



If you GO DOWN to the *WOODS* TODAY...

An internal reconfiguration along with a rear and side-return extension – done under permitted development – helped create a large open-plan kitchen-diner. **Kitchen design**, Laura Passey Interiors; **cabinets**, Surtees Furniture; **tap**, Perrin & Rowe; **sink**, Villeroy & Boch; **flooring**, Artisans of Devides.

Botanical greens, autumnal oranges and tarnished brass – a warm, cosy palette rules in this Victorian property, with a kitchen inspired by a novel at its heart >

Words: **Georgina Townshend** Photography: **Astrid Templier**

WITH *its décor influenced* BY **WOODLAND WALKS** and a kitchen INSPIRED BY A NOVEL, this COLOURFUL *Victorian home* in a PICTURESQUE SURREY VILLAGE has a *CHARMING MIX OF COUNTRYSIDE STYLE* and *elegant finishing touches...*

The FACTS

Who? A retired couple
Where? Surrey
What? Total refurbishment and rear and side extension of a detached Victorian six-bedroom property
Cost? £2 million
Time? 12 months

To create this welcoming scheme, the owners, a retired British couple who moved back to the UK after living in America for two decades, enlisted the help of interior designer Laura Passey. They'd worked with Laura on a previous project so knew they'd bring her in again to find and transform a house they'd call their forever home. Together, they found this six-bedroom house and were totally taken by its location, gardens and beautiful original features. While the couple tied up their affairs in the States, Laura project managed the renovation, discussed designs over the phone and met with the couple once every two months, while they stayed in their Chelsea Harbour flat, to chat through options and update on progress. "We decided the overall feel would be a smart country casual," Laura explains. "But importantly they wanted it to be very homely, comfortable, welcoming, and warm. Respecting the heritage of the house was also key, so I was careful to honour the style where I could."

Downstairs, an internal reconfiguration along with a rear and side-return extension – done under permitted development – helped accomplish another key part of the brief: creating a large open-plan kitchen-diner. "The couple wanted to have a relaxed, farmhouse-style working kitchen feel, which is why I – working with Surtees Furniture – designed a traditional Shaker-style scheme," Laura says. "The unique colour was inspired by a favourite novel the wife had read, which mentioned a pale green kitchen. I knew this would work in the countryside environment, so set about finding exactly the right shade." The garden was the central point of deciding the layout, so no matter if you're in the kitchen, the dining section, or the relaxed seating area, you can look outside and enjoy the view. Laura saved the existing ornate glazing and had the frames painted to complement the kitchen. Storage was another important factor in the layout. "The space had to be really practical as the couple do a lot of cooking, so there needed to be places for plenty of ingredients, appliances and tableware. But they didn't want the room to feel regimented, either," Laura explains. "So I split up the cabinetry and included a freestanding dresser for a more casual feel." The floor-to-ceiling run of units includes a separate fridge and freezer, both full height, and a double pantry, too. Above this is more general storage, accessed via a ladder for ease. "An Aga was also requested, plus a separate spot for pastry making, so I had the baking table made and placed it at the end of the island."

Moving upstairs, the renovation work was focused around making the best use of space, changing the property from a six-bedroom house to a three-bedroom, plus a sewing room. Half of the first floor would be dedicated to a grand master bedroom with a sophisticated ensuite, but the main, family bathroom is the more adventurous in terms of design. "It needed to be relaxed, fun and something different for guests, although it still had to have traditional finishes," Laura explains. "I also wanted to bring in the theme you can find dotted around the rest of the house, which is 'woodland walk' – inspired by the surrounding area and the fact the owners like to explore the countryside." This can be seen mainly in the botanical greens of the furniture; autumnal oranges of the tarnished copper freestanding tub, and the brown twiggy colour of the aged brassware from Catchpole & Rye. Even the hexagonal tiles on the floor were chosen for their resemblance to honeycomb. "The layout was designed so that, when you walk in, you see the lovely, detailed vanity unit first and then be drawn into the space by it," she continues. "As the bath is such a showstopper, I really wanted it to be on the window wall where it is beautifully lit and has its own zone. At the other end are the WC and a steel-glazed shower enclosure."

