well.'

Now they've decided to stay put, the couple plan to knock through the kitchen and dining room to create an open-plan rustic Scandi feel. 'We'd have to lose the stone wall in the kitchen but we could re-use it to face another wall,' says Kathryn. 'I think every five years you need a bit of a change, so perhaps the time has come to go a bit more open plan, minimalist and modern.'



MASTER EN SUITE

'I love this room as I can shut myself off, light some candles and relax after a busy day,' says Kathryn. The granite splashback and bath panel were cut to fit by a local joiner. Cottage Oak wall mirror, £125, The Cotswold Company, is a good match

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**



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REGENCY RESCUE

After a career renovating properties, Patsy Holdsworth finally found her own dream home

FEATURE VICTORIA JENKINS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** WILLIAM GODDARD

KITCHEN
Pine corbels cut to size and fitted to the chimney breast add an interesting touch.
Egg of Columbus Carton pendants, £25 each, The Conran Shop. Units, £7,200, Sambourne Kitchens. Painted in French Gray estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Unistone worktops, £1,900, Granite Planet. The corbels came from a reclamation yard



SITTING ROOM
The black slate fireplace replaced a small brick one, and the wooden trunk serves as a handy extra table at parties.
Fireplace, £1,100, Wessex Reclamation. Linen sofa, £895; reupholstered in old kilim, £2,195; trunk, £995; lampshade, £129, all Shaded White. For Aztec-style cushions, try Etsy. Hadley dining table, £1,350; Hadley chairs, £155 each, all India Jane

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Two-bedroom Regency apartment
LOCATION Cheltenham
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining area, kitchen, utility room, study, wine cellar, two bedrooms, bathroom
PURCHASED 2013
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'I lived in a house locally that had water pouring through the roof when I bought it,' says Patsy.

Having a parent in the RAF, Patsy Holdsworth went to 11 different primary schools, so packing up and moving on holds no fear for her. And having to stay with a friend while she gutted a damp-ridden basement flat in Cheltenham also wasn't a problem, especially as she has renovated countless run-down properties in her career as an interior designer. 'When I started out, my first husband and I inherited a huge, dilapidated 16th-century farmhouse. There was so much to do on little money that I had to learn everything myself. Doing up houses has been my passion ever since,' she says.

When Patsy first viewed this apartment, the smell of damp was overpowering. 'I knew I'd have to strip the place and take it back to the bare brick,' she recalls. 'On the plus side, the flat had lovely big rooms and the windows let in plenty of light. I also fell in love with the entrance hall and high ceilings.'

Because it was a probate sale, the flat having belonged to someone who had died, the whole process took a year to go through. On top of that, Patsy's surveyor said the



STUDY
This leads on to the storage area, which is perfect for wine.
Walls in Incarnadine estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. For a vintage typewriter, try Typewriters.co.uk



MASTER BEDROOM
Patsy has chosen a neutral scheme and added colour with a checked fabric headboard.
Try Ball Green estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Curtains made in Ian Mankin Ticking 2 Stripe Black, £24.50m, Forum Interior Design



BATHROOM
The extra-long washbasin is a practical choice.
049112 basin, £685, Duravit. Metod units, £49 each, Ikea. Round oak mirror, £389, Shaded White



GUEST BEDROOM
The headboard was created from an old mirror and helps light the room.
Cushions in Stockholm Stitch Citrus/Off White fabric, £69.60m, Lewis & Wood

property was uninhabitable, so she couldn't move in until the work was completed. 'Luckily, I didn't need planning permission as I wasn't making structural changes,' she explains. 'But I was able to install new insulation, wiring, pipework, heating and plastering – I even put in the ceilings plus laid underfloor heating in the hall, kitchen, utility room and bathroom.'

Patsy also chose a new kitchen and bathroom, two fireplaces and new doors throughout, including a pair of antique double ones leading into the kitchen. Just off this room was an unlit area beneath the entrance steps, which she turned into a small wine cellar. Despite everything that had to be done, the work took only six months, and there was just one hitch along the way. 'Because of the insulation I'd put in, the kitchen became five centimetres narrower, so Sambourne Kitchens had to make two base units a bit smaller,' explains Patsy.

The result is a light, spacious apartment full of her quirky touches, including a black slate fireplace and a pair of 1950s bird-patterned lampshades in the sitting room, which Patsy found in a charity shop. 'The inside lining was ripped; luckily I knew how to reline them,' she says.

Patsy says the flat has a lovely atmosphere and she feels very settled. 'I can walk into Cheltenham from here – I love it,' she says.

INSPIRATION *'Reclamation yards are a constant source of inspiration – I love finding antiques and interesting old architectural features that can be incorporated into contemporary schemes'*

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THE SOURCE

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

DESIGN IDEAS



PATCHWORK TILES

PAGES 20 – 25

Conor O'Riain and Roisin Lafferty have allowed their imagination to run wild in their outdoor space, giving their garden a highly individual look. The most striking feature is the patchwork-effect floor, created using a variety of mismatched tiles. This idea is much easier to execute effectively if the tiles are all roughly the same size. Lay out all the pieces first and play around with different arrangements before you decide on the final design. Conor and Roisin used a combination of patterned and plain tiles in blue, white and grey. Many ranges are now readily available in a mix of complementary designs so this patchwork effect can be achieved much more easily.







PANELLED FEATURE WALL

PAGES 88 – 91

The Harrisons have used wooden wall panelling to add architectural interest and warmth to their bathroom. For a twist on traditional tongue and groove, the planks were fitted horizontally and set within a frame to create a feature wall behind the basin. Painting the timber white creates a visual link with the vanity unit and makes the panels stand out beautifully against the mauve wall. This is a great way to add character to a room or cover up less-than-perfect walls, but ensure there are no issues with damp before you start.



ROOM DIVIDER

PAGES 80 – 83

The trick to successful open-plan living is to create a kitchen, dining area and sitting room that comfortably co-exist within the same space, but divide them into clearly defined zones to avoid a crowded look. The Lamours have fitted a narrow slatted screen at the end of a run of cabinetry to visually separate the kitchen area from the sitting room in their converted barn. Neat and inexpensive, yet very effective, this improvised floor-to-ceiling room divider also doubles up as a handy place to hang lightweight kitchen utensils, saving space in the compact kitchen. Its finish ties in with the wooden wall units and dining furniture, while the slim slats also allow plenty of light to come through to the windowless kitchen area.



CREATIVE WAYS WITH MIRRORS

Mirrors are a versatile decorative element that can be used to add interest and drama to any scheme. Not only do they brighten a room, but the reflection also fools the eye into thinking that the space is larger. Try these stylish ideas for different areas.



KITCHEN

PAGES 46 – 49

To increase the sense of space in her contemporary kitchen and add a modern edge, Nicky Bailey has fitted a plain mirrored splashback underneath her wall cabinets. This is a classic design trick that helps boost light levels and makes a small or dark room seem airier. In this smart scheme (below), a glamorous silver-leaf tiled splashback has been chosen to reflect light and turn the range cooker into a focal point, while the pale walls and floor further accentuate the sense of space. When used like this, metallic surfaces can give instant polish to a room with minimum effort. Bespoke Heritage hand-painted oak kitchen with freestanding island unit fitted with Belgian Fossil marble worktops, from around £40,000, Mowlem & Co.







BEDROOM

PAGES 112 – 114

An antique overmantel mirror has been repurposed as a headboard in Patsy Holdsworth's bedroom. It's an effective idea that adds instant impact to a room. This sophisticated scheme (above) has been created by interior designer Lucy Powles, founder of Cocovara Interiors. She used a wall of mirrors to help brighten the space and create the illusion of a bigger room. Table lamps have been placed in front of the mirror to assist the spread of light, while the variety of textural elements, including faux fur, leather and silk, create a luxurious feel. The bespoke mirrored panels cost around £2,000 from Glass Designs. For a similar headboard, try the deep-buttoned headboard in Sahco with Swarovski crystals, from £585 plus fabric, Whitehead Designs.



BATHROOM

PAGES 107 – 110

A large framed mirror that reaches almost as high as the ceiling has been hung on the wall above the bath in Kathryn and Graham Trueman's bathroom. Rooms with dark corners particularly benefit from oversized mirrors as they help reflect incoming light, particularly when placed opposite a window. In this bedroom (right), a freestanding bath has been positioned at one end to create a striking boutique-hotel feel. Bespoke mirrored panels were fitted all around the alcove to increase the light levels in the low-ceilinged room and draw attention to the bath. The mirrors also emphasise the angles of the room, turning the awkwardly shaped space under the eaves into an eye-catching feature. Freestanding Usk bath with grey-painted exterior, from £3,570, Drummonds.



INSPIRED SHOPPING



BRIGHT IDEA

PAGES 35 – 40

A smart zigzag-print rug helps soften the look of Egon Walesch and Richard Goodwin's polished wood floor. Add pattern to your home with this Groove rug in Lagoon, from £330 for W140 x L200cm, Scion.



