

PERFECTLY CURATED

Architecture spans the centuries in this Grade II-listed cottage, inspiring Mark Camillin and Liam Denny to mix interior styles for an original result

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN **PHOTOGRAPHY** RICHARD DOWNER PHOTOGRAPHY



DINING AREA

A modern white sideboard blends beautifully with neutral walls allowing the upcycled French farmhouse table and antique chandelier to shine.

Table, £295, Vinterior. Chandelier, £895, Three Angels Hove



THE PROPERTY
Grade II-listed cottage
LOCATION
Hampshire
ROOMS Sitting room, snug/
dining space, kitchen-diner, WC,
utility room, four bedrooms
(two en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 2019
PROPERTY HISTORY
'Before moving here we built a
contemporary eco house in
Devon where we lived for four
years,' says Mark.

DESIGN ADVICE
'Consider a bespoke kitchen
like this one – the joiner was
incredibly talented and it
was more affordable
than we imagined'

**SNUG
DINING AREA**
Shelving makes a
feature of the original
malmstone walls.
Oslo chunky oak dining
table is similar, £529.99,
Chiltern Oak. Try Jenny
velvet emerald shade, £50,
John Lewis & Partners

SNUG
Relocating the staircase
meant that the middle
room could be used again.

Flynn sofa, £350,
Made. Round leather
buttoned ottoman, £639,
Allissias Attic, would
work in this space

KITCHEN
Open shelves show off
the beauty of the old
brickwork and oak frame.
Kitchen cabinets, £11,000,
M&W Architectural Joinery,
painted in Dulux 90GY
16/151 Green, £44.46 for
2.5ltr, Brewers

When Mark Camillin and his partner Liam Denny – both architects – saw this Grade II-listed house in Hampshire, it was in exactly the right location but they didn't immediately feel a connection as the 1770s cottage had been extended and refurbished multiple times resulting in a collection of poorly laid out rooms. 'The pretty village was much closer to London than our home in Devon, but it was the magical orchard and dramatic hill rising up behind that completely sold the property to us,' Mark recalls. 'We decided to find a coherent solution to the jumbled layout with its 1950s staircase in a reception room and 70s and 80s extensions.' The couple, who run architectural practice Camillin Denny Design (camillindenny.com), bought the house in April 2019. Their

goal was to embrace the multi-faceted history – architecturally and in the interiors – and create an energy-efficient home. They worked up numerous designs while doing their research, dating each part to make sure their design changes met with the listed buildings criteria. Mostly the focus was on preserving the original (unused) Georgian front door, malmstone wall and inglenook fireplace.

A new staircase in a small blue brick extension unlocked the layout problem – now the 1989 barn-style addition, built on a half level, could connect to the kitchen below and bedrooms above. 'We also took down walls and switched rooms around so the new kitchen has access to the pantry again,' says Mark. 'We reclaimed the snug by removing the old staircase and opened it up to the dining room with the inglenook fireplace.' The whole house was



double glazed, insulated and benefits from solar panels and an air source heat pump. 'It's actually quite unbelievable to think we live in a house that was built in the 1770s and yet in 2022 we're totally fossil-fuel free,' says Mark.

After a successful planning application, the renovations began in February 2021 followed by the interior decoration. Previously, the couple had leant towards modern design, but wanting to celebrate the original features, as well as draw the mismatch architecture together, there wasn't a straightforward answer. 'We tackled each room on its own merit and went from there,' says Mark. 'It sounds like an oxymoron to say we blended everything together with such a varied mix of industrial, cottage, steampunk, hints of Georgian, and arts and crafts, but somehow our curated approach really works.'

In the kitchen the herringbone brickwork and timber framing remains an admirable part of the decor, while introducing wood panelling to the sitting room brings a period feel to the modern addition. An antique chandelier hangs beneath exposed ceiling joists above the kitchen dining table, breaking up the large expanse of modern white ceiling and removing the need for downlights, and industrial metal pendants feature on the newly vaulted ceiling in the main bedroom. 'I also love how modern shelving in the snug/dining room allows us to enjoy the 1770s malmstone wall,' says Mark.

The couple moved into their home in early 2022. 'Considering our house ticked none of the boxes, moving here was absolutely right for us,' says Mark. 'We love the village and our home, which was all down to the energy we put into the design work at the start.' 5

SITTING ROOM
 'We love the blues and blacks in the railway station screenprint and based the scheme on these colours,' says Mark. Faraway suburbs, £480, Gail Brodholt. Panelling in Dulux 16BB 27/091 Mid Blue, £44.46 for 2.5ltr, Brewers. Travis black coffee table is similar, £250, Perch & Parrow

MAIN BEDROOM
 'We took the ceiling out and added king

trusses, which we made a feature of by dressing with industrial lighting,' says Mark. St. Ives Mariner outdoor light in galvanised steel, £89, The Wall Lighting Company. Woodland trees cushion cover is similar, £4.95, Ideal Textiles

EN SUITE
 Mark likes how the dark metal washstand adds to the industrial look. Industrial vanity unit, £729, Tikamoon

