

DESIGN FOR LIFE

This stylish, family-friendly home fuses contemporary design with rich colours and luxurious materials.

PHOTOS DARREN CHUNG WORDS AMELIA THORPE

A rich red wall adds drama as well as warmth to this striking kitchen, while hand crafted furniture is finished in a contemporary mix of bamboo veneer and pale grey Parapan for extra impact.



'We wanted a family cooking-cum-dining room, with space for casual entertaining, which could really be the heart of the house.'



It was one thing buying a four storey Victorian residence in the heart of the Lancashire countryside, it was another thing entirely when it came to living in it. 'Lovely big rooms, elegant tall ceilings and huge sash windows – but absolutely freezing in winter,' says Kate Rowe of the home she and husband, Michael, bought four years ago.

They quickly realised it was going to be necessary to begin work in earnest to make the property comfortable for raising children, Anna (now seven) and Oliver (three). 'Because of the age of our house and the fact that only odd jobs had been done over the years, we needed to create a complete renovation plan rather than tackling a few rooms at a time.' ➔

Above A curved banquette and bespoke oak table are the hub of this home. What better setting for leisurely Sunday brunches?

Left Punches of colour come courtesy of the Chiselwood loganberry paint and vases of seasonal blooms.

Right Sliding pocket bamboo doors lead to the hall and the formal dining room beyond.

DESIGN PROFILE

This sumptuous home features a bespoke kitchen by Chiselwood, in a whole scheme created by Jamie Hemsall Interior Design. The blend of bamboo veneer furniture, pale grey and stone grey Parapan doors and antique brown granite creates a room designed to suit a family of four. Upstairs, the elegance continues into the master suite, finished with textured fabrics in soothing shades. A Victoria & Albert Napoli bath takes centre stage, while tailor-made cabinetry ensures individuality. **Jamie Hemsall Interior Design, North Beck, Low Street, East Drayton, Notts DN22 0LN. Tel: 01777 248463. www.jamiehemsall.com** A room scheme costs from £650. **Chiselwood, Fosdyke House, Gainsborough Road, Saxilby, Lincoln, LN1 2JH. Tel: 01522 704446. www.chiselwood.co.uk** Kitchens are priced from £35,000.



'It's all about choosing materials carefully and good quality products that will last.'

From a new, pressurised pump system for the showers to a total overhaul of the heating and complete tanking of the cellars, it was a major project by any stretch of the imagination. And that's not to mention the new kitchen scheme and the redecoration of every room in the six bedroom house. 'I soon realised that, with the enormity of the task and two young children to look after, I'd struggle to comprehensively do one space at a time let alone the whole house,' Kate recalls.

It was at that point that full-time mum Kate and company director Michael met interior designer Jamie Hemsall and bespoke kitchen and furniture maker, Martin Holliday, of Chiselwood. 'I probably gave them the most difficult brief in asking for a design that would be very stylish, but also family-friendly,' says Kate. 'I didn't want the children tiptoeing around, too scared to touch anything, but equally I didn't have in mind a totally child-friendly look.' ➤



Above A two-burner induction hob to the right of the Aga offers extra cooking options when Kate is preparing dinner for a crowd.
Left Lined with oak shelves, the floor-to-ceiling pantry also includes a granite cold shelf to keep meat, eggs and cheese cool.

Right A bamboo veneer desk paves the way for Kate's home office, with filing cabinets painted in Chiselwood garlic.

Opposite The children can enjoy milk and cookies at the banquette while Kate is trying out her culinary skills, so all the family is kept happy.





Silks and velvets create a luxurious mix in the master bedroom, while a stepped, padded headboard is an eye-catching focal point. A bespoke cushioned cabinet at the foot of the bed conceals a television screen, which can be raised or lowered at the press of a button.



Kate's requirements meant a demanding brief for Jamie, but he was up for the challenge.

'You can have grand decoration, but it has to withstand wear and tear,' he says. 'That means choosing materials carefully, and selecting good quality products that will stand the test of time.'

The kitchen was soon identified as a priority, tucked away as it was in one corner. 'We wanted a family cooking-cum-dining room, with space for casual entertaining, which could really be the heart of the house,'

explains Kate. Jamie suggested reconfiguring the ground floor layout to bring the kitchen into the centre of the home, moving an old servants' staircase in the process. And, in keeping with the welcoming feel that Kate was after, Martin and Jamie set to work planning a design that combined the warm tones of bamboo veneer and loganberry emulsion. 'The old interior was painted in wishy-washy colours and, because there isn't much natural light on this side of the house, it looked very drab,' explains Kate. ➔

Above Textures and colours meld together in a bespoke scheme that is both comfortable and easy on the eye.