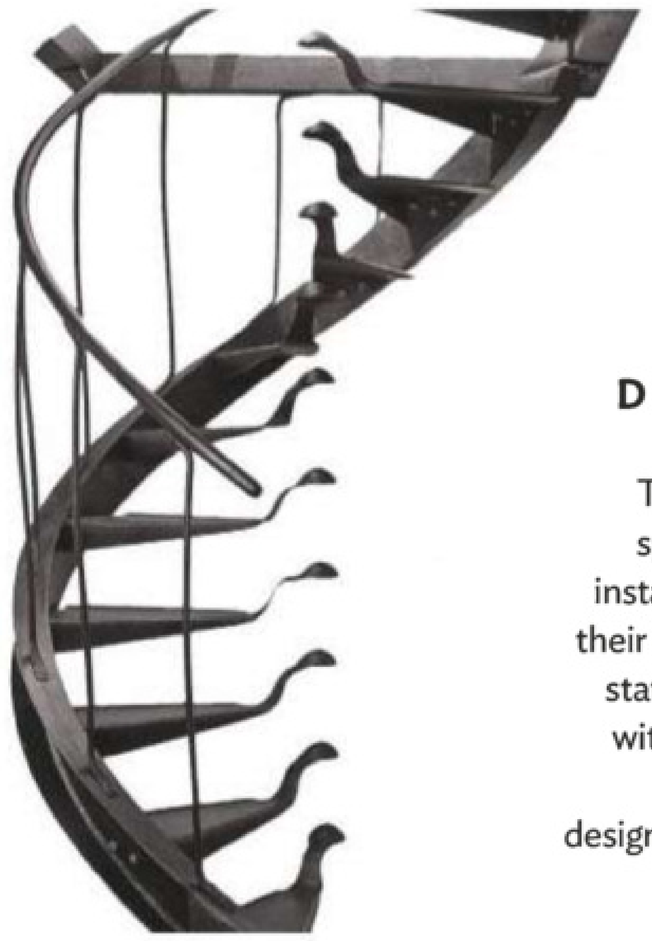




FRILL SEEKER

PAGES 112 – 114

A series of crimped pendant shades add character to Patsy Holdsworth's kitchen. Re-create the look with the Seletti Egg of Columbus large pendant, which is made of recyclable materials, £25, Heal's.





DO THE TWIST

PAGES 80 – 83

To save on valuable floor space, the Lamours have installed a spiral staircase in their converted barn. Make a statement in your property with this bespoke Pavillion spiral staircase in steel designed by Richard McLane, from £22,000, Bisca.





PRETTY IN PRINT

PAGES 60 – 63

If you admire Faith Bailey's vibrant bedlinen, try this Italian paisley Jacquard throw, £90, Doris & Boris.



VERY VERSATILE

PAGES 85 – 87

The Dowses use a narrow footstool as a coffee table. For a neutral interior, this Cunard upholstered bench, £399, Roger Oates, is ideal.



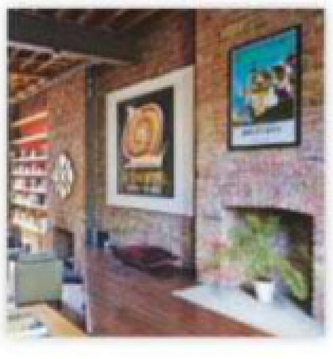


LIGHT FANTASTIC

PAGES 98 – 102

A pair of candlestick lamps add elegance to the Riglets' sitting room. With an intricate carved stand and subtly distressed finish, this Bordeaux wooden column table lamp, £329, Artisanti, would suit a classic scheme.





RETRO ART

PAGES 27 – 32

If you like the vibrant colours of James Anstead's vintage travel posters, you'll love the Soleil Toute Lannee by Roger Broders framed in Classic Grey, £74.99, AllPosters.co.uk.





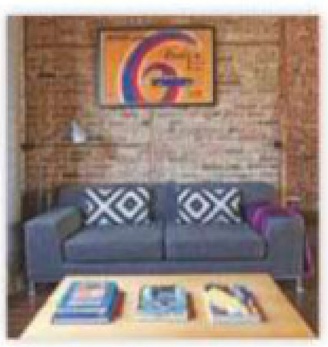


SIMPLE CHIC

PAGES 46 – 49

Nicky Bailey opted for a suspended vanity unit in her bathroom. The Darling New wall-mounted vanity unit, from around £428, Duravit, is similar.





SEAT YOURSELF

PAGES 27 – 32

Boxy, modern sofas work perfectly in James Anstead's sitting room. Steal his style with the Tratto sofa, from £1,150, Natuzzi.

5 OF THE BEST

BUTCHER'S BLOCKS AND KITCHEN TROLLEYS

Freestanding pieces can provide valuable extra worktop and storage space without the expense of a renovation. Here are our favourites.



Marble-top kitchen trolley, £1,215, Sweetpea & Willow



Premier Housewares rubber wood trolley with black granite top, £147, Amazon.co.uk



Grundtal kitchen trolley, £100, Ikea



Pembroke kitchen trolley with Hevea wood top, £538, T&G Woodware



Padstow butcher's block, £549, Marks & Spencer

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
A new farmhouse rebuilt using existing materials
LOCATION Lancashire
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, boot room, library/studio, four bedrooms (three en suite), dressing room, family bathroom
PURCHASED 2009
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We lived in a cottage in a nearby village,' says Amy.

HALL
The wrought-iron banister adds a Continental flavour.
Walls painted in Pheasant flat emulsion, £39 for 2.5 litres, Zoffany. Malabar wicker armchair, £111, Tesco Direct, is similar

STEPPING UP

A rebuilt farmhouse was the perfect project for Amy and Nick Hardman to create a warm and vibrant family home

FEATURE JO MESSENGER | **PHOTOGRAPHY** FIONA WALKER-ARNOTT

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DINING AREA
'The antique oval table was a gift from Nick's parents,' says Amy. Linen and velvet-topped curtains, £32m, Amy Nicholas Interior Design. Vintage leather dining chairs, £285 each, Rose & Grey, are a match

When Amy and Nick Hardman were looking to swap their country cottage for a larger, more rural home, they were delighted when Nick's brother decided to sell the remote farmhouse he had recently built. Standing a mile from its nearest neighbours, the four-bedroom abode had long been admired by the couple. 'We both wanted a home with land where we could raise animals,' says Amy, who runs an interiors company. 'Little did we know we'd end up with six dogs, two goats, two geese, a turkey and lots of chickens!'

The house had been rebuilt to virtually the same footprint as the derelict property that stood on the exact spot, using mainly original materials painstakingly salvaged during the demolition. Amy and Nick have since added a small extension and made a few changes to the interior. 'It was like a Mediterranean villa inside, with white walls and limestone floors and an open-plan layout on the ground floor,' recalls Amy. 'We added double doors to divide the kitchen and dining room from the main sitting room and hall and create a relaxed "snug", which is a combined kitchen, dining and living space. Our animals are also free to wander in and out from the garden.'

Since moving in, the couple have had a daughter, Harriet, now one. Nick's older children Robyn, 21, and Max, 20, often visit, too, so the house is ideal for family life. It's functional as well as stylish,



KITCHEN
An oak worktop updated the existing Mark Wilkinson kitchen. Island painted in Brinjal estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball







while the limestone floor with underfloor heating is practical for the countryside, where muddy paws and feet are never far away. A larger, more formal sitting room is often reserved for entertaining.

'The snug is the hub of the house and a few more scratches and wear and tear over time just add to the charm,' says Amy. 'When we have people round, we tend to throw open all the doors so it's back to its original flowing layout. This is a great party house.'

Amy decided to revamp the old minimalist scheme and devise a fresher country feel in the property. The natural palette of varying shades of olive greens and aubergines with hints of red and mustard are warm, easy-to-live-with colours. 'As the rooms are large, we didn't want them to feel vacuous when decorated, so we chose big pieces of furniture to absorb some of the space, then layered everything,' explains Amy. 'Mirrors hung on walls have occasional tables in front with statement lamps and personal photos dotted around. I've also dressed the sofas with throws and plenty of cushions.'

She sourced a lot of the furnishings through her own business, while other pieces were discovered in reclamation yards, boutique shops, or imported from abroad. Amy and Nick have taken a shell of a house, albeit a new one, and transformed it into a rich and colourful family home. 'The position and location is truly stunning and we never tire of it – it's the perfect place to raise Harriet,' says Amy.



SITTING ROOM

Fitting the reclaimed oak doors created an informal snug at the end of the room, while rugs help soften the limestone flooring. Walls painted in Spanish Olive flat emulsion, £39 for 2.5 litres, Zoffany, and Clay Mid (153) intelligent matt emulsion, £41.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. Find similar distressed leather furniture at Alexander & Pearl

MASTER BEDROOM
The neutral scheme is enhanced with pops of colour. French ivory upholstered bed, £1,750, Amy Nicholas Interior Design. Walls painted in Natural Calico, £21.29 for 2.5 litres, Dulux

DESIGN ADVICE

'Don't be afraid to mix texture and pattern, but keep a core colour or concept the same to create continuity'

BATHROOM
Stone shades create a relaxing scheme and the countertop basin is ideal for a small room. Cabinetry painted in Portland Stone Pale intelligent eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. For similar bathroom furniture see Neptune's Chichester range

FOR STOCKISTS DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**

GUEST BEDROOM
The Union Jack flag, complete with bullet holes, was found by Amy in an antiques shop. Sleigh bed, £1,499, Amy Nicholas Interior Design. Bedlinen from a selection at The White Company. The White Resin Stag Head, £30, Shabby Store, is comparable

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INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Victorian semi-detached house
LOCATION Surrey
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, playroom, study, cloakroom, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 2007
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'Before this, we lived in a Victorian railway worker's cottage in south London,' says Claire.

GREAT REVIVER

Claire Farndell and Cy Williams injected pattern and personality into a sombre 19th-century house

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JAMES FRENCH

KITCHEN
'The existing units suited the house so I just repainted the doors and walls in the same colour to brighten up the space,' says Claire.
Shaker Cream kitchen, from £4,921, Magnet, is similar.
Walls painted in Dulux Jasmine White Kitchen Plus matt emulsion, £24 for 2.5 litres, B&Q

As soon as Claire Farndell and her husband Cy Williams moved into their 1860s house in Surrey, they set about making it their own. 'The rooms have high ceilings and were decorated in silks and swags in dark colours that were too austere,' says Claire. 'I wanted to make it feel warmer and brighter.'

Having designed roomsets and made window-display props for high-street retailers, Claire found that updating and personalising the place came easily to her. 'I've always liked making things, and some of the best pieces I own are those that haven't cost a fortune and which I've upcycled – my favourite shop is eBay!' she laughs.

Claire's first project was to decorate seven-year-old daughter Amelie's bedroom, giving it a girlie yet grown-up feel with cream and accents of pink and blue. Cream was her first choice for the sitting room, too, but she soon realised the colour didn't work with the room's cool light. 'It's only in the late afternoon that the sun comes around into this space and I found cream made the walls look too green,' she says. 'We repainted, settling on an off-grey, which works well.'

