

# HOMES & GARDENS®

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## INSPIRING INTERIORS

FROM A LONDON  
TOWNHOUSE  
TO A RESTORED  
RECTORY

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VICTORIAN RECTORY

# Comfort and JOY

*A former rectory has been transformed  
into a bright, welcoming family home filled with  
roaring logburners and sink-into sofas*

WORDS SERENA FOKSCHANER PHOTOGRAPHS MARK BOLTON  
STYLING ALICE RIDLEY

Feather wreath, Claire Henman  
Design, [clairehenman.co.uk](http://clairehenman.co.uk)





**T**here are some houses that might have been designed especially for Christmas. Lulu and Gus Anderson's family home is a case in point. On a brisk winter's morning, you glimpse well-stoked fires and snoozing dogs through the stone mullioned windows and there is a deep porch for removing snow-dusted boots.

Although it is only ten minutes from the heart of Bath, this mellow, Victorian rectory feels as tranquil as a country house. It is therefore surprising to learn that the Andersons never planned to move here. 'We'd been happy living in a smaller townhouse in the centre of Bath, but one day I spotted this house online and decided to visit,' says Lulu. 'I knew this was where our family home should be. It felt right: the peace, the muntjac deer in the garden. It's a haven.'

#### STARTING AGAIN

Built in the 19th century, the house had later been divided into three flats. The Andersons started from scratch, turning it back into a convivial family home with six bedrooms and six bathrooms ranged over the three storeys, including a capacious, converted attic. Gus, who has a background in engineering, drew up the plans for the builder, Birch Construction. 'As well as having an eagle eye for detail, they're good at reining in more impractical ideas,' says Lulu. For design help, she turned to her friend, interior designer Fiona Parke. 'Fiona pushes me out of my comfort zone without it being too much of a stretch. She works with your ideas but brings them together coherently.'

#### A NEW SPACE

Seven months later, the house was transformed. At the top, a new staircase leads to the converted attic with games room. On the first floor, the requisite suite effect was achieved by turning three rooms into a walk-through wardrobe, bathroom and bedroom. Upstairs, the couple's daughters have pretty en-suite bathrooms; downstairs, there is an inviting family room and a shared study.

#### ALL IN THE DETAIL

Getting the finishing touches in place was straightforward. 'Having worked on Lulu's previous homes, we'd gone through the nitty-gritty of choosing handles and paint colours. We wanted to recreate a similar look to their last home but with more colour,' says Fiona. This time, favoured neutrals contrast with splashes of teal and blue.

To add definition to the interior, Fiona added panelling in many areas, including the hallway. A similar idea lies behind the bespoke kitchen, where the brass handles were handmade in Suffolk and tongue-and-groove cabinetry flips back to reveal a coffee machine and other essentials.

But this house is not all about discreet good taste. It was Lulu who decided to install the glossy brass fireman's pole that glides from the attic to a cushioned crash pad on the first floor. 'It's a hit with the girls, but more so with the grown-ups – and especially at Christmas!'







#### DRAWING ROOM

A teal ottoman adds sumptuous colour, while mirrored inserts either side of the new fireplace amplify the sense of light and space.

Ikat silk cushions, from £125

Jennifer Manners, [jennifermanners.co.uk](http://jennifermanners.co.uk), **Bespoke**

**ottoman**, Oxford Upholstery, [oxfordupholstery.co.uk](http://oxfordupholstery.co.uk),

**Byzantine rug**, from £940,

Layered, [layeredinterior.com](http://layeredinterior.com)

**Bespoke mirrored panels**, Rough Old Glass, [rougholdglass.co.uk](http://rougholdglass.co.uk),





#### STUDY

This shared space capitalises on the views of the garden, which wraps around the house adding to the air of rural peace.

**Walls in Blue Blood** pure flat emulsion, £48.50 for 2.5L, Paint & Paper Library, [paintandpaperlibrary.com](http://paintandpaperlibrary.com). **Cortes bespoke desk**, Julian Chichester, [julianchichester.com](http://julianchichester.com).

#### KITCHEN

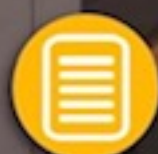
The bespoke cabinetry was designed to include contrasting finishes such as sliding glass doors and tongue-and-groove units, which conceal the kettle and coffee machine.

**Bespoke kitchen**, Lenny Jackson, [lennyjackson.co.uk](http://lennyjackson.co.uk).

**Davey Lighting Diner 75 pendant light**, £885, Original BTC, [originalbtc.com](http://originalbtc.com).





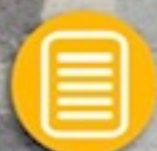






#### STUDY

The house was redesigned to include peaceful corners to relax and read in. Here, original, tall windows fill the space with natural light. Balzac armchair and ottoman, from £4,090. Matthew Hilton for SCP. [scp.co.uk](http://scp.co.uk).







#### MASTER BATHROOM

A shapely but compact bath allowed space in the design for a walk-in shower.

Formoso Piccolo bath, £1,699.96, Victorian Plumbing, [victorianplumbing.co.uk](http://victorianplumbing.co.uk). Retro Metro Holland Park wall tiles, £4.70 each, Fired Earth, [firedearth.com](http://firedearth.com). Basco floor tiles, 88p each, Bert & May, [bertandmay.com](http://bertandmay.com).

#### MASTER BEDROOM

The master suite has a walk-in wardrobe that connects the bathroom to the bedroom, which overlooks the garden.

Downton chandelier, from £550, Graham and Green, [grahamandgreen.co.uk](http://grahamandgreen.co.uk). Cushions (on bed), £125 each, Jennifer Manners, [jennifermanners.co.uk](http://jennifermanners.co.uk). Walls in Cornforth White estate emulsion, £45 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball, [farrow-ball.com](http://farrow-ball.com).

