

# 25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

## STYLISH RENOVATIONS

Revamped textile mill | Transformed grammar school | Mid-century update

### TIMELESS LOOKS

Step into 25 inspiring homes  
Decorating tips &  
tricks for every room

### SMART SHOPPING

High-street finds for  
a country feel

### INSIDER ADVICE

Restoring an historic property  
How to zone your space  
Installing a woodburning stove

## COMING HOME

*'This house holds so  
many happy memories  
from my childhood'*



RECALL 31/1/18





INSPIRING

## HOME TRUTHS

## THE PROPERTY

Tudor detached

LOCATION Somerset

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner/orangery, playroom, study, utility room, cloakroom, six bedrooms (three en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2012

## PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here, we lived in a 1800s detached house, also in Taunton,' says Grace.

## HOME COMFORTS

*Grace and Jeremy Hyams have enhanced the original features and nooks and crannies of their old farmhouse to create a fresh country-style look*

FEATURE VICTORIA JENKINS | PHOTOGRAPHY WILLIAM GODDARD

## SITTING ROOM

Matching red velvet sofas flank the old inglenook, creating a welcoming space in which to relax.

Padstow Grande sofas in Caitlyn Cranberry £1,365 each; Freshford Cranberry curtains, from £209; Nigella Truffle square velvet cushions, £40 each; Elliott footstool in Keynes Cranberry, £368, all Laura Ashley

## KITCHEN

A pretty shade of mid-blue gives this neutral space an instant lift.

Units painted in Quarter Silver and Como Blue, both acrylic eggshell, £57 for 2.5L, Zoffany at Designerpaint. Bar stools, £365 each, Vincent Sheppard

Grace Hyams was so taken with the pretty Somerset farmhouse that she went to view with husband Jeremy that she forgot to play it cool. 'I fell for the place in an instant, and I couldn't stop saying so – within earshot of the estate agent,' recalls Grace. 'Jeremy had told me to keep a poker face so I didn't ruin our bargaining strategy, but that didn't quite go to plan.'

Although the period property was big, it still felt cosy, plus no floor or wall was straight, which was one of the things the couple loved about it. Grace was also drawn to the old fireplaces and doors, the old beams and brickwork and especially the wisteria, which spills over a trellis at the end of the walled garden. The house has a Tudor core and had been extended in all directions over the years. 'It comprised three floors and six bedrooms, including one in the attic,' explains Grace. 'Amazingly it wasn't listed, which meant we were free to make our mark on it, if we wanted to.'

## New beginnings

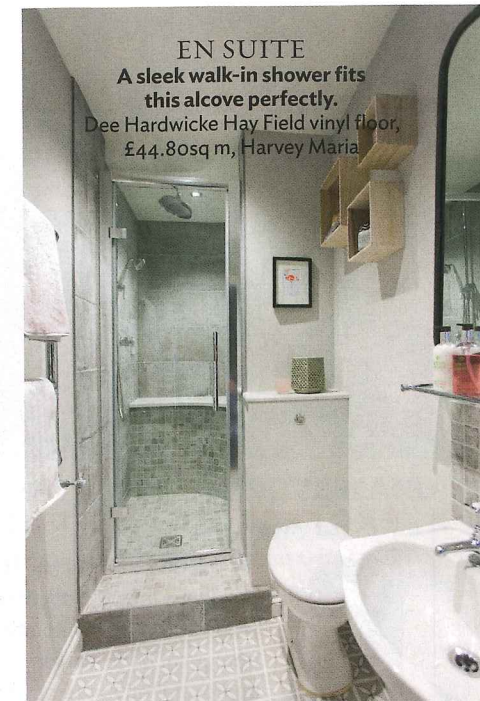
The couple moved into their home five years ago, with Jeremy's children Saxon, now 20, and Orlando, 21. 'I was expecting our first child, Harry, at the time and our priority was to make the sitting room a real retreat,' says Grace. 'We asked a Laura Ashley designer to help us choose some furniture and fabrics as the existing decor was a bit floral and dated. We wanted to retain the property's original features, including the fireplaces, and create a fresh look mixing classic furniture with rich fabrics. We opted for a deep red for the colour scheme, which has a cossetting feel, especially in winter.'

Four years after moving in, when Grace was expecting her second child Scarlett, now one, the pair decided to





**ORANGERY**  
Cream tones keep this sitting area light, while accessories add pops of colour. Hertford large two-seater sofas, £1,650 each, Laura Ashley. Blinds in Kernow silk, £89m, Zoffany at Jane Clayton & Co



**EN SUITE**  
A sleek walk-in shower fits this alcove perfectly. Dee Hardwicke Hay Field vinyl floor, £44.80sq m, Harvey Maria



**GUEST BEDROOM**  
Original features ensure quirky charm. Hastings Ivory bed frame, £750; Provencale Ivory table, £375, both Laura Ashley. Walls in La Seine flat emulsion, £45 for 2.5L, Zoffany at Designerpaint

**INSPIRATION** *'I spend a lot of time browsing interiors magazines for ideas, which I then bring to life by creating boards on Pinterest'*



overhaul the building's first floor as well as the kitchen-diner/orangery. This time, they asked Mel Thorne of Country Knole Interiors for help, while Grace's brother Phil was able to realise her vision via his company Loaring Developments. He refitted the family bathroom and two en-suites, as well as looking after all the painting and decorating.

#### Simple improvements

'When it came to updating the kitchen-diner/orangery, Mel suggested that we keep the original handmade cabinets as they were in such good condition,' says Grace. 'We had them sanded and the island units were repainted to match the Aga; we also added new handles and laid a floor of glazed porcelain tiles. It's transformed the look and feel of the room.'

Despite a few hitches along the way, including problems with the plumbing and electrics, the family are thrilled with their updated farmhouse, complete with its quirky nature. 'It's not perfect,' says Grace. 'The pipework is a bit outdated and we have squirrels visiting our attic, but that's all part of living in an old property. We love being custodians of this beautiful house and it's been great to inject the interior with our personality – it's a wonderful family home now.' 25



**GUEST BEDROOM**  
The soft colour palette chosen for this space enhances the old brickwork. Romo and Ian Mankin cushions, £50 each; throw, £45, all Country Knole Interiors. Curtains in Acacia, £42m, Romo