The once-stark rooms have been brought to life with hits of pattern on the walls and furniture, such as the vibrant floral sofa in

SITTING ROOM
Off-white walls provide a neutral backdrop for the couple's vibrant patterned furniture.
Miss Clementine sofa, from £1,735; footstool, from £659, both Sofa Workshop. For an alternative floral fabric, try Harlequin's Oopsie Daisy, £31m, Kingdom Interiors

the sitting room and the playroom chair, which is covered in bird-print fabric.

Claire has had to be patient with many of her purchases and keeps magazine cuttings of designer pieces she hopes to buy one day. One example is the 1950s Wheatsheaf coffee table in the sitting room, which was a long time coming, but now looks perfectly at home alongside a pair of pink cocktail chairs.

Despite owning some classic 1970s furniture, Claire couldn't make this style work in their house. 'The ceilings are high and our furniture was low, so the proportions were wrong and the rooms looked odd,' she explains. The couple have built up a collection of 1940s and 1950s designs instead, but didn't dare get rid of the other pieces in case they changed their minds. 'I once had a rare flamed-rosewood sideboard, which I loved but foolishly swapped for a chair,' says Claire. 'I didn't realise how expensive it was until later, so now we put things away in our attic!'

The constant rotating, improvising and customising are what make this house so special and sum up Claire's approach to decorating. With an endless supply of ideas and the confidence to re-cover vintage eBay and flea-market furniture in bold, modern fabrics, it's no wonder she says her home isn't quite finished yet. 'I've recently become hooked on pink, so I have my eye on a pale pink sofa from Heal's, a 1950s-style pink floor lamp and a flamingo wallhanging, which I think will all look fantastic in our sitting room,' she says. 'I'll always find new things I love and make a place for them.'

HALL
High ceilings can take an oversized wallhanging.
Jubilee wool wallhanging by Lucinda Chambers, £1,095, The Rug Company

PLAYROOM
Claire re-covered the chair, which was a flea-market find.
Chair in Georg fabric, £128m, Sandberg at TM Interiors

EN SUITE
Shades of biscuit and soft grey create a restful feel in here.
Walls painted in French Gray estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

AMELIE'S BEDROOM
Subtle touches of pink and blue bring the cream scheme to life. Birdcage Walk, £52 per roll, Nina Campbell, is another option. Single sleigh bed, £550, Dibor, is a match for this one

BEST BUY *'The German cocktail chairs in the sitting room cost only £150 on eBay, and then I spent £200 having them reupholstered in Designers Guild Varese in Geranium'*

MASTER BEDROOM
'I didn't want much colour in here as this is a quiet space,' says Claire. Anemone wallpaper in Black and White, £81.60 per roll, Neisha Crosland. Lille bed, from £1,149, Feather & Black, would suit this scheme

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**



Labour OF LOVE

Without knowing what the future held, Becky Jam and Philip Cook embarked on the renovation of their run-down, 19th-century farmhouse with a mutual passion

FEATURE AND PHOTOGRAPHY JO SHELDRAKE



SNUG
'I wanted a cosy space to balance the open-plan kitchen,' says Becky. Antique dresser, £175, Aud's Furniture Shed. Kirby mirror, £424, The Chandelier & Mirror Company, is a good match

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Farmhouse, built circa 1890
LOCATION Somerset
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, snug, utility, cloakroom, three bedrooms (all en suite)
PURCHASED 2011
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'I lived in a hunting lodge in Herefordshire', says Becky.

SITTING ROOM
Touches of red in the cushion and rug echo the warm tones of the fireplace. Cottage oak two-door sideboard, £185, The Cotswold Company, would work here

When Becky Jam, a chartered surveyor, and Philip Cook, the managing director of an agricultural business, were looking for a home, they were drawn to the challenge of renovating a 19th-century farmhouse in Somerset. 'We weren't sure it could become the home we wanted,' recalls Becky of her first visit. 'It was tired and dark, with lots of little rooms, and we needed some imagination to see its potential.' However, the couple shared the same vision and decided to go for it, and before long, the renovation was underway.

With the proposed plans approved and their builders on board, the couple had the entire building gutted. 'Starting from scratch seemed to be the most straightforward option, although getting the layout right for each room was tricky,' says Becky. As she loves to cook and entertain, creating a large kitchen and living space with views over the garden was key to the success of the project. 'What I found magical was that Philip understood exactly how to turn my dream kitchen into reality from just a few conversations and scribbled drawings. He instinctively knew what I'd like,' says Becky.

For Philip, creating an energy-efficient home was a main priority, so the couple installed photovoltaic panels to generate electricity, solar thermal panels to heat water, high-spec

KITCHEN
The island's wood and cream finishes link the cooking and dining areas.
Burford White kitchen, from around £5,000, Howdens. Bespoke dining table, £800, Owery Farm Joinery

MASTER BEDROOM
Muted colours and simple bedlinen create a tranquil feel. Empire one-drawer writing table, £219, Scumble Goosie. Feather & Black sells Waffle bedlinen, £55 for a double duvet cover

insulation, and air-source pumps to provide central heating. Most of the work took place before Becky moved to the area, so her input was from a distance. Philip, however, was living nearby, so he was able to manage the project. Upstairs, the six small bedrooms became three bedrooms with en suites, while downstairs, the central staircase was replaced with two new oak designs, one at each end of the property. This created room for an open-plan living space in the centre of the house.

Having completed the renovation of the main building, Becky and Philip moved in with much excitement and anticipation of happy times ahead. Tragically, with their planned extension in the early stages, Philip died suddenly from a heart attack in January 2013. 'Initially, I lost interest in the project, but gradually I saw it as an opportunity to finish what we'd started and a distraction from my grief,' recalls Becky. 'Once the builders left, I slowly tackled the interior to create the home Philip and I had dreamt of.'

Working with interior designer Claire Wakely on the majority of the soft furnishings, Becky relished sourcing beautiful fabrics to make the curtains, headboards, blinds and cushions. She also found endless joy in mixing pieces of painted, distressed, French-style furniture from fairs together with more modern oak furniture to create an individual look.

Becky's new life is a far cry from her days as a chartered surveyor. She now runs a B&B from home and offers cookery courses and professional catering. Through incredibly difficult times, the house has been a source of strength and comfort, and finishing it has been a way of feeling close to Philip. 'Our love hasn't gone – it's now in every bit of this home,' she says.

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**



BATHROOM
'We made the small space work by using the freestanding bath as a focal point,' says Becky. To stay at the farmhouse, visit brookhousesomerset.com



GUEST BEDROOM
This blue-and-white scheme has a wonderfully airy feel. Blind in Clarke & Clarke Meadow Power Blue fabric, £14m, Claire Wakely Interiors

INSIGHT

Understanding renewable energy



Interested in harnessing the power of renewable energy like Becky Jam and Philip Cook? Read on to find out how...

There are plenty of ways to generate renewable energy for the home, whether through solar panels, heat pumps or biomass boilers. Each method will save you money and improve your eco credentials.

HOT TOPIC

The rooftop solar panels capture the sun's energy, even on a cloudy day, and convert it into electricity, which can then be used for lighting and household appliances. This approach is just one way to harness natural energy. Solar thermal systems can use free heat from the sun to warm domestic hot water, too. And heat pumps and biomass boilers can generate heat for the home. The good news is that there's never been a better time to install renewable devices. There are several government financial incentives available, such as the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) for renewable heat technologies and the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) for solar panels. For more information visit the Energy Saving Trust's website. Home renewables are good for the environment and also benefit households looking to save money on energy bills, while receiving an income for the energy produced.

WHAT TYPE OF SYSTEM IS BEST?

Renewable heat technologies, such as air/ground source heat pumps and biomass boilers are most economically beneficial if they are installed in homes currently heated by more expensive fuels, such as electric, oil and LPG. Air source heat pumps absorb heat from outside air, and can be used to heat radiators, underfloor heating systems, or warm air convectors and hot water. They are a good solution for well-insulated homes that have enough external space to house them against an exterior wall. Ground source heat pumps use pipes buried in the garden to extract heat from the ground, which is converted into energy to heat the home and appliances. They are a good choice if you are replacing electricity or coal and your garden is suitable for digging boreholes for installation. Biomass systems burn wood pellets, chips or logs to provide warmth to a single room via a stove, or to power central heating and hot water boilers. This is a low-carbon, often affordable option and also benefits from the government's Renewable Heat Incentive.

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE...



- **As sunlight is free, making use of solar power will cut your electricity bills, meaning that once you've paid for the initial installation, household electricity costs will be reduced.**
- If you have a renewable energy system, you can sell electricity back to the grid, too, either when you don't use it, or if your system is producing more than you need.
- **Roof-integrated panels are available in a number of varieties including solar tiles and solar shingles designed to mimic a range of different roof types. However, bolt-on panels are generally the lowest-cost option.**
- A typical home solar-electricity system could save over a tonne of carbon dioxide per year.
- **The average domestic solar PV system costs between £6,000 and £7,400 (including VAT at 5%). Installing a typical Ground Source Heat Pump system will cost between £11,000 and £15,000. But costs for renewable systems often vary between installers and products, so do obtain quotes from at least three.**

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FEATURE SÉAN O'CONNELL | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JASPER CARLBERG

By rebuilding their beach house, the Grahams created a spacious family home that exudes a relaxed, peaceful atmosphere

When Mandy and Christopher Graham set out to knock down their old beach house and rebuild on the same footprint, they decided to aim high – three storeys up, to be precise. And while tall properties are a common sight in the Manhattan Beach area of Los Angeles, few are utilised as practically as the Grahams'.

The challenge of creating a family home on a plot they describe as being 'the size of a postage stamp' naturally fell to Mandy, a residential interior designer. For her, the compact space was a blessing in disguise. 'I find homes in the US to be too large with wasted space,' she says. 'Christopher and I met and lived in London for several years prior to moving to LA, so our urban way of life in the UK inspired me to consider an alternative approach.'

