

The ENGLISH HOME

Celebrating the essence of English style

March 2014 | Issue 109 | £3.99 | UK Edition

The New Paint Hues

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It took a lifetime of experience and 20 years of hard work to convert this ancient farm building into a dramatically different home



AT HOME
Jeweller, Jinks McGrath, and her husband Steve Turner, live in an oak-framed converted cowshed dating from the early seventeenth century. Steve works for the National Trust as a carpenter. Jinks also teaches jewellery making and works with charities in India and Afghanistan setting up jewellery workshops.

Despite its rather grand scale, every inch of Jinks McGrath and Steve Turner's extraordinary home has been restored or crafted by hand – from the towering seventeenth-century oak frame to the tiny wooden stool in the corner of the kitchen. "It's easier to show you the things I didn't make," says Steve laughing, "because I can count them on one hand." He is not just talking about the furniture dotted around the three-bedroom house. In fact, from the floor he is standing on to the roof above his head, he has restored or replaced every single piece that makes up the home he shares with his wife Jinks. Steve is a carpenter who specialises in the restoration of period buildings, which is particularly fortunate because when the couple bought their barn 25 years ago, it had a definite lean to it.

"Maybe we should have been daunted, especially as we had such a limited budget," says Jinks, "but I just knew that between us we could create what we wanted. This is definitely a house that has been crafted, not built."

Steve and Jinks approached the project in stages. By looking at the wood and the way it had been ▶



TOP One of two guest bedrooms has walls decorated with Francesca's Paints. Accessories include cushions that have been covered in a Majorcan ikat fabric.

ABOVE The main downstairs bathroom was constructed with the use of reclaimed bricks and locally sourced stone on the floors. The bathroom fittings are all from Bathstore.

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So much about this house seems to have evolved naturally, that it is easy to forget how much hard work has gone into creating it. But Jinks is convinced it was all meant to be. "I scribbled a rough drawing before we moved in of how I saw the sitting room then forgot about it," says Jinks. "I found the sketch 15 years later, and we had instinctively put everything exactly where I had drawn it. It was quite extraordinary." ■



RECOMMENDED PAINTS

TOP "Cooking Apple Green is an old-fashioned green which is both clean and comforting. The organic and earthy feel of this colour makes it an extremely uplifting colour," suggests Sarah Cole, marketing director at Farrow & Ball. £36.00 for 2.5l estate emulsion

Jason McIlvenny, brand manager of paint at Graham & Brown, says, "Nice Pear is perfect to complement crisp whites or natural stones and browns." £15 for 2.5l emulsion

For a natural vibrance inspired by a woodland glen in springtime, Jason Hamies, director of Auro, recommends Jackalberry. £25.49 for 2.5l emulsion

MIDDLE "Fuggles is a sophisticated green with a slightly ochre base colour. This is an earthy yet very versatile colour, which sits easily alongside much darker tones such as dark brown, but that works equally well when paired with brighter or more yellowish shades," says Cathryn Halsby, marketing manager at Earthborn Paints. £31 for 2.5l emulsion

Full of zingy freshness, Euphorbia "is an 18th-century citrus green with a twist," says David Oliver, director of Paint & Paper Library. "It's great with black-painted furniture or strong reds." £36 for 2.5l emulsion

BOTTOM Rebecca Craig, head of design at Sanderson, advises: "Green Almond is a fresh shade which would work best paired with clean whites and mahogany wood." £36.00 for 2.5l emulsion

Dew by Francesca's Paints, is "a light shade of green with a tinge of yellow; a soft colour that can be used in bedrooms, play rooms; anywhere that requires a calming atmosphere," suggests owner Francesca Wazel. £41.25 for 2.5l eco emulsion

Fired Earth's creative director Rob Whitaker says "Oak Fern will add a light, harmonising touch to a diverse palette of greys, oranges, browns or violets." £34 for 2.5l elements emulsion ▶