

# COUNTRY HOMES

## & INTERIORS

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### Living the rustic life

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*Style your home with...*

# Harvest colours

MELLOW LOOKS INSPIRED BY THE LATE-SUMMER GARDEN

# Rescue mission

MOYNA AND RICHARD EDMONDSON BRAVELY TOOK  
ON A CONDEMNED HOUSE AND TURNED IT INTO  
A WARM, COLOURFUL AND ECLECTIC HOME



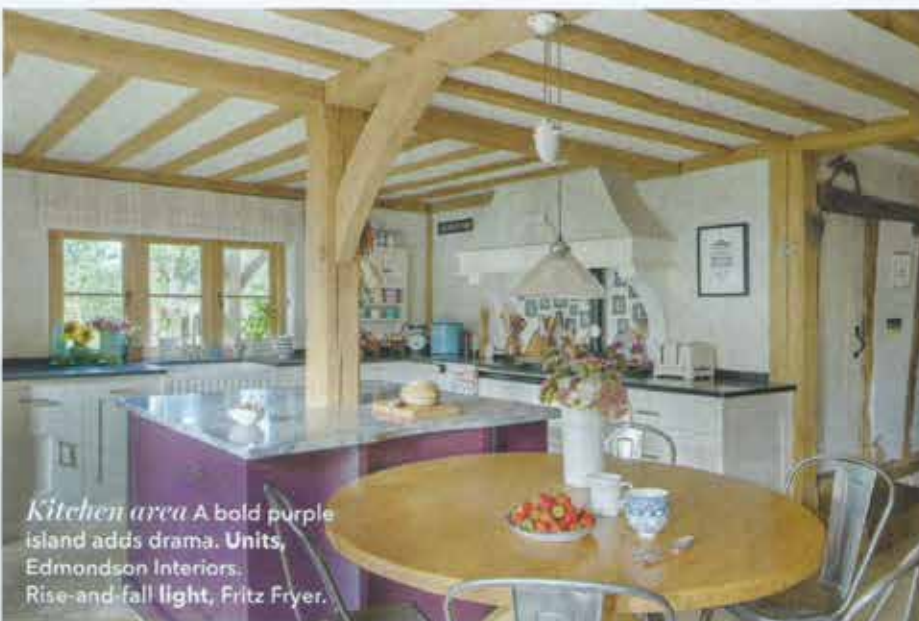


*House* Moyna (opposite, feeding the chickens) and Richard loved the façade when they first saw it, but it was in such a bad state that it was almost falling away and had to be completely rebuilt. **Front door**, painted in Oval Room Blue by Farrow & Ball. >>



*What we love most about living here...*

‘The combined kitchen/diner where we eat, cook, chat, do homework and dance around!’



*Kitchen diner (Also opposite)*

The open-plan kitchen, seating and informal dining area combines pops of colour and retro touches.

Table, Edmondson Interiors.

Chairs, Tolix. Blind fabric, Voyage.

Clock, John Lewis. Sofa, recovered

in Ian Sanderson fabric. Cushions,

HomeSense and Bell House Fabric,

plus a handpainted one made by

one of the couple's sons. Floor

tiles, Mandarin Stone. >>





*Living room* Crocheted cushions and throws add to the homely feel. **Sofa**, Derroll Tozer. **Cushions**, Ikea and charity shop finds. **Rug**, similar from John Lewis. **Curtains**, fabric by Lewis & Wood. **Walls**, painted in Stony Ground by Farrow & Ball.

We love a challenge!' says Moyna Edmondson of the house that she and her husband, Richard, bought some 16 years ago. It was Richard's sister who first spotted the property and liked it so much that she put in an offer. When she realised it was too big a project for her, Moyna and Richard then stepped in and decided to buy it.

'We fell in love with it,' says Moyna. 'The location was good and we liked the garden. We had a growing family and needed a bigger house. It was crying out to be rescued and we felt we could do it.'

The house was actually falling down and had been condemned. 'Birds and bees lived in it and it even had honey dripping through the dining room ceiling,' says Moyna. Added to that, it leaked and smelled of damp and rot. 'We had buckets everywhere,' says Richard. 'Friends used to arrive and leave their coats on because of the leaks and the cold.' The wallpaper seemed to hold the house together – the plaster beneath was crumbling and dust would gather at the bottom of the wallpaper every day.

The family lived in there for 10 years before renovations began and then moved into a converted coach house behind the property while work was carried out.

One of the priorities was to sort out the façade of the house, which was in such a state it would rock backwards and forwards. 'We took down the front brick by brick then rebuilt it and put in sash windows,' says Moyna. The couple found a bricklayer who, as a child, had cycled past the house regularly so it was a treat for him to rebuild it with traditional lime mortar. In addition, Richard's friend, Mick, helped with joinery – in fact, Mick spent so much time at the house that Moyna and Richard's son Ralph was convinced that he lived with them! The house was taken back to its skeleton, rewired and replumbed, and insulation was added. Air-source heating was installed, along with retro school radiators. It also had to be reroofed and the beams replaced.