The first and most radical decision was to place the main living areas – sitting room and kitchen-diner – on the top floor. 'It gives us a lovely ocean view, free of neighbours blocking out our natural light,' says Mandy. 'The brightly lit open staircase is the winding thread in the centre of the home that connects everything from top to bottom.'

Adopting their 'less is more' mantra, the couple chose the clean lines of Dinesen Douglas fir planks for flooring. These span the length of each room on the top two floors, while concrete flooring provides a contrast on the ground floor. They also opted for sleek Bulthaup kitchen units, including a large



SITTING ROOM
A wall full of books brings colour and texture to this pared-back area.
The Abingdon, £1,349, Made.com, is a good match for this modular sofa. For a similar coffee table try the Gloster Cloud, £969, John Lewis. Douglas fir flooring, price on application, Dinesen

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Detached new-build
LOCATION Los Angeles
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, playroom, study, cloakroom, three bedrooms (two en suite), dressing room
BUILT 2010
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We used to live in a 1960s house on the same site,' says Mandy.



I



2



3

1&2 KITCHEN-DINER
'A useful space such as this has so much relevance to our modern lives,' says Mandy.
b1 and b3 cabinetry by Bulthaup, price on application. Ceramicware from the 'When objects work' collection by Vincent Van Duysen, from £95, Designobjectshop.com. Francis Francis X1 espresso machine, £399, Espressocrazy.com

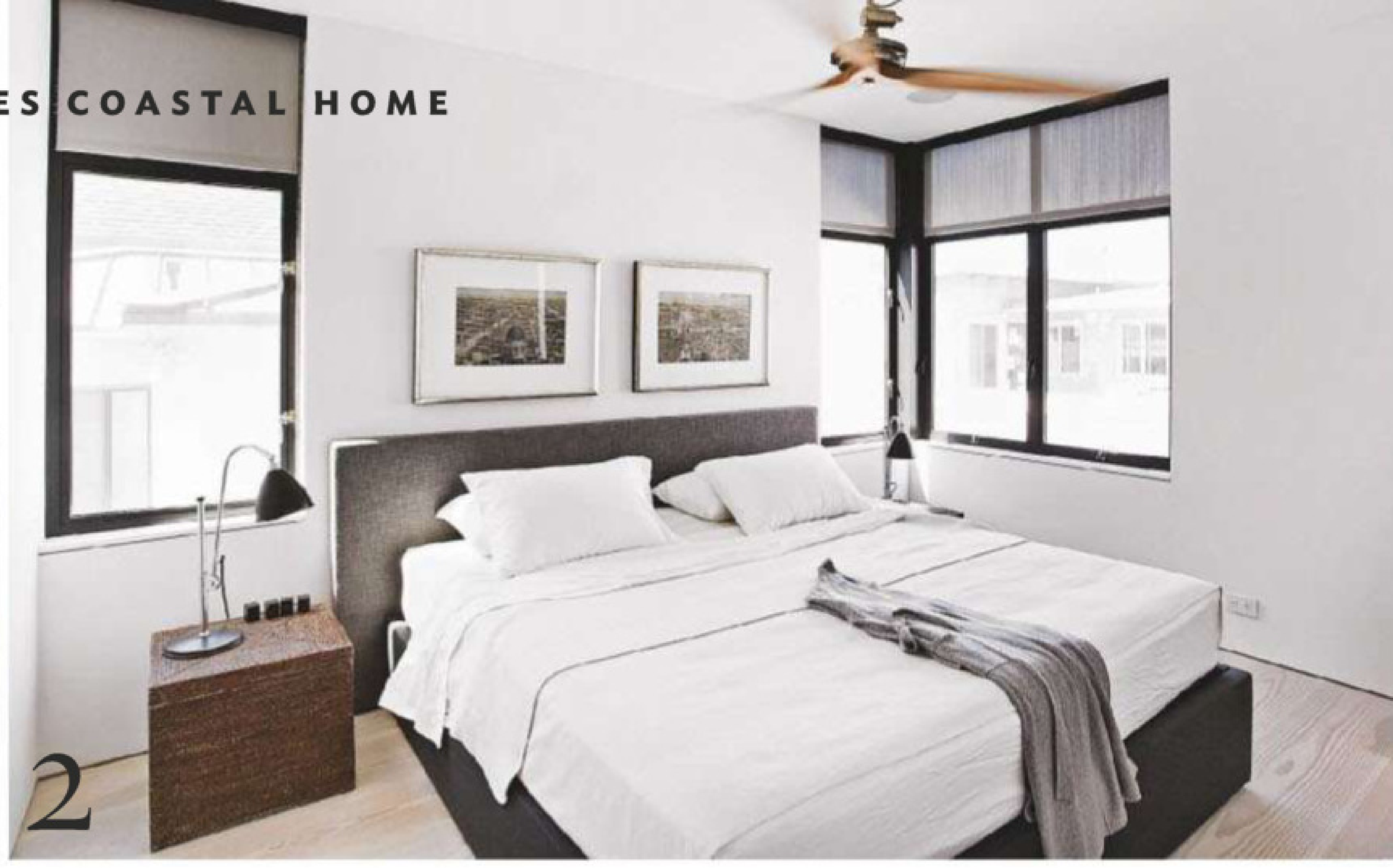
3 HALL
White emulsion was used to create an airy feel.
Dulux Vinyl Silk emulsion, £40 for 5 litres, B&Q

STUDY
Mandy designed this to be the first view upon entering the house.
The Klippan Vansta sofa, £175, Ikea, would work here





1



2

aluminium island that is designed to feel like furniture. 'It's a functional space and our nine-year-old twin boys Kai and Jude hang out there,' says Mandy. 'When you're in the sitting room, the kitchen seems to be an extension of the living areas.'

Though the look of the house is contemporary, Mandy is adamant it isn't 'trendy' but 'timeless', with practicality at its heart. For example in the bathroom, the ubiquitous tile was eschewed in favour of waterproof plaster for the walls. 'Replacing texture with smooth surfaces does wonders for small spaces,' says Mandy.

What strikes you about Grahams' house is the way each space smoothly runs into the next with hardly a door noticeable. Actually, there are doors everywhere, but as each is ceiling height there are no frames to break the visual flow. The windows, too, follow the same rules to create ultra-clean lines.

Mandy didn't lose sight of the need for comfort and quality, so the generous seating in the sitting room is designed to encourage togetherness. 'A sofa is likely to receive the most use compared to other sitting pieces, so you can't skimp on cost,' she says.

So what does Mandy like best about her home? 'I'm most pleased with the quality of light and warmth of materials,' she says. 'Our home evokes a great sense of comfort, so I wanted to create a house that exuded happiness – and it's all around us.' 25

1 MASTER EN SUITE
Honed concrete floors are a practical choice here. Duravit Vero washbasin, £205, Fountain Direct. For polished concrete floors try Lazenby, price on application

2 MASTER BEDROOM
An abundance of natural light, combined with white walls and bedding, make this room look deceptively large. Bestlite BL1 table lamp, £380, David Village Lighting. For a comparable roller blind, try the Enje, £18, Ikea

INSPIRATIONS *'I'm not one for trends – it's important to design with a timeless approach'*



BOYS' BEDROOM/ PLAYROOM
The rooms are separated at night using a slider door that is hidden behind one of the bookcases. The Chinese Elm three-legged stool, £105, Orchid Furniture, fits the scheme

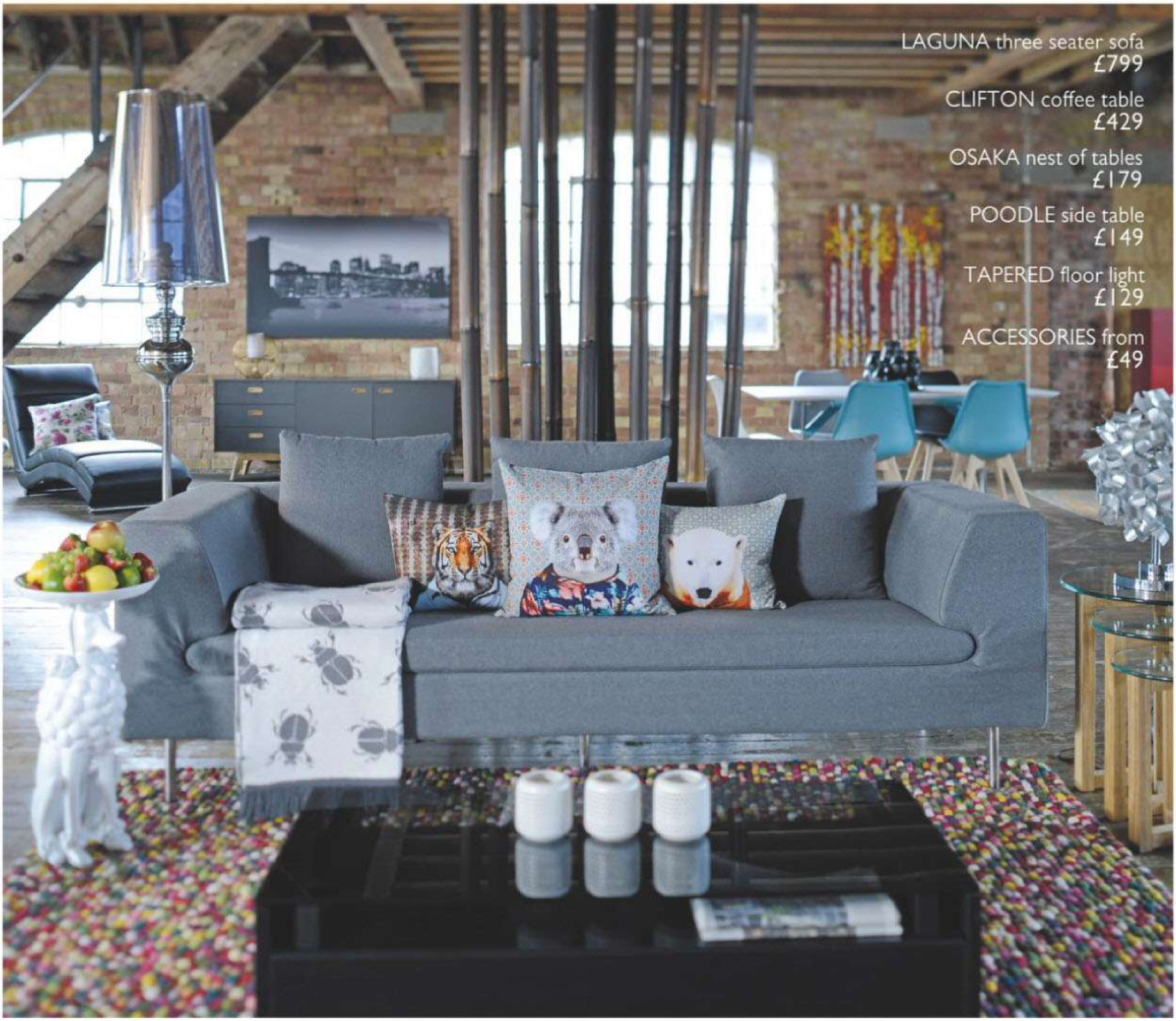


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KITCHEN

Bespoke designer details are found throughout.
Handmade kitchen, price dependent on design, James Macdonald Joinery. Range oven in Heather, from £11,895, Aga. Try Provenza Blanco Dragonfly Decor tiles, £5.62 each, Topps Tiles, for a similar design



