

Pretty as a picture

LISA BARBER'S IDYLIC COTTAGE HAS A MIX AND MATCH INTERIOR THAT TREASURES THE PAST AND EMBRACES THE FUTURE



Cottage The charming gable-ended former farmworker's home was built around 1900.

Dining area Neutral tones give an elegant feel. Walls, painted in Light Gray by Farrow & Ball. Chairs, Lloyd Loom of Spalding, Dresser, Sambourne Kitchens. »



AT HOME WITH...

Owners Lisa Barber, a business mentor who runs Roots and Wings (rootsandwings.biz), and her husband, Jules, a GP. They live here with Sam, five, and Emily, four, and moved here in 2012. **House** A semi-detached farmworker's cottage with four bedrooms, built around 1900 and extended by the previous owners.

Discovering an idyllic cottage in a pretty Hampshire village was one of the strangest experiences of Lisa Barber's life. 'I had a newborn baby and a one-year-old, so I had gone to bed early,' says Lisa. 'We had put house-hunting on hold, but I was drifting off to sleep when I felt an overwhelming urge to check my phone for messages. Seconds later, I had goosebumps because I just knew that on the screen before my eyes was our dream home.'

At the time Lisa and her husband, Jules, were living in the centre of Winchester. 'When Emily came along 13 months after Sam, the home that had seemed so spacious suddenly felt very cramped,' she says. Even though she felt sure she'd found their new home in the country, Lisa is a city girl at heart and was apprehensive about moving out.

'I was worried about feeling isolated,' she says. 'My father had also moved to Winchester not long before. But we knew we'd get more for our money if we looked further afield.' So, buoyed by her internet discovery, Lisa set up a viewing.

'The moment we arrived, I fell in love with the location,' she says. 'The views were stunning and I remember the astonished look on Jules's face when the estate agent told us that the orchard in front of the cottage was included. When we went inside we knew this was the house for us.'

Once the house was purchased, Lisa looked for an interior designer to help her create a fresh, personal look. 'Although »

Kitchen Stone-coloured units, oak worktops and a limestone floor create a feeling of space. A handy sideboard (above right) links the dining and cooking areas. **Units,** Neptune. **Floor tiles,** Indigenous. **Sideboard,** Neptune. **Lampshades,** Peony & Sage.

What makes this house a home...

'We've poured our hearts and souls into it to create a place we love; somewhere we feel very much at peace'



Living room A fireplace without a surround has a contemporary feel. **Engineered oak floorboards,** Winchester Hardwood Flooring. **Walls,** painted in Off White by Farrow & Ball. **Wall lamp,** Garden Trading. **Lampshade,** Roses by Kate Forman.

Main bedroom

Painting the beams in a contrasting colour accentuates the height of the ceiling. Beams, painted in Pointing by Farrow & Ball. Walls, painted in Oak Apple by Fired Earth. Bedspread, The White Company. Cushions, Oyster Roses and Charcoal Stripe, both by Kate Forman.

What we love most about living here...

'The location – we have incredible morning skies on one side and breathtaking sunsets on the other'



I knew what appealed to me, I wasn't sure how to turn it into reality,' Lisa says. 'And a lot of my energy was focused on the children and my father, who was ill.' Josephine Burlingham of Country & Coastal Interiors had the flair Lisa was looking for to create the family home she wanted.

When, sadly, Lisa's father died, she decided to cherish his memory by including the treasures she inherited in the cottage's decoration. 'I wanted to keep and enjoy the objects and furniture I'd loved since I was a child,' she says. Working with Lisa, Josephine was able to come up with ways to breathe new life into some of these pieces.

The transformation of the cottage also became the springboard behind Lisa's new business, Roots and Wings. 'I wanted to use my marketing experience to run kitchen-table workshops from home, mentoring small business owners about promoting their work,' says Lisa. 'I love our cottage, and I think my clients pick up on the calm yet stimulating vibe from the moment they walk in. It's hard to put my finger on it, but I feel it's almost as though all the love that Josephine and I poured into the project radiates back from every nook and well-considered cranny. And it seems that while I was establishing new roots and a safe haven for my family here, with my new business I've been given the chance to fly – and I'm loving every moment.'

Country & Coastal Interiors, 07817 672287, countryandcoastalinteriors.com.

Guest bedroom

Lisa inherited the rocking chair from her father and had it reupholstered. Chair fabric, 'Tweed' in Skye and Teal by Peony & Sage. Hatbox, covered in Blue Roses by Kate Forman.

Bathroom A palette of neutrals creates an easy-on-the-eye scheme. Walls, painted in Light Gray; **woodwork** painted in Clunch, both by Farrow & Ball.

ON OUR
DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'Sir Harold Hillier Gardens (01794 369317, hants.gov.uk/hilliergardens), in Ampfield near Romsey, which are fabulous at any time of the year. The children adore the wonderful treehouse - it inspired the one in our garden.'

Shop at... 'The florist Catkin & Pussywillow (01962 860345, catkinandpussywillow.com), in Winchester. It sells beautiful flowers that are just that bit different and I often buy from there.'

Go for a meal at... 'The King's Head (01962 775208, kingsheadhursley.co.uk), in Hursley. It's a great pub with a relaxed atmosphere and good home-cooked food. Children and dogs are all welcome.'



Lisa and interior designer Josephine enjoy a country stroll.

FEATURE: JANEET WATKINSON PHOTOGRAPHS: ANDREW VON LINDENBERG



Modern
Country
Classic

Glazed dresser

Tucked away behind glass doors, your best china will stay dust-free and sparkling.

Need to know...

The classic dresser sits on a deeper base, thus creating a shelf, but glass-fronted cabinets also come with the top and bottom sections lined up for a crisp, contemporary profile. You can also buy fitted versions to customise with knobs or optional corning. For convenience, doors can slide, or wider cabinets can be fitted with double doors, hinged to fold as they open. To highlight the contents, fit LED strip lighting to the shelves.

Where to buy...

- Leporello for a painted model with arched top.
- Neptune for classic glazed dressers.
- The Kitchen Dresser Company for a bespoke dresser with sliding doors.

FIND THE PERFECT
STONE FLOORING



- 1 Regent tumbled limestone, from £40.80 sq m; 2 Jaipur limestone; 3 Keynes Mix, both from £34.80 sq m; all Beswick Stone.

FEATURE: ROSANNE JOHNSON, CAROLINE RODRIGUES



Choose casual woven furniture. Lloyd Loom Bourne Double Weave Back dining chair, £277, Maycroft Lloyd Loom Centre.

Be inspired by
Lisa's
dining
area



Add a farmhouse touch to breakfast. Enamel jug, H26cm, col Cream, £14, Coastal Home. Pheasant mug, 300ml, Emma Bridgewater.



Store china in a freestanding cupboard. Wiltshire mini sideboard, H80xW75x D34cm, £275, The Cotswold Company.

For more ideas go to housetohome.co.uk/countryhomesandinteriors



Light candles to create an ambience. Zola candlesticks, H24cm, 16cm and 12.5cm, £34.95 for 3, Nkuku.



Reflect light to brighten up the space. Overmantel mirror, H120xW105cm, col Champagne, £250, John Lewis.