In contrast, the master suite – which was created in a space that was originally two separate bedrooms and a small bathroom – has a more formal feel. "The couple said it had to be the most luxurious part of the house," says Laura. "They told me they wanted the style to be elegant, romantic and warm. It was really important for them to have a very good-quality bed and for the dressing room to be especially practical. We decided on L-shape cabinetry and an island unit in there so there's plenty of storage and room to manoeuvre."

To make sure the upstairs flowed as well as the downstairs, the décor in all three spaces is very neutral and calming. "As well as the greens and bronzes, there's champagne and silver shades along with high-quality finishes, plus embroidered silk on the walls, silk velvet on the bed and on a stool," Laura continues.

Looking back at the project now that the couple have moved in and began their new chapter in the countryside, Laura says: "They seem to very comfortable and really at home and it's nice that they still send me messages telling me how they love it so much. It's now their sanctuary and they love spending time back in the stunning surroundings of the English countryside." >

The green was inspired by a kitchen in a novel the wife had read. **Lighting**, Hector Finch; **barstools**, Alter London.





"Woodland walk" was the décor theme, which can be seen in the botanical greens of the furniture and complementary shades of orange and brown.
Vanity unit, Laura Passey Interiors with Surtees Furniture; **mirror**, The Water Monopoly;
basin and mixers, Catchpole & Rye;
flooring, Bert & May.

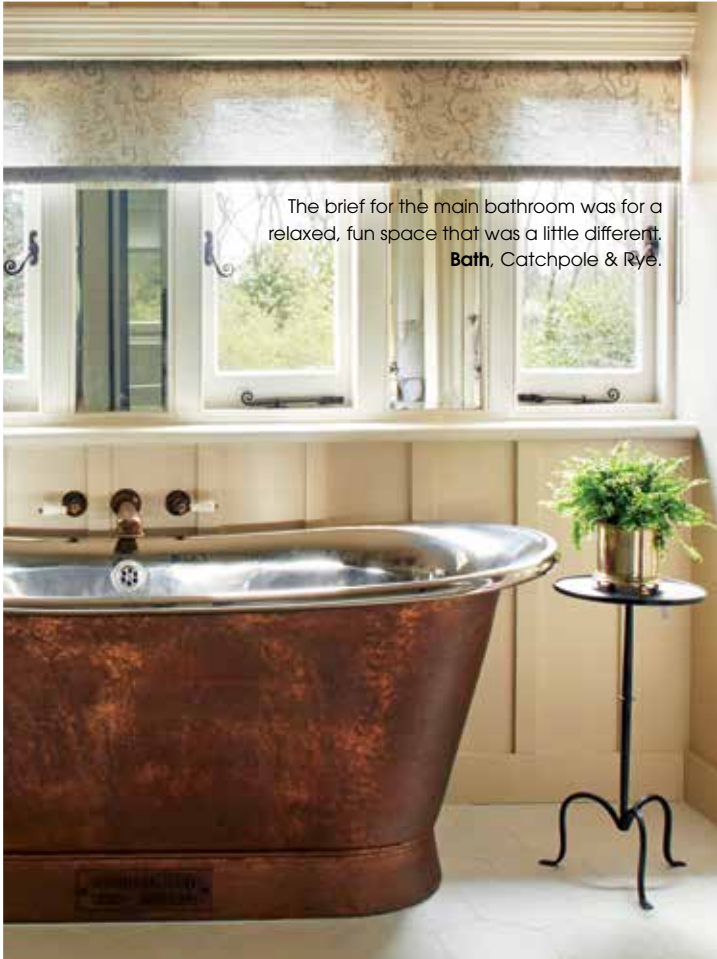
MORE ADVICE
Turn to p74 to read everything you need to know about bathroom lighting



The **shower enclosure** is from Drench.
Shower, Catchpole & Rye; **wall tiles**, Waterworks; **WC**, Devon & Devon.