Top right Original period features combine with elegant, contemporary furniture, creating an individual style.

Right Fine materials were chosen for cushions and curtains to withstand daily wear and tear.





‘Given the size of the new room and its large windows, I felt it could take a dramatic and bold look.’ It’s an idea Jamie encourages. ‘If a room is naturally dark, I’ll make it even darker still,’ he says. ‘By infusing it with lots of colour, it gives you a real feeling of warmth.’

With the framework of the kitchen furniture veneered in rich bamboo, Martin decided to go for door panels in glossy grey Parapan for contrast. These are emphasised by shadow gaps painted in a dark chocolate colour. ‘Parapan is made from solid acrylic and it’s a very practical material – it can take the knocks and bangs of a young family without any difficulty,’ he says.

The statement island with its curved banquette and bespoke oak table, mounted on a veneered bamboo pedestal, has become the social hub of the room. A coordinating desk works as Kate’s home office with filing cabinets painted in Chiselwood garlic to match the kitchen cabinetry.

Upstairs in the master bedroom, the appeal is equally individual. ‘We asked for the kind of luxury you would get in a boutique hotel,’ explains Kate. ➔

Above The Napoli bath takes pride of place in the en suite. It is framed by opaque glass screens, which conceal both the shower and toilet areas.

Left Custom-made double doors open to the new dressing area. Painted, flush-fronted wardrobes flank the space, with shelves, drawers and rails for all types of garments.

Right The perfect setting for a peaceful soak. Kate and Michael, have the luxury of lush garden views as they bathe.



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‘Life is busy and Michael works long hours, so we wanted a place we could call our own, somewhere we could totally relax,’ adds Kate.

Converting a former guest bedroom into a new dressing room and en suite was Jamie’s plan for the master suite, linking the bedroom with the bathroom via double doors.

Luxurious fabrics and textures fuse to create an inviting bathroom scheme, complete with his ‘n’ hers basins and floor to ceiling Marron marble cladding.

The opulent space benefits from the added bonus of spectacular valley views from the windows. They are adorned with beautiful drapes in neutral hues, while a contemporary freestanding bath framed by opaque glass screens provides a dramatic focal point in the en suite.

And the result? ‘I could stay here forever,’ says Kate with a smile. ‘The whole house works really well for all the family. We love it.’ ■

Left Twin basins cater for his ‘n’ hers morning routines, so there’s no waiting around when time is of the essence. Storage below keeps the look clutter-free.

Below Chic fixtures and fittings ensure this en suite is top of the style stakes. Marble wall cladding acts as a splashback as well as a decorative feature in itself.

STOCKISTS INFORMATION

APPLIANCES

Gas three-oven Aga in Black, £8,500, at Aga; H5040BP oven, £1,210; DG5060 steam oven, £1,700; H5040BM combination microwave, £1,516; CS1212i domino induction hob, £705; CVA 5060 coffee machine, £1,880; DA372 extractor, £587; G2833 SCVi integrated dishwasher, £1,763, all at Miele. Sub-Zero ICBB1-42SD side-by-side fridge freezer, from £8,390, at The Westye Group Europe. Design boiling water tap, £830, at Quooker.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Perrin & Rowe Vela tap (on island), £903; Perrin & Rowe Boma tap, £336, at MGS. Icerock 3352W sink (on island), £513; Icerock 3341W sink, £380, at Kohler. Antique brown granite worktops, £400 per sq. m.; Iridescent glass mosaic tiled island splashback, £120 per sq. m.; Painted glass splashback, around £400 per sq. m.; Walls and ceiling in Chiselwood loganberry matt emulsion and home office area furniture in garlic, both from £25 per 2.5 l; bespoke

banquette and stools in cranberry leather, priced to order; all Chiselwood Furniture. See design profile for details. Lunar burnt gold flooring, £70 per sq. m., at Amtico.

MASTER BEDROOM AND EN SUITE

Bespoke headboard and cabinet in Arkona velvet, available at Harlequin; bespoke Chesterfield in Glyndebourne Birch, available at Zoffany; Fiamma silver wall covering, available at Zoffany; Porta Romana light, price on request; William Yeoward Meed bedside table, price on request; Arley console table, wardrobes and vanity unit, by Jamie Hemsall, prices available on request, at Chiselwood; Thetis sofa, available at Andrew Martin; Imperial Marron marble, bespoke mirrors, Victoria & Albert Napoli bath, Hansgrohe Axor Massaud fittings, all items priced to order, at Jamie Hemsall Interior Design. See kitchen profile for details.

**All prices are approximate. For stockists, see page 160.*