DINING AREA

The light-filled, airy room conveys a Continental elegance.
French table and chairs, £1,500; decorative wall light, £85; chandelier, £100, all Scarlett Interiors. Flooring, Corinth Tumbled Travertine, from £18sq m, Mandarin Stone



PET PROJECT

Hannah Judah transformed a derelict property into a stylish home with intuitive design and an inherent passion for detail

FEATURE ALI HEATH | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MEL YATES/OTTO

Having enjoyed London life as a film production manager for 12 years, Hannah Judah was ready for a change in lifestyle, as well as career. And so the launch of her interiors company coincided with her move to the Sussex countryside along with husband James.

'We found a derelict farmhouse that hadn't been lived in for five years, having been used as a sanctuary for cats and dogs, with countless pens,' explains Hannah. 'It was in desperate need of love and required restructuring to create a layout relevant to modern family life. So we embarked on a three-year reconfiguration that couldn't have provided a more challenging project.'

Property developer James was keen to sympathetically restore the original Victorian coach house using eco-conscious materials. Trenches seven feet deep were dug externally so ground-source heat pumps could provide underfloor heating and hot water. Local timber was used to clad the house in keeping with the area, and handmade slate and clay tiles were used on the new roof to match the originals.

'The house was full of different ceiling heights and had a warren of small rooms,' says Hannah. 'We had to rip out the inner bones and redesign the entire layout, while retaining the integrity of key period features. We wanted to reinstate a grand hallway, so we took down the ceiling to reveal a double-height feature as you enter, and added two new staircases.'

A priority was to create a central family area with a large, light-filled open-plan kitchen. The

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Victorian coach house
LOCATION
West Sussex
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, TV room, study, cloakroom, six bedrooms, dressing room, two bathrooms
PURCHASED 2009
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We had a Victorian townhouse in Notting Hill,' says Hannah.

SITTING ROOM

Hannah successfully combines a range of textures and fabrics.

Walls painted in Off Black estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Pink chairs, £675 each, Handmade Sofa Company, covered in Rochelle Chalk Pink, £35m, Northcroft Fabics



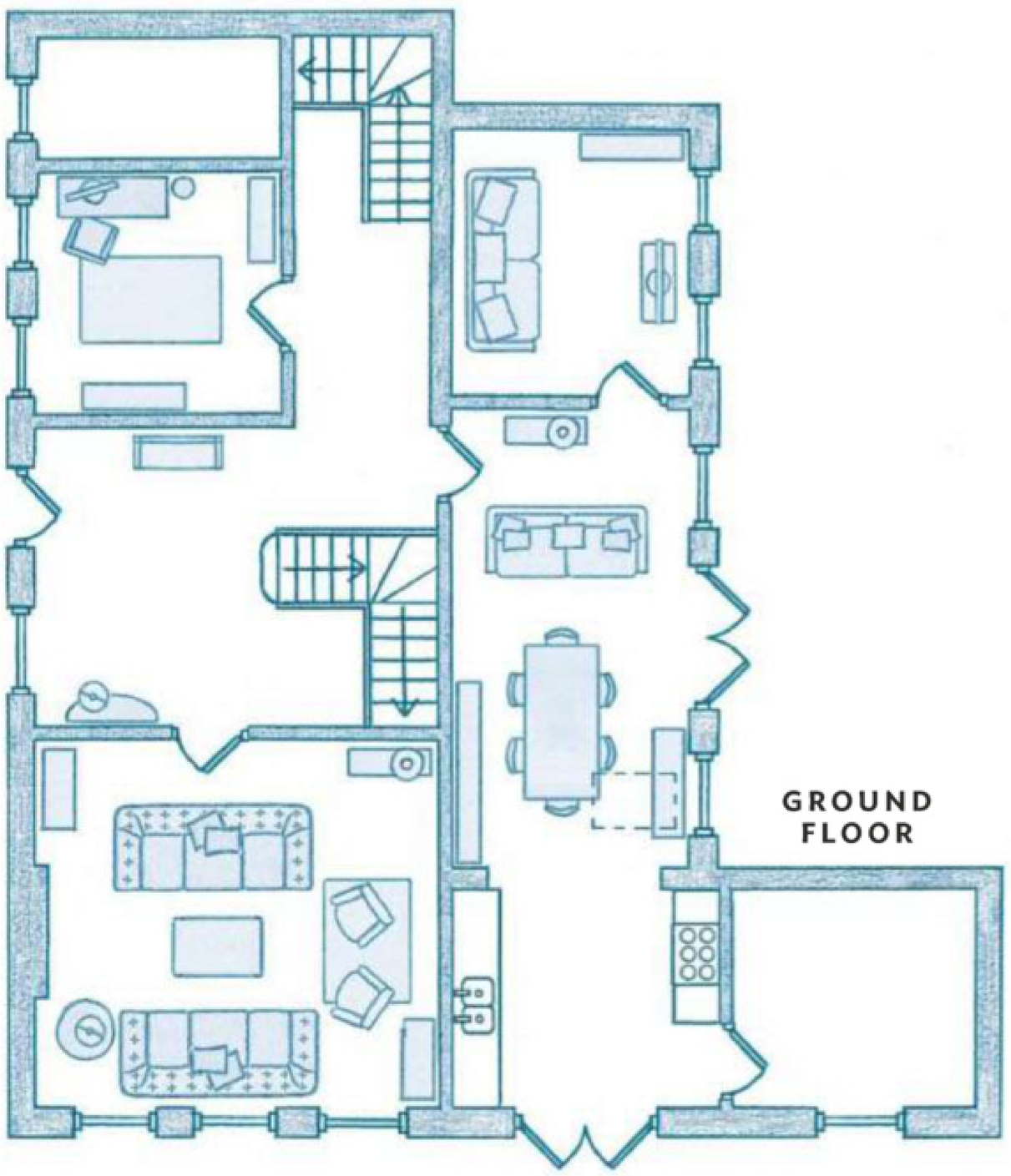
DESIGN TIP *'Quality of paint differs immensely – if you buy cheap, you generally end up buying twice'*



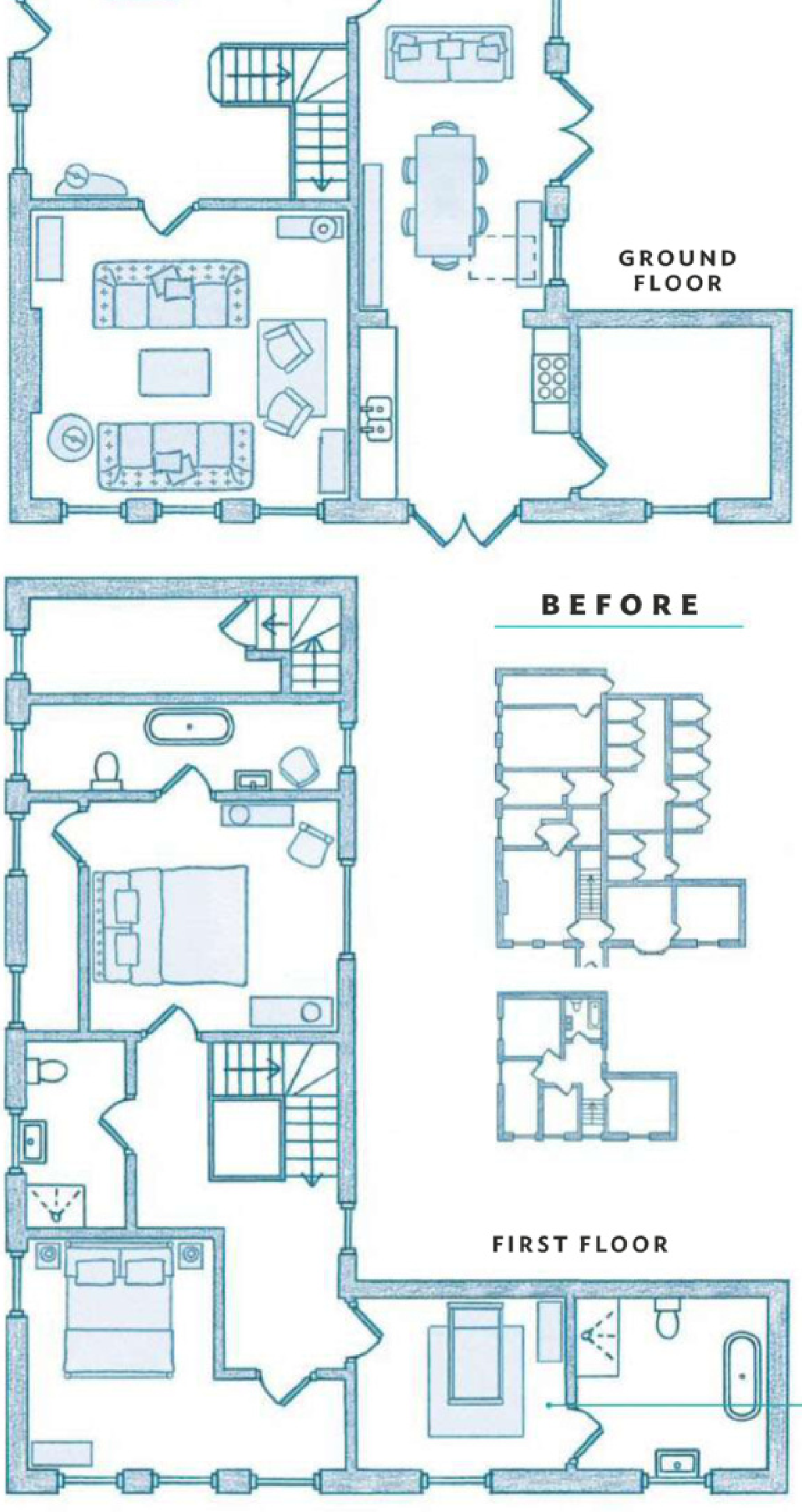
HALL

Bench, £650, Sunbury Antiques. NeoBaroque chandelier, from £1,785, Abigail Ahern. Walls painted in Pigeon estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