Many of floors in the house had to be taken up and changed. Moyna and Richard were keen to retain the period feel so found old floorboards at a reclamation yard. 'They arrived with a handwritten note in fountain pen saying where each floorboard had come from,' says Moyna. Another big project involved adding an extension at the back of the house to create a larger kitchen with a living area, plus a main bedroom and a family bathroom.

When it came to the interior, Moyna was keen to create a look that combined classic country with eclectic vintage style. She loves colour and has used pops of it throughout – from a purple island in the kitchen to a bright pink sofa in the living area. She wanted a luxurious feel in the main bedroom, installing a roll-top bath in the corner against a wall decorated with painted flowers and gold leaf.

Looking at the house now, it's hard to believe it was ever anything but a beautiful family home. 'It's been a lovely place to bring the kids up,' says Moyna. 'It was worth all the hard work!'

📞 Edmondson Interiors, 01580 212934, edmondsoninteriors.co.uk. »



#### AT HOME WITH...

**Owners** Moyna Edmondson, a teacher, and her husband, Richard, who is a furniture maker and runs Edmondson Interiors. They live with sons, Gus, 19, Oscar, 16, and Ralph, nine, plus Roo, their Wire-Fox-cross-Bedlington Terrier, and three cats. They moved in 16 years ago.

**House** A Grade-II 16th-century country house with five bedrooms.





*Main bedroom* Moyna has created a boutique hotel feel with a bath in the corner of the room. Bed, Edmondson Interiors. Eiderdown, similar from Decorative Country Living.



*Bathroom*  
An encaustic tiled floor sets off the roll-top bath. Bath, Catchpole & Rye. Floor tiles, Aldershaw Handmade Tiles.



Roo dozing in the sunshine.

*What makes this house a home...*  
'It's busy, quirky and reflective of everyone's personalities. It's big enough to find peace and quiet, but also small enough to bring us all together'





## ON OUR DOORSTEP...

**Visit...** 'Sissinghurst Castle Garden (01580 710700, [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)). Stunning at any time of the year, this is a fascinating, inspirational garden.'

**Shop at...** 'Cranbrook for lots of independent interiors, fashion and gift shops on a traditional high street. Marie Prett's Singing Soul Gallery (01580 714551, [marieprett.co.uk](http://marieprett.co.uk)) is well worth visiting, as is Maisie K (01580 715123, [maisiek.co.uk](http://maisiek.co.uk)) for interiors inspiration.'

**Go for a meal at...** 'The Milk House (01580 720200, [themilkhouse.co.uk](http://themilkhouse.co.uk)) in Sissinghurst. We enjoy the friendly atmosphere and chic surroundings of this pretty village pub.'



*Guest bedroom* Richard made the beautiful blanket box at the end of the bed. Bed, Furniture Village. Red throw, cushions, blankets, HomeSense. Curtains, fabric by Kate Forman. Flooring, bedside table, Edmondson Interiors. Walls, painted in Lime White by Farrow & Ball. »



**Don't forget the finishing touches.** Decorative wall **mirror**, H130xW106cm, col Gold, £310, Out There Interiors. Button-flap **cushion**, 45cm sq, £11, Brand Interiors.



**Make a statement with lighting.** Angelus Shadow Black Wire **chandelier**, H115x85cm diameter, £1,450, Rockett St George.



## Baths for bedrooms

Bring boutique-hotel luxury into your home by elevating a bedroom to a relaxing bathing sanctuary.

### Need to know...

A freestanding bath needs less waterproofing than a shower, where walls and floor are subject to regular soakings. Ask a professional to check the plumbing is straightforward; raising the bath on a platform is practical for this and enhances the dramatic effect. Set in a prominent position, allowing space around it to dry yourself. Consider incorporating bathroom-rated LED lighting within the platform edge for added impact.

### Where to buy...

- Drummonds for a metallic-finish roll-top bath.
- Fired Earth for a ready-to-paint roll-top bath.
- Victoria + Albert for contemporary freestanding baths.



**Sit down in comfort.** Jonesy **armchair** in Dusty Blue Vintage Rose, H73xW79xD99cm, £1,095, Loaf.

# Be inspired by Moyna's open-plan bedroom



**Bring in pattern.** French Grey Love Heart breakfast **bowl**, H10.5cm, £7, Dibor. Knot garden **throw**, 180x150cm, col Graphite, £145, Melin Tregwynt.

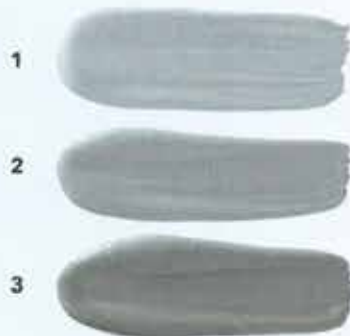
For more ideas go to [housetohome.co.uk/countryhomesandinteriors](http://housetohome.co.uk/countryhomesandinteriors)



**Catch the eye with curvy styling.** Arles **chest of drawers**, H96xW110xD50cm, £695, Within Home.

## FIND THE PERFECT

### GREY BATH PAINT



**1** Islington; **2** Mid Wedgwood; **3** Archway House, all £58 for 2.5L Wood & Metal Gloss Paint, Mylands.