

Modern classic

This country cottage has a charming contemporary look courtesy of designer Melinda Kiss

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SITTING ROOM

A contemporary cream chair makes a bold statement while also adding a calm, cosy feel.

Liang & Eimil's Mikono chair in Bouclé Sand, Keyhole Interiors. Walls in Screenshot, Coat. Irregular wall mirror, Zara Home

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

1870s terraced cottage

ROOMS Sitting room, cloakroom, kitchen-diner, three bedrooms, bathroom

LOCATION Cumbria



KITCHEN

'I had a very clear idea to have Shaker-style cabinets and KitKat tiles along with brass finishes and the beautiful gold veined marble,' says Melinda. Cupboards in Dove, Dulux. Kasama Habu mosaic tiles, Claybrook

HOW DID THE CLIENTS FIND YOU?

The holiday cottage in the Lake District had been a dream of theirs for a long time. They live in the Middle East and return several times a year to visit family and friends. My client found me online and liked my interiors approach to period properties – preserving the traditional and bringing in a calm, contemporary style.

WHAT WAS THEIR BRIEF? The couple wanted the property to reflect its Lake District location and were open to ideas. It's a long journey for them to get here so it was important they instantly felt at home. They're active, outdoorsy people so the home needed to be practical, too.

HOW DID YOU COMBINE TRADITIONAL AND MODERN LOOKS?

I used materials that reflect the heritage of the cottage. We replaced the plastic windows with timber sash, restored fireplaces, fitted a Shaker kitchen, wall panelling and oak herringbone flooring. The contemporary elements are recognisable in things like the KitKat splashback, gold veined marble work surfaces, curved sitting room furniture and textured fabrics.

WHERE DID YOU FIND INSPIRATION FOR THE COLOUR SCHEME?

I wanted the inside to echo the colours seen outside – the fells, mountains, big

'Keeping to just base units in a kitchen helps it to feel more open and spacious'



HALLWAY

'Smoked oak flooring won't discolour over time,' says Melinda. 'The contemporary colour is the perfect mix with the classic herringbone style.'

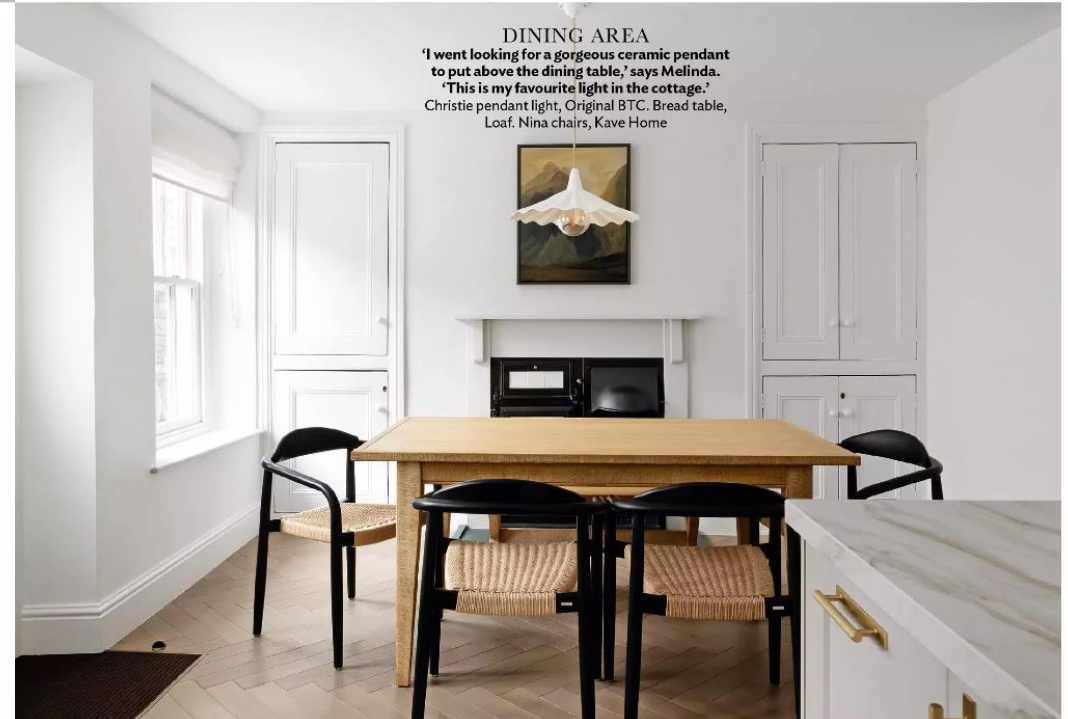
Truffle parquet flooring, Silvan Floors. Panelling in The Trail, Coat



GLOAKROOM

'This small space can really take the densely patterned wallpaper, which I love,' says Melinda.

Stag Toile wallpaper in Moss, Little Greene. Moroccan full length wall mirror, Dunelm. Pumpkin opaline glass shade on elbow wall fitting, Pooky



DINING AREA

'I went looking for a gorgeous ceramic pendant to put above the dining table,' says Melinda. 'This is my favourite light in the cottage.'

Christie pendant light, Original BTC. Bread table, Loaf. Nina chairs, Kave Home


skies and the lake. I often start with the room that comes most easily to me. In this project, the guest bedroom has a window that looks onto the slate and stonework of the neighbouring cottage. I was drawn to its blue-beige tones and decorated in similar colours. I've kept the palette simple with white walls and touches of nature in greens, greys and rust red in accessories, fabrics and panelling.

WHICH ROOM WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOUR CLIENTS?

The couple and their daughter looked forward to spending evenings in the sitting room in front of the fire after a long hike or being out on the water. There needed to be enough seating for the family

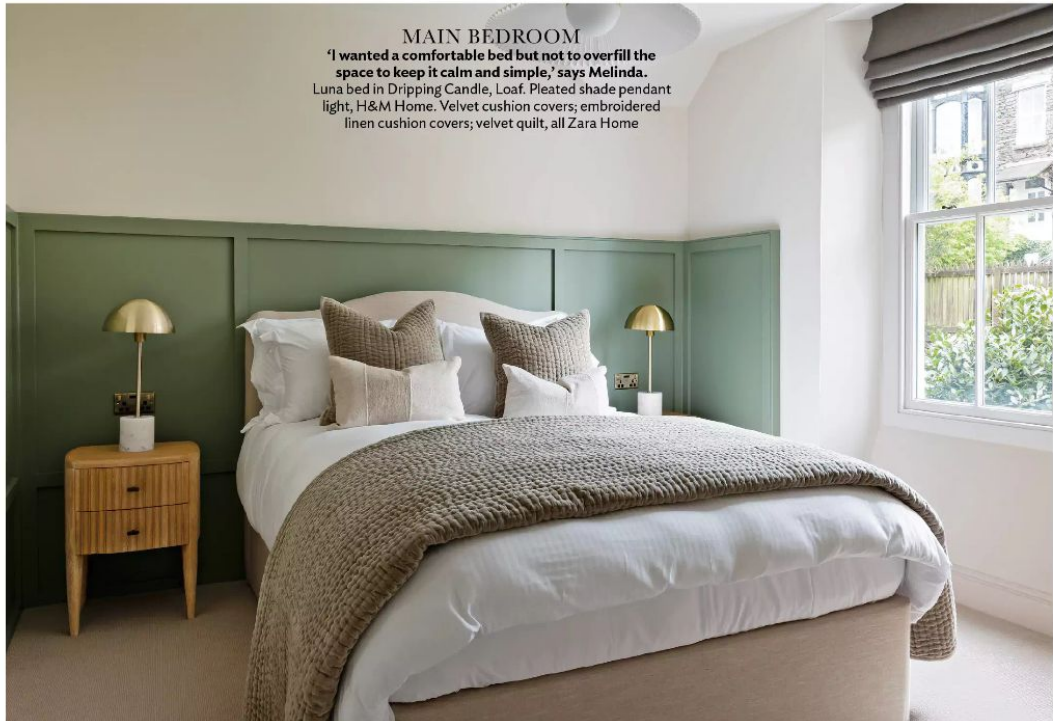
and when elderly parents visit. We bought everything new. We tried to buy British as much as we could and got the sofa from Darlings of Chelsea and the tub chairs in the bay window from Swoon.

WHAT WAS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF THE PROJECT?

Although I only met my clients in person a few times, they really trusted my style. When they came back to see the final result they were so happy. They said the cottage was everything they wanted and more, which was lovely to hear as I love it, too. If I could pick a project to make my own home it would be this one. 

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‘Continuing the panelling behind the bed to the other walls has the effect of enveloping the bed’



MAIN BEDROOM

‘I wanted a comfortable bed but not to overfill the space to keep it calm and simple,’ says Melinda.
Luna bed in Dripping Candle, Loaf. Pleated shade pendant light, H&M Home. Velvet cushion covers; embroidered linen cushion covers; velvet quilt, all Zara Home



