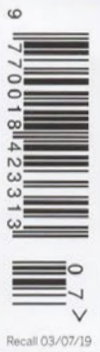


HOMES & GARDENS®

**THE SPIRIT
OF SUMMER**
FROM BEAUTIFUL
BRITISH GARDENS TO
INSPIRING FLOWER
ARRANGEMENTS

**DARE TO
DREAM**
RARE AND ROMANTIC
INTERIORS TO LOVE

**IDEAS FOR
PRETTY AND
PRACTICAL
EN SUITES**



EVER ELEGANT

COUNTRY MUSIC

Idyllic views and an urban-chic look harmonise perfectly in musician Caroline Corr's home

WORDS VIVIENNE AYERS PHOTOGRAPHY PAUL RAESIDE



KITCHEN

Seating at the island was positioned facing the window, so the family can take in the amazing outlook.

Cabinets, McCulloch Furniture. Bespoke bar stools, Woodhouse & Law

DRAWING ROOM

In this sophisticated scheme, ornamentation has been kept to a minimum to allow the bold colour choices to stand out.

Walls in Hague Blue, Farrow & Ball. Bespoke **sofa** and **cushions**, both Woodhouse & Law.

Artwork, Jonathan Barber





Appearances can be deceptive – and that’s certainly true when it comes to the home of musician Caroline Corr. You might expect the chocolate-box house in Somerset, where she lives with her husband Frank Woods and their three children, to be awash with florals and pretty pastels, but not a bit of it. The interior exudes edgy urban chic, bold punches of colour and playful patterns.

Caroline and Frank moved to the area in 2014, feeling it would be an idyllic place to bring up their family. ‘We adore traditional country homes,’ says Caroline. ‘And we loved the proportions and light of this house, and the fact that every window had a view.’ But it was tired and dated, so Caroline and Frank knew they had to put their stamp on it. ‘We wanted to make it contemporary and create an interior that was a total contrast to the exterior,’ says Caroline.

Local builder John Yerbury was brought on board to make changes to the layout. Key were

two slimline powder-coated aluminium glass-box extensions built on to the rear of the house to bring in more light and maximise the views of the rolling countryside; one of the extensions provides space for a kitchen-diner, while the other is a gym. In addition, extra light was brought into the front of the house by removing part of the ceiling in the entrance hall.

Caroline and Frank also enlisted the help of John Law and Nick Woodhouse of interior and garden design company Woodhouse & Law to help create the urban-chic look they craved. ‘We wanted a contrast with the countryside – the house has stone walls and is surrounded by rugged landscape, so we chose to do the opposite inside,’ says Caroline. ‘We knew what we aimed to achieve, but we found it difficult to be daring with colour. We needed to have that confidence to be bold. It was wonderful to work with Woodhouse & Law – they know what works spacewise, and John is great with colour and encouraged us to be more experimental.’ As →



FAMILY ROOM

Caroline chose a palette of pale green and cream to create a relaxed mood, while an oversized pendant brings a glamorous element into the scheme. Jessie the cockapoo takes in the view. Walls in Green Smoke, Farrow & Ball. Bespoke sofa, Woodhouse & Law; upholstered in Delano Stone, Romo. Artwork, Hatty Butler at Modern ArtBuyer. Pendant, Heathfield & Co

INSIDER INSIGHT FROM DESIGNER JOHN LAW

SECRET ADDRESS

Jessica Lloyd-Smith at Modern ArtBuyer (modernartbuyer.com) chose artwork that complemented our schemes, as well as reflected Caroline's style.

GO-TO COLOUR

Inchyra Blue from Farrow & Ball. It looks incredible with soft pinks and greys.

MOST SUCCESSFUL PART OF THE PROJECT

Creating an interior that was sympathetic to the ever-changing landscape views.

BIGGEST INDULGENCE

Lighting can make or break a scheme. We created layers of light within each space and invested in statement pendants to create a sense of drama.

SMALL CHANGE – BIG IMPACT

Wrapping the Cole & Son wallpaper over the ceiling in the cloakroom. It's lovely to have a sense of the unexpected within a scheme.



DINING AREA

The sawn-edged table is a nod to the landscape outside. Bespoke table, Woodhouse & Law. Chairs, Gervasoni. Light, Aromas Del Campo



CLOAKROOM

Nature was introduced in a modern way here with a wallpaper that features etchings depicting tempestuous skies.

Wallpaper, Fornasetti collection, Cole & Son. Panelling in Railings, Farrow & Ball



John explains, 'Our brief was to deliver a stylish and comfortable home that the family could enjoy, but also where friends could come and relax. We wanted to create an offbeat English country look – modern with charm and character. Caroline is glamorous so, as well as the house feeling welcoming and lived-in, it had to have an edgy sophistication, too.'

John's plan was for the family to gain a different experience from each room. 'I wanted the drawing room to be cosy – it deliberately doesn't have a TV – while the family room is a lovely space for the kids to hang out, to chat to their friends and watch TV.'

A celebration of the views, along with the use of colour is key to the decorating choices. The family room, for instance, was painted green. 'This palette reflects the exterior – you're hit by a mass of green rolling fields outside when you look out of the windows,' explains John. Contrast was introduced with neutral linen sofas, while patterned cushions bring a sense of fun. 'It's accessible, pared-down

and relaxed,' says John. The drawing room, meanwhile, is used for more formal entertaining and combines a backdrop of dark blue walls with burnt-orange velvet sofas to give an indulgent, luxurious feel. 'Making the most of the views from the window in here was important, too. We wanted people to come in and be confronted by the countryside,' says John. 'The dark blue draws the eye to the window. We added a glass-topped table and mirror to reflect the trees outside. And we worked with art dealer Jessica Lloyd-Smith to choose artwork that would pull together the different colours in here and every room.'

John's trademark touch in each of the schemes has been to add layers incorporating gorgeous textures, such as velvets and woven fabrics. 'I love details,' says John. 'I like to add a bespoke layer, so that the schemes seem very different. I might use a trimming on a cushion or an ottoman just to create that extra-special finishing touch.' 📸

**MASTER BEDROOM**

Comfort and grandeur are happy bedfellows in this elegant scheme, which deftly combines a striking chandelier and armoire with a classic quilt and window dressings. Walls in Cornforth White, Farrow & Ball

BATHROOM

Unexpected additions, such as the upholstered bench, bring character to this space.

Walls in Peignoir, Farrow & Ball. Bath, Hurlingham. Similar bench, RV Astley Appignano at Houseology. Artwork, Hatty Butler at Modern ArtBuyer