

# STAYING POWER

Having decided against moving house, Alissa and Craig Glyn set about reworking their barn-style home with a practical layout and modern-rustic design

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRENCH



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Detached 1970s house

**LOCATION** Hertfordshire

**ROOMS** Hallway, sitting room, kitchen-diner/snug, playroom, utility, cloakroom, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2009

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'Before buying this place, we lived in a flat in a converted 1920s house,' says Alissa.



### 1 SNUG

The emerald green sofa adds vibrancy and softens the raw natural materials. Hendricks sofa, £2,600, Habitat. Try Sienna Black and White Bobble pouffe, £150, Graham and Green

### 2 KITCHEN

Reclaimed wood was chosen for the units for a pleasing rustic finish. Black Rattan bar stool, £195, Rockett St George. Lantern marble pendant, £245, Heal's

### 3 DINING AREA

'Our house already had lots of character but the oak beams and panelling adds to it,' says Alissa. West Elm John Vogel chairs, £249 each, Mad About Mid Century Modern



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Unable to agree on the location of their next move, Alissa Glyn and her husband Craig decided to stay put and transform the ground floor of their Hertfordshire home into a chic and industrial-style family space. 'Craig wanted to move and take on a big project and I was happy to stay,' says Alissa. 'But I won him over!' Thankfully, there were no arguments about what they wanted to achieve. 'We both still loved the barn-style architecture of the house, but wanted a completely different look inside, with an emphasis on natural materials and textures, rather than colour,' says Alissa.

The couple have lived in their home since 2009 with daughters, Gracie, now 10, and Myla, seven. Initially they focussed on family life, and then a few years ago Craig started to look at how they were using the house. 'We weren't using it to its full potential,' he says. 'We'd all gather in the kitchen – the smallest room in the house – and we had a separate dining room that we rarely used.'

Their solution was to extend at the rear by three metres and knock through the dining room, kitchen and old breakfast room to create a large, open space. Keen for a top-notch design, the couple found architect Nick Berzins from Andris Berzins & Associates. The firm has a good track record with contemporary and commercial West End projects, which dovetailed nicely with the building contractor,

Richard Green from Lecale Homes. 'Nick's drawings were extremely detailed and Richard's fixed price was spot on,' says Craig. 'We were organised and bought everything in advance and once the build began, we didn't change anything, which helped it run smoothly.'

The springboard for the industrial look was prompted by the Crittall-style doors in a set of three across the back of the house. 'We built our whole design concept around the doors and the partitions between them,' says Craig. 'The look has character and was more in keeping with our barn-style home than modern sliding doors.'

Huge oak beams were used to form the structure of the extension, which harmonise with the existing exposed wood in the sitting room. 'We love wood,' says Alissa. 'I have a bit of an obsession with rooms feeling cosy and looking interesting, so we played with different wood textures and cladding for decoration.' The kitchen cupboards are made from reclaimed wood – chosen from a picture and a sample the size of a coaster. 'Looking back, it's ridiculous to think we ordered our kitchen on the back of such a small sample,' says Alissa. 'But it was worth the risk as our kitchen has turned out so well.'

It took five months to completely rework the ground floor, with new furniture and artwork adding a dash of colour against the organic backdrop. Upstairs remains as before, for now. 'We adore our house,' says Alissa. 'We're not moving anywhere now.'



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**LESSON LEARNT**  
*'Before, we didn't use all our rooms so the new layout needed to be communal. Having only three bar stools in the kitchen pushes us to eat at the dining table'*



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**1-3 SITTING ROOM**  
**'Wooden sliding doors were fitted to imbue a barn-like feel,' says Alissa.**  
Rug-printed Losange chair, £998, Anthropologie. Olivia sofa in Isla Kingfisher velvet, £3,160, Neptune. Calvin armchair in Green, £399, Atkin and Thyme, is similar

**4 MASTER BEDROOM**  
**Whitewashed cladding enhances the ethereal feel.**  
Kartell E' Wall light in Pink, £65, Made In Design. Cherie bedside table is similar, £231, Sweetpea & Willow

**5 CLOAKROOM**  
**'The panels create a very different mood painted navy blue,' says Alissa.**  
Brass-framed hexagonal mirror, £32, Rockett St George. Pink Alalpardo floor tiles, £3.75 each, Bert & May

**FOR STOCKISTS GO TO WHERE TO BUY**



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