



**INSPIRING**

**HOME TRUTHS**

**THE OWNERS** Jacqui Butterfield, her husband Andy, a healthcare business manager, and their children Aly, seven, and Harry, two, plus boxer dog Meg

**THE PROPERTY** A 16th-century Grade II listed cottage

**LOCATION** Middlesex

**ROOMS** Sitting room, kitchen, dining room/study, utility, snug, cloakroom, garden room, three bedrooms, bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2007

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY** 'We lived in a small terraced cottage close by,' says Jacqui.

**DINING ROOM/STUDY**  
Jacqui wanted an eclectic feel for this dual-purpose area. Cowhide rug, for similar, try Chaplin, £189, Made. Billy corner combination shelving, £249; Liatorp extendable table, £180; Gregor swivel chair, £75, all Ikea

# TRAD *with a* TWIST

Jacqui and Andy Butterfield sensitively restored their Grade II listed cottage, then added a few more rather unexpected touches

FEATURE LOTTIE POTTER  
PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE



Getting the balance right when renovating a period home can be tricky. So it's lucky this listed period semi, which dates back to the 16th century, was bought by Jacqui and Andy Butterfield, who were passionate about preserving its unique character. 'It's thought to be the oldest house in the area,' says Jacqui, 'but there are no accurate records of when it was built. All we know is that it was once owned by the Lord of the Manor and was extended in Victorian times.'

The couple were living in a small terraced cottage nearby when they first viewed this Grade II listed, oak-framed property. Needing more space, they were looking for a larger house with development potential. 'It met all our criteria and had period features in every room, including back-to-back inglenook fireplaces, oak beams and original floors,' says Jacqui. 'However, the house needed a complete overhaul, which meant obtaining listed building consent.'

Undeterred, Jacqui and Andy went ahead and bought the cottage, but delayed moving in until they got the green light for the ▶



**SITTING ROOM**  
Large comfortable seating and a woodburning stove are an irresistible combination for Meg the dog. Maximus Large footstool, £345, Sofa.com; Grandfather clock wall decal, £35, Super Nice; Gia Design candlestick holders, from £16, Lombok; Hampton velvet lampshade, £42, Jim Lawrence



**KITCHEN**  
A light fitting adds glamour to the country-style scheme. Hand-painted Shaker units, £25,000, Harvey Jones; Kare 7614 bar chandelier, £200, Idealo.co.uk; Identical Sorbet Stripe tablecloth, £31, Jamie at Home





**GARDEN ROOM**  
This cheerful space also doubles as a guest bedroom. Cow Parsley wallpaper in Cream/Raspberry, £67 per roll, Cole and Son. Porthole mirror, £90, Graham and Green

work they wanted to do. 'We lived in rented accommodation for the first six months while the building work was being carried out,' explains Jacqui. 'Every room had to be gutted because the joists were rotten – all the air bricks were blocked, which made the house very damp. We even excavated some mud from under the sitting room floorboards to improve ventilation.' Other, more general work included rewiring and replumbing, replacing the boiler and upgrading the central heating. All the floorboards were sanded and resealed, and crumbling windows replaced with like-for-like designs to meet the rigorous listed-building approval.

'You have to put in a bit more effort when remodelling a listed period house,' says Jacqui. 'One thing you need is a really good carpenter

**DESIGN ADVICE**

*When decorating a period property, instead of going for a tried-and-trusted traditional look, why not incorporate a mixture of styles to give your home a more interesting, personalised appearance?*

because none of the walls or floors are usually straight, so everything has to be bespoke. Eddie, our carpenter, was brilliant and made internal doors, replacement floorboards, window seats and shelving for us.' The couple also opened up the inglenook fireplace in the sitting room and installed a woodburning stove. 'We'd always wanted one and it makes the house cosy in cold weather,' says Jacqui.

When the building work was finished, it was time for the fun part – decorating. 'My style is very clean-looking but I'm not a fan of neutral, pared-back schemes,' explains Jacqui. 'I like a bit of colour – cream and magnolia are far too safe for me.' Farrow & Ball heritage paints teamed with tactile Designers Guild fabrics complement the period property. Quirky touches, such as a grandfather clock wall sticker in the sitting room, large cowhide rug in the dining area and bright pink wallpaper in the garden room add an element of surprise.

'I'm inspired by luxurious yet comfortable boutique hotels,' says Jackie. 'I also admire interior designers, such as Abigail Ahern, who create characterful rooms with a darker feel, which I like to think I've achieved here.' 5



**MASTER BEDROOM**  
A latte and black colour scheme and luxe textures create a boutique look. Austen brass headboard, £1,225, And So To Bed. Harlequin Sophistication wallpaper, £42 per roll, John Lewis. Gold Roller Coaster screen print by Sarah Hubacher, £685. Shaded Chandelier with Crystal Drops, £150, Notonthehighstreet.com, is comparable



**BATHROOM**  
Pearlescent mosaics, ornate sconces and a freestanding bath lend a decadent air. Clay wall tiles from the Neutrals Collection, £200sq m, Fired Earth. Monaco Quarrycast freestanding bath, £1,500, Victoria + Albert. Albemarle Baudelaire wallpaper, £95 per roll, Cole and Son. Glass Bonbon jar, £22.50, Mitzy B



**HARRY'S ROOM**  
The two-year-old's tractor collection dictated this colourful scheme. Mammut chairs, £13 each, Ikea. How it Works wallpaper, £60 per roll, PaperBoy



**ALY'S ROOM**  
This multifunctional bed is a great space-saving solution. Juicy Fruits Mid-sleeper bed, £395; roll-out desk, £125, both Aspace. Lancaster Yellow estate emulsion, £34.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball