

SOFT TOUCH

Pinks and greens became the decorating thread throughout Jane and Pete Evans' home, reflecting its countryside setting

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRENCH | STYLING MARISHA TAYLOR



KITCHEN-DINER
Neutral grey units and light-wood furniture lend a natural, bright and airy look. French-style reclaimed refectory dining table, £839, Nicky Cornell, is similar. Riviera wicker chair, £175, Sustainable Furniture, has this look



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY A detached Edwardian farmhouse
LOCATION Nottinghamshire
ROOMS Kitchen-diner/living area, utility room, boot room, snug, playroom, five bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 2015
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We lived locally, renting a 1930s house,' says Jane.



LIVING AREA

'I love the look of the pale-pink sofa against the dark-grey limestone floor,' says Jane. Large Soufflé sofa in Dusty Rose clever velvet, £1,845, Loaf. Dove Grey tumbled limestone floor tiles, from £56sq m, Floors of Stone. Medium Poppy Field rug, £125, French Connection Home



When Jane and Pete Evans were given the chance to renovate an Edwardian farmhouse, which had been in Jane's family since the 1920s, they were over the moon. The couple had been renting while they waited for their 'forever' home to come along – this was the perfect match.

'Taking on the house was a serendipitous moment,' says Jane. 'We're both from the area and the location was our dream. We loved the period features and the large rooms at the front, which had lots of potential.'

The old farmhouse stands on a big plot with views in all directions. Jane's uncle had been living here and though the house was habitable enough to move into, very little had changed in 50 years. 'We wanted to bring grandeur back into the house and improve the light and flow of the small rooms,' says Jane. 'Like most families, the dream was to have a big living space for our children, Jude, 10, Estella, eight, and Delilah, three.'

A full-width kitchen extension was high on the agenda with a side extension to accommodate a guest suite. Though with all the other rooms to strip back and redecorate too, the couple accepted the project would be long and slow. 'We have quite traditional tastes and chose a classic grey Shaker-style kitchen with a grey limestone floor that would suit the age of the house,' says Jane. 'I bought a pink velvet sofa and chanced upon a painted green antique bench. I really liked the colour



FAVOURITE ITEM *'The chandelier hanging over the rustic table is one of my most loved pieces in the project'*

DINING AREA

Jane is mad about chandeliers: 'I think they make a room look really interesting and characterful,' she says. 'I had this lovely vision of a huge chandelier hanging over a large scrubbed wooden table.'

Zeitraum Bank bench, £1,349, Utility Design, has this look. Farmhouse kitchen chairs, £375 pair, Farmhouse Table Company, would work here. Chandelier, £800, Opera Chandeliers

KITCHEN

Marble worktops and brass cupboard handles add a touch of grandeur.

Real Shaker cabinets painted in Lead, £600 for a 600mm base cabinet; Bum stools, £440 each; Crackle pendant lights, £200 each, all deVOL. Majestic chair, £199, Peacock Chairs, is similar

UTILITY ROOM

'I love catching a glimpse of the patterned floor through the doorway,' says Jane.

Devonstyle Grey tiles, £17.99sq m, Tons of Tiles. Ionian tap in aged brass, £460, deVOL

PLAYROOM

Strong, bright colours appeal to all the children and will last into their teens.

Kilim Afghan rug, £299, Trend Carpet, is similar. Walls in Hague Blue estate emulsion, £47.95 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Love lights by Erica Davies, £40, QVC

SNUG

'This is our cosy evening refuge so I've gone for richer tones of pink and green,' says Jane.

Black and white bone inlay side table is similar, £270, Graham and Green. Antique Gold sunburst mirror, £210, Notonthehighstreet, is a close match



**BATHROOM**

'I love the drama of the black patterned tiles against the soft pink walls,' says Jane. Lily Pad Off-Black tiles, £69sq m, Ca'Pietra. Walls in Calamine estate emulsion, £47.95 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Lusso Luxe wall-mounted bath mixer in Brushed Gold, £395, Lusso Stone

BEDROOM

'I love my feather lights because they're simple, elegant and have a luxurious texture.' Umage Eos feather pendant in Light Grey, from £79, Black by Design. Afaw Berber-style rug, from £99, La Redoute. Marina throw, £185, Soho Home. Cushion, £70, River Island



combination – I'm a huge fan of pink and against the green, they worked well in our countryside setting.'

Jane carried the palette through the rest of the house, switching between warm and cool tones and adding touches of blue. Upstairs, paler shades play out, bringing tranquillity to bedrooms and bathrooms. In the original downstairs rooms, the scheme has a darker hit: the boot room is a mossy green, while reupholstered emerald green antique chairs in the playroom sit against a navy backdrop.

When it came to furnishing the house, Jane went through her saved images on Instagram (@talesofsilverdale) to identify a recurring theme. 'I looked for things that made my heart sing – like the chandeliers, the brass taps and the pink velvet sofa,' she says. 'I like to balance indulgent purchases with antique eBay or junk shop finds, along with the furniture we've collected over the years.'

The grand chandelier above the worn wood dining table, in particular, sets a scene that encapsulates the mood throughout the house. 'I love the contrast of luxe with rustic to create style with individual character,' says Jane.

After five years of hard work, the couple are firmly on the home straight to finishing, with just a few bedrooms left to decorate. 'I love that our home has different takes on the pink and green colour scheme,' says Jane. 'You know you're in our house whichever room you're in.' 25

LANDING

'The colours in the rug reflect the whole house,' says Jane.

Design Matters rug is similar, £84.99, Rugs Direct. Drawers in Pink Ground estate eggshell, £64 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

DECORATING TIP
'I love that pink can feel warm and cosy, or look sophisticated and feminine'