For the **vanity unit**, Laura worked with Surtees Furniture.
Basins and basin mixers, Catchpole & Rye. >



The brief for the main bathroom was for a relaxed, fun space that was a little different.
Bath, Catchpole & Rye.



The master suite had to be the most luxurious space in the house, with cashmere and silver shades and embroidered silk on the walls.
Bed, Savoir Beds; **carpet**, Stark Carpet; **chandelier**, Tindle Lighting.



home style

1 Morecambe super king-size bed in Pebble Wool, £2395, Soho Home. sohohome.com 2 Audrey dressing table mirror, £134, Sweetpea and Willow. sweetpeaandwillow.com 3 3.8-litre cast iron casserole dish in Cream, £34.99, Vonshef. vonshef.com 4 Drio oak bedside table with 1 drawer and shelf, £180, Habitat. habitat.co.uk 5 Brooklyn glass dome wall light, £79, Industville. industville.co.uk 6 White aspect hexagon tiles, £32.95 per sq m, Walls and Floors. wallsandfloors.co.uk 7 Black bamboo ladder £48, Rose & Grey. roseandgrey.co.uk 8 Precision stand mixer in white, £275, Cuisinart. cuisinart.co.uk 9 Classic jug in Chalk, £15, Garden Trading. gardentrading.co.uk 10 Plushious velvet bedspread in Duck Egg, £370, The French Bedroom Company. frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk 11 Parquet brushed and glazed solid oak dressing table, £449.99, Oak Furnitureland. oakfurnitureland.co.uk 12 Cushing Green HC-125 Aura Matte paint, from £28 for 0.94L, Benjamin Moore. benjaminmoorepaint.co.uk 13 Rustic industrial tap towel holder, £11.95, Melody Maison. melodymaison.co.uk **KBB**

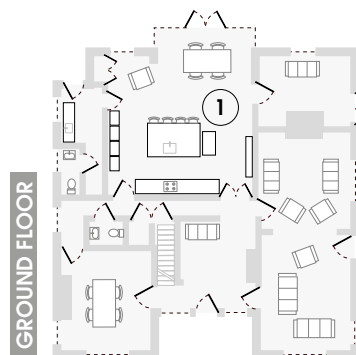


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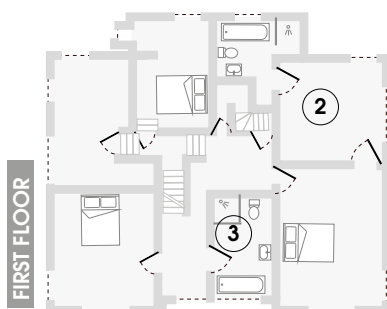
The PLANS

The property's renovation included a total internal reconfiguration and a rear and side-return extension.

- 1 Kitchen** Extending the space created a large kitchen-diner.
2 Master suite Half of upstairs was redesigned to house a master bedroom, dressing area, and ensuite.
3 Family bathroom The space has a mix of styles and features a freestanding bath and large shower enclosure.



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

SOURCEBOOK

Interior Design

Laura Passey Interiors
 020 8947 5582
laurapassey.com

Kitchen cabinets

Surtees Furniture
surteesfurniture.co.uk, via Laura Passey Interiors, as before.

Range cooker

Aga 0845 338 1365
agastoves.co.uk

Kitchen tap

Perrin & Rowe 01708 526361
perrinandrowe.co.uk

Bath Catchpole & Rye 01892 526996
catchpoleandrye.com

Bathroom flooring

Bert & May
 020 3744 0776
bertandmay.com

Shower enclosure

Drench Showers
 01202 612800
drench.co.uk

Bed

Savoir Beds
 020 8838 4838
savoirdbeds.co.uk

For full stockist information, see page 142 **KBB**