AFTER



BEFORE



couple extended out by knocking down numerous old pens, doubling the size of the space and adding an adjoining family room, which has been invaluable since the arrival of their daughter Scarlett, now two. With a baby, two dogs and endless chickens roaming in and out, the kitchen is the heart of the house and the animal-loving atmosphere seems very apt, considering the building's past as a home for cats and dogs.

STRIKING TOUCHES

Hannah designed the handmade kitchen, which is painted in bespoke cream and plum shades. Abundant antiques throughout demonstrate her flair for sourcing unique pieces adding to the property's wow factor. Views from the kitchen doors and adjacent sitting room extend out to open farmland beyond. Painted in dark, earthy tones, the sitting room is decorated with classically chic, deep-buttoned sofas and the palest of pink velvet armchairs, set against striking cushions and minimalist plaster artwork.

The house exudes a rural modern feel, with pattern and colour each a major influence, whether through covetable bathroom tiles, dramatic wallpaper or quirky soft furnishings that enhance the surroundings. It is a look that is bold and edgy, but one that seamlessly blends country and contemporary, with respect for the property's rural surroundings.

'We're very lucky to have outbuildings adjacent to our home. Two of the guest bedrooms have been designed in part of the converted dairy, complete with their own sitting room and bathroom,' says Hannah.

Despite all the upheaval, this former animal sanctuary has been transformed into an enchanting family home synonymous with Hannah's trademark style. 'It's been a lot of work, but totally worth it,' she smiles.

GUEST BEDROOM
This former dairy has now been revitalised as guest rooms with patterned wallpapers and inviting furniture. Hannah, who designed the rooms herself, says: 'It's a great space to invite friends and family to stay.'



FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 155

BEST BUY *'Our Fired Earth ex-display bath was the prototype used in the company's shots. It's covered in gold leaf'*

MASTER BEDROOM

Exposed beams and polished walnut floors create a cosy vibe. Steel chair, £60, Habitat. Chest of drawers, £150, Sunbury Antiques. Walls painted in Skylight estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball





SCARLETT'S ENSUITE

Patterned tiles and a pastel bath add Alice in Wonderland charm. Get the look with Abbey range tiles, £84sq m, Fired Earth. Canterbury bath, £1,275, Fired Earth, painted in Cinder Rose estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



GUEST BEDROOM

The elegant four-poster bed adds a touch of drama to this room. Four-poster bed, £1,350; black lampshade, £45, both Scarlett Interiors. David Hicks Hexagon wallpaper, £63 per roll, Wallpaper Direct. Chandelier, £500, Memories Antiques. Napoleon Bee cushion, £108, Timorous Beasties. Sheepskin rug, £99, Toast. For a grey throw like this one, try Lene Bjerre Alena Check, £210, Occa-Home



Meet and greet

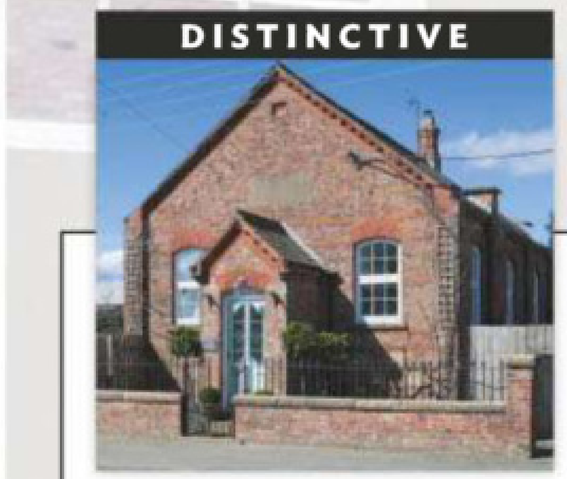
HELEN AND RICHARD COLMAN KEPT THE SOCIAL ELEMENT OF THEIR FORMER VILLAGE HALL IN MIND WHEN THEY CONVERTED IT

FEATURE HEATHER DIXON | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DAVE BURTON

Helen and Richard Colman took a calculated gamble when they bought a disused village hall from the Women's Institute. Although it didn't have planning permission, they were confident that they would get the go-ahead to turn the dated former chapel, with its tired lean-to kitchen and large meeting room, into a modern family home.

The gamble paid off, as the couple successfully bid £120,000 for the building at auction then secured permission to turn it into a three-bedroom house. 'We have a real passion for property and loved the fact that we were able to give this elegant old building a new lease of life,' says Helen.

Richard, an architectural interior designer, got to work transforming the property, while the family – which includes Lily, 9, and James, 8 – remained in their old house. On the ground floor the main open-plan area was sympathetically divided



DISTINCTIVE

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Victorian chapel, later used as a village hall
LOCATION Yorkshire
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, study, utility room, cloakroom, three bedrooms, bathroom
PURCHASED 2006
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We used to live in a four-storey house in Leeds,' says Helen.

SITTING ROOM
Richard designed and built the dramatic fire surround himself.
Reindeer cushion, from £35, Lily James Interiors. Lana wool rug, £90, Dunelm. Barcelona ottoman, £140, Milan Direct, is an identical design to this one. Sparkle mirrored side table, £50, Habitat

FUTURE PLANS *'We love doing up interesting properties, and enjoy living here, but if we saw something unusual in a good location, we might be tempted to take on a new challenge'*

1 & 2 KITCHEN
'We wanted a practical, hard-wearing and spacious scheme,' says Helen.
Metod units, from £45 for a 600mm base cabinet, Ikea, have this look. For similar flooring try travertine tiles, £20sq m, Walls and Floors. Ebay is a good source of vintage sweet-shop scales like this one, priced around £40. Try Glassshelf.co.uk for a 30 x 60cm design, £50 (including brackets). Framed blackboard, £110, Lily James Interiors. Dining table, £195, Period Pine Doors







MASTER BEDROOM
Bold wallpaper helps anchor this look.
Cow Parsley wallpaper, £70 per roll, Cole & Son. Malm oak-veneer bed frame, £165; Malm chest of three drawers, £45, Ikea

1 BATHROOM
An original beam and sloping ceiling lend character to this bright, contemporary space.
Cooke & Lewis bath, £187, B&Q. Try polished pale cream tiles, £29.95sq m, Walls and Floors



2 LILY'S BEDROOM
Pink splashes add a girlie feel.
'Love' letters, from £10; pink chalkboard, £80, all Lily James Interiors. Lampan pink table lamp, £2.75, Ikea



into a hall, study and sitting room, the kitchen was modernised and a disabled toilet block turned into a utility area and cloakroom. The roof space was converted into three bedrooms and a bathroom. 'We wanted to retain the character inside and out, so the house dictated the way it could be divided,' says Richard.

Helen planned the interior while her husband worked on the structure. 'Richard designed the rooms to flow from one to the next so we decided to paint everywhere white and use furniture and accessories to introduce colour and define each space,' she says.

Helen makes soft furnishings and the house is full of her handiwork, including re-covered sofas, cushions, seat pads and buntings for the children's rooms. When Helen had exhausted the possibilities at home, she started her own business making and selling home accessories at fairs and online.

Accentuating space was also key. 'I've tried to scale up so that large rooms contain at least two or three key items to create balance,' says Helen. 'And I like to combine inherited items with modern designs, so there's no particular style, but it all just seems to fall into place.'

Practical touches include solid-wood floors, and the white walls can be easily touched up if they get marked. 'We're an active family so the house had to withstand a lot of wear and tear,' says Helen. 'But we love nothing more than having a home full of people and seeing the building used as it was originally intended – as a place where friends and family can meet and socialise.'

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS **GO TO PAGE 155**



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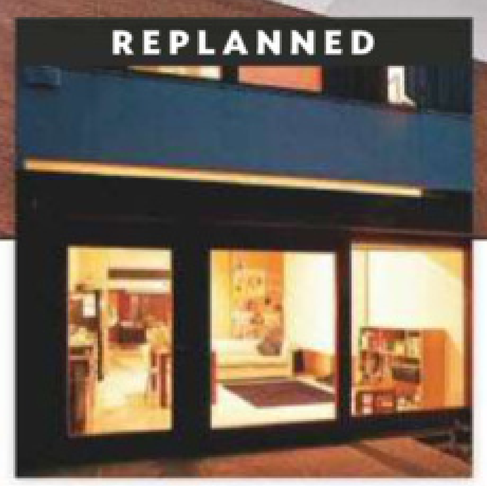
NOTE *perfect*

Eva Byrne and Gerard Carty artfully extended their contemporary family home, giving it a new lease of life in the process

FEATURE EMMA CULLINAN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** PHILIP LAUTERBACH

DINING AREA
'The Ingo Maurer lamp above the dining table has pieces of paper attached to clips for written messages – a bit of fun that's spiced up many a dinner party,' says Eva.
Ingo Maurer Zettel'z 6 light, £740, Twentytwentyone. For a similar table, try the Air Dining Table, £2,379, Berry Design

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Contemporary new-build
LOCATION Dublin, Ireland
ROOMS Open-plan kitchen/dining/sitting room, TV room, study, three bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 2003
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We lived in a Victorian apartment in the same area,' says Eva.

INSPIRATION

'Building a home is about creating a sense of place. This applies equally to indoor and outdoor spaces'



SITTING AREA
The fireplace is the focal point of this room, and adds warmth to the white walls and pale floor. Eva bought the white sofa years ago from Habitat, for similar try Ektorp sofa, £225, Ikea. Miles shelves, from £195, Habitat, would look good here. *Two Pears* artwork by William Scott. Buy a similar pears print by the painter for £25 at the Royal Academy of Arts



KITCHEN
Despite being north-facing, the kitchen is bright, helped by huge glass doors, stainless steel units and a pale floor and ceiling. Jacobsen Series 7 chairs, £335 for white ash; £456 for white lacquer, Republic of Fritz Hansen





SITTING AREA
Clever placement of furniture helps create a cosy area within this open-plan space .
An economy of equivalence hanging artwork by Liam Gillick, price on request, Maureenpaley.com. Trådklöver cushion, £5, Ikea



TV ROOM
This comfy, bright spot is a perfect hideaway for Oscar, Vita – and Bisto
Picture by Stephen Hall. Karlstad three-seat sofa bed in Isunda grey, £725, Ikea



STUDY
A light-filled, compact office area has been installed in the new roof space.
Jules chair, £25, Ikea

Just a few years after building their mews house near the canal in south-central Dublin in 2003, architects Eva Byrne and Gerard Carty were already planning an extension. The open-plan kitchen and sitting area on the ground floor had been ideal when the couple's son and daughter, Vita, 14, and Oscar, 15, were young, but Eva and Gerard knew their kids' teenage years would bring a need for a hangout of their own. 'Teens like to feel that their home is a place that people can spontaneously visit, with allocated areas for them to relax in,' says Eva. 'So we flung a few ideas about.'

The house is one of a pair that the couple designed, huddled on a relatively narrow site. Many happy years were spent in the ground-floor dual-aspect living zones, with a courtyard at one end and a north-facing garden at the other.

'It's been interesting to realise a couple of things about a north-facing site,' says Eva. 'One is that the yellow brick on the Victorian properties opposite reflect sunlight into this house. Also, in the summer, the north-facing garden gets sun because the first floor is set back.'

The house is cleverly arranged so that the long ground-floor room can be divided by a rolling birch-plywood wall to create a cosier feel. This separates the central dining-study area – and the sitting room beyond – from the kitchen, allowing the family plenty of much-needed flexibility.

With the ground floor space exactly suited to their needs, the family looked to rearrange the upstairs layout to carve out plenty of extra legroom. In its original incarnation, the property had three bedrooms; two overlooking the garden which were allocated to the children, while the couple's bedroom was at the front, opening onto a south-facing terrace.

In reconfiguring the space for their teens, Eva and Gerard decided that the only





VITA'S BEDROOM
Quirky accessories lend a youthful feel, while a sleek desk makes this space functional, too.
Micke desk, £65; Jules chair, £25; Flaxa bed, £160; Kvart work lamp, £10, all Ikea



MASTER BEDROOM
This ornate gold mirror makes a striking centrepiece in the room.
An oval gold mirror by Besselink & Jones, code W4-024, price on application, is comparable. Stripe stone cushion, £56, notonthehighstreet.com, is a match





EN-SUITE BATHROOM
Rich timber shelving contrasts well with the modern, all-white scheme.
Flaminia basin, £585, West One Bathrooms. Kalvsjön towel, £9, Ikea

way was up, so they left their bedroom, and created a roof extension comprising master bedroom, en-suite and a compact study.

The family moved out while the roof was removed. 'It's amazing how quickly our home became a builder's yard again,' recalls Eva. 'There were moments of doubt, but we tried to keep the end result in mind.' The new extension now blends neatly into the rest of the house, and captures sun rays with solar panels installed on the roof.

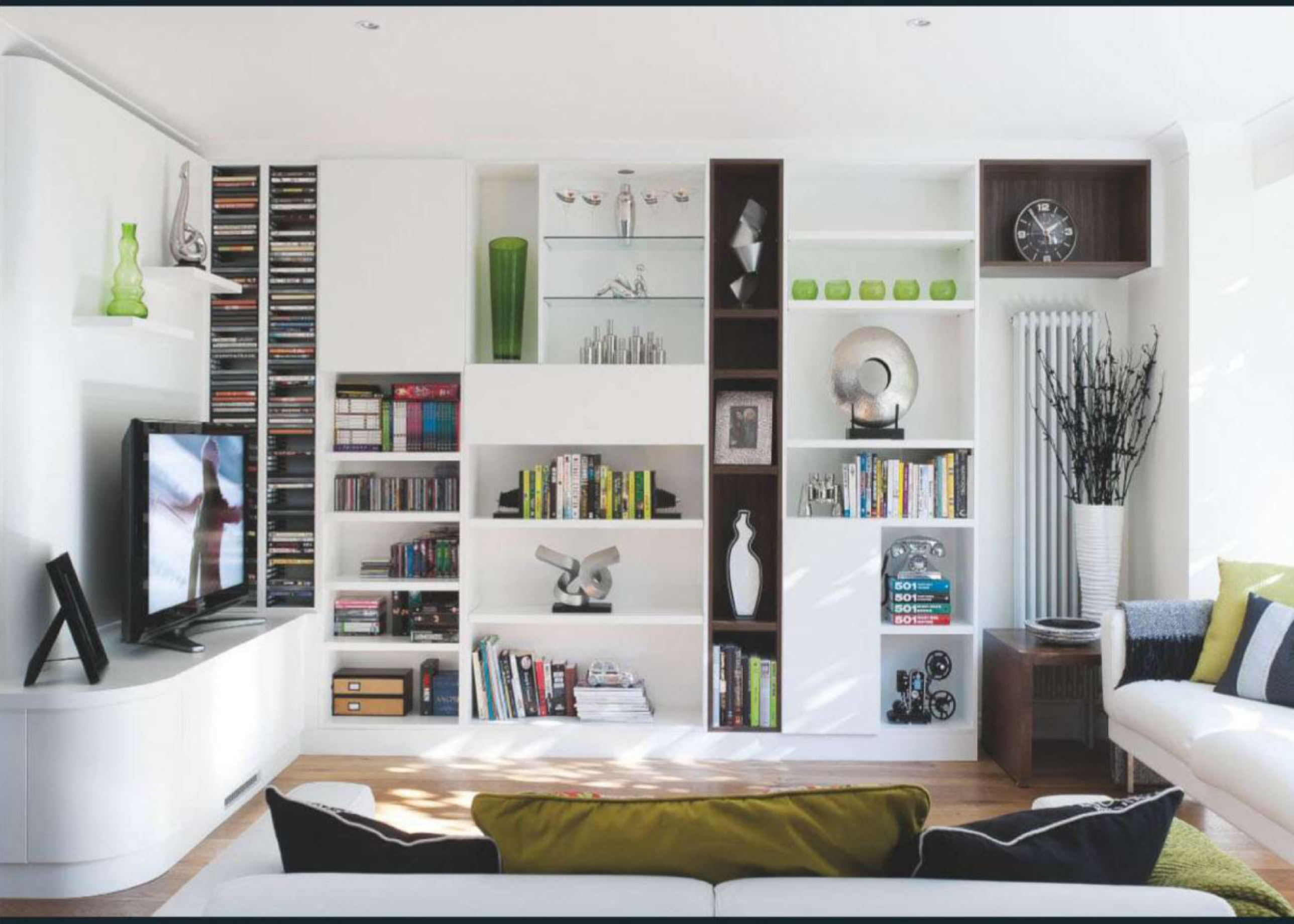
The original master bedroom and TV room were knocked into one, creating a bright, spacious area for Vita and Oscar. 'It's exciting to revisit a design a few years later and hone it,' says Eva. 'The new layout provides valuable extra living space for all the family.' Much of the household storage was built-in when the house was originally conceived. A sleek white study, bedroom and bathroom shelving and birch-ply cupboards keep the look sleek and clutter-free throughout, while Eva's contemporary-style Bulthaup kitchen remains a favourite feature a decade after it was first fitted. 'I love the way the light moves through this whole house,' she says. 'The terrazzo floor, plywood and white walls were all chosen for their reflective qualities.'

Now that the property has been so successfully reinvented, the family are enjoying it more than ever. 'It was tough to go through so much additional building work,' admits Eva, 'but we couldn't be more pleased with the results. Our home has a new lease of life that we all benefit from.' 25

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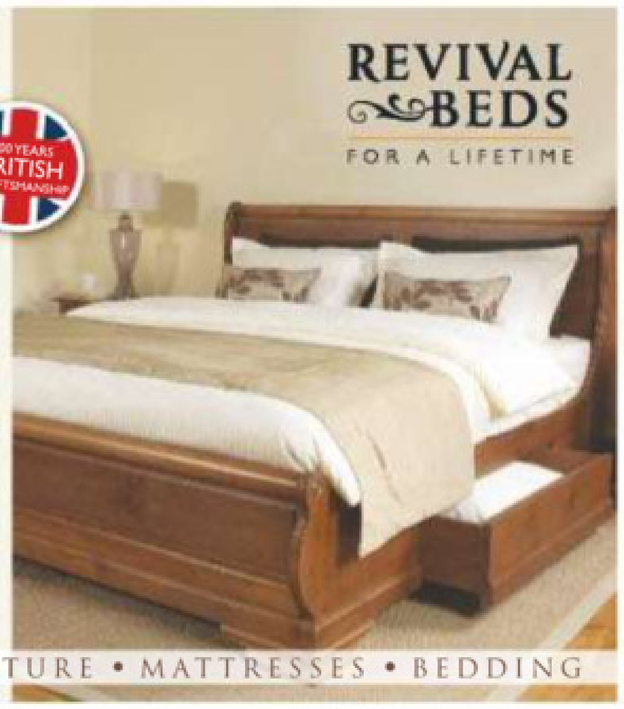
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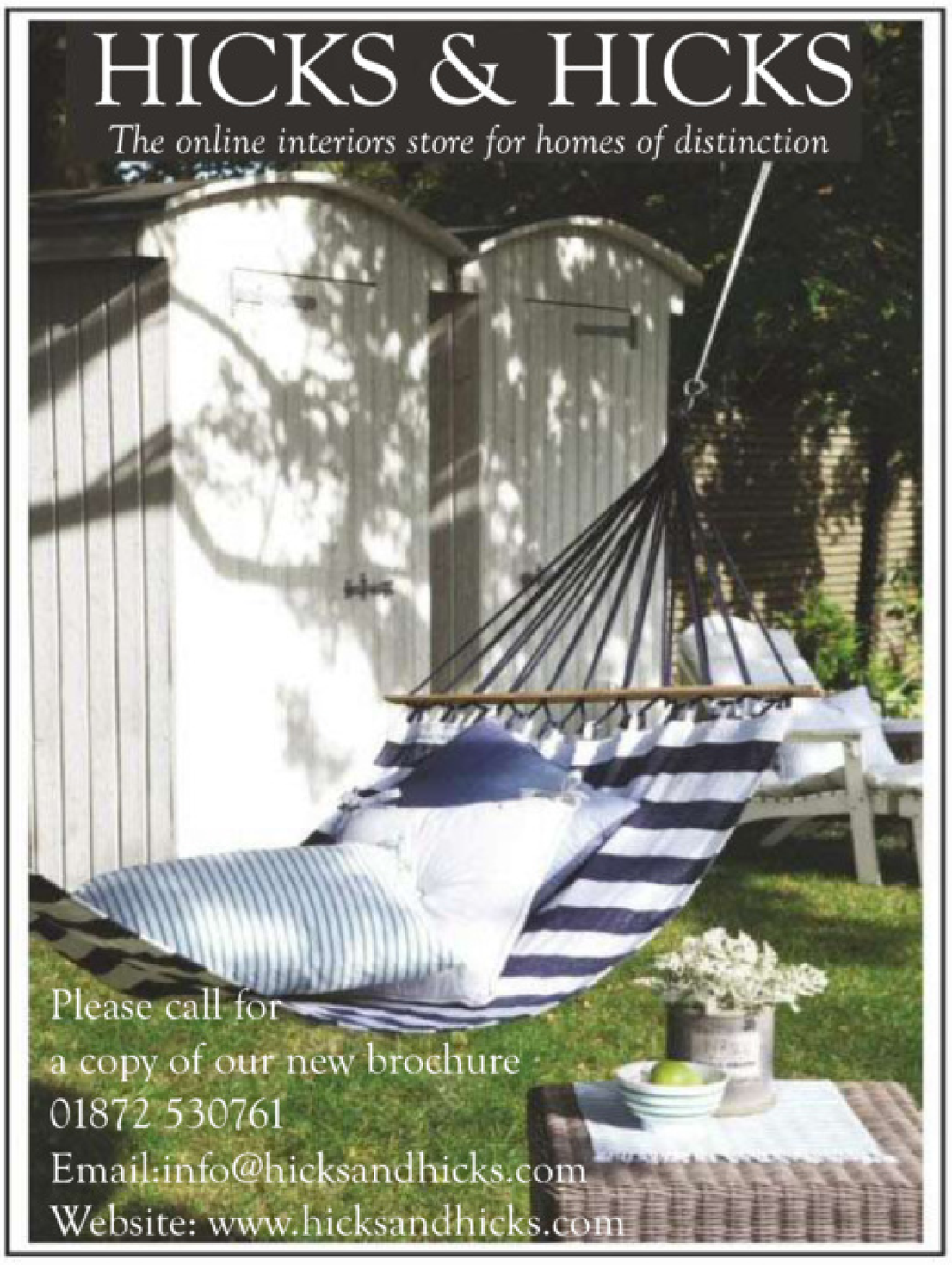


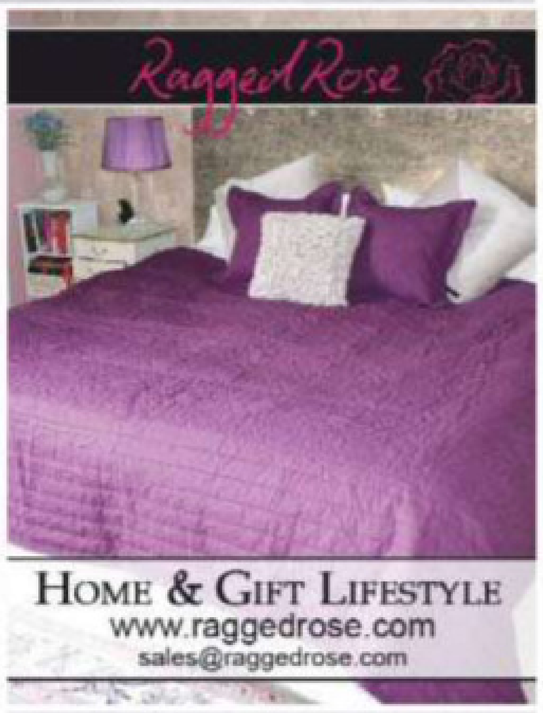
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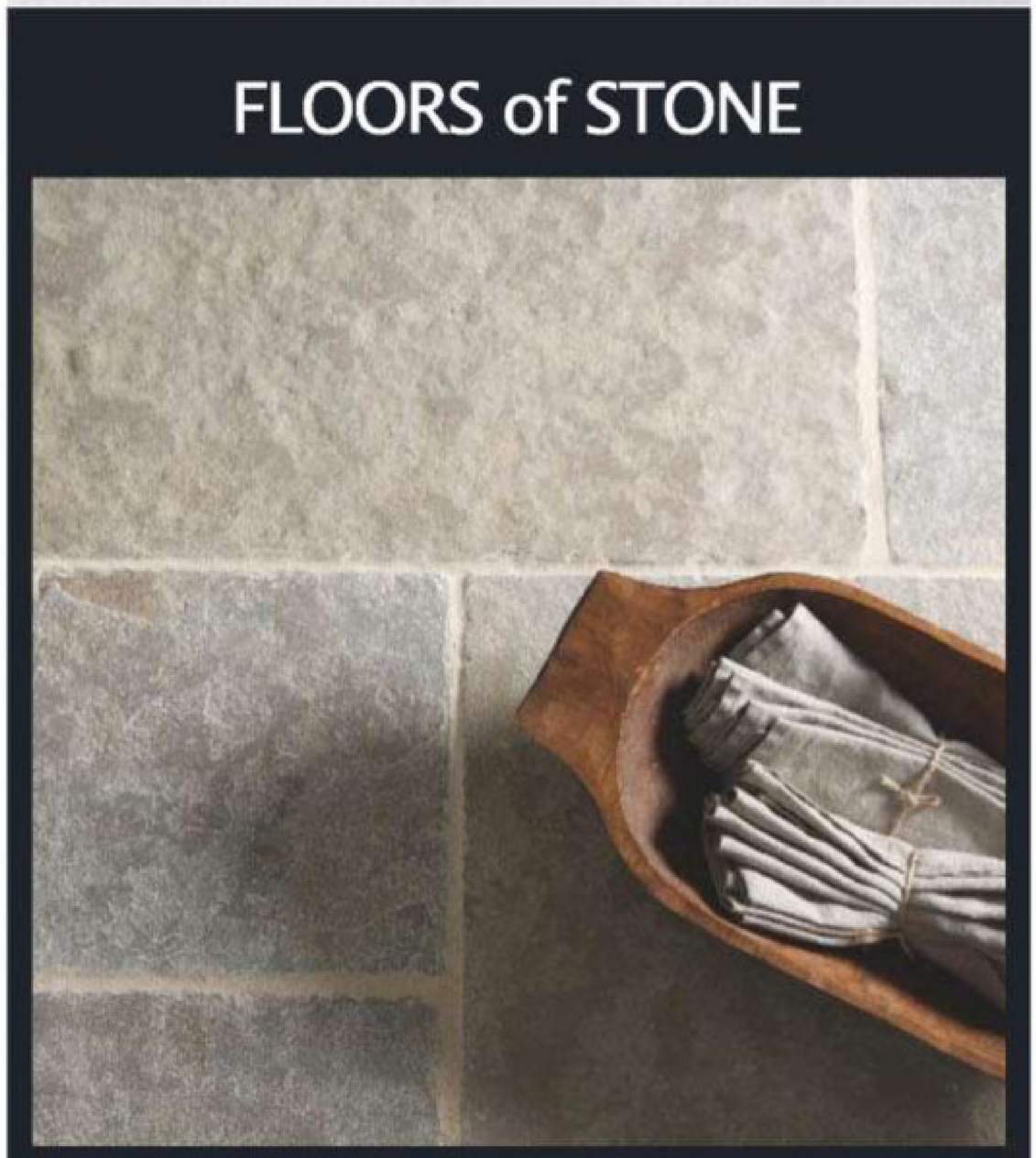


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With plenty of natural light and a soft, muted palette pinpointed by pale blues, this bright sitting room has a wonderful soothing quality. Various decorative touches – such as richly coloured berries and a foraged pinecone – help add a seasonal twist. The pops of lime green and yellow imbue a lively touch and help prevent the set-up from looking staid, while beautiful parquet flooring and a rustic wooden bench add warmth and character. A collection of gorgeous textiles featuring twill stripes, checks and floral motifs in different shades of chalky blue adorn the classic-style furniture, and bring a harmonious blend of cool colour and texture. Stylish and cosy, this warm, inviting space is the perfect spot to curl up and relax on a chilly autumn evening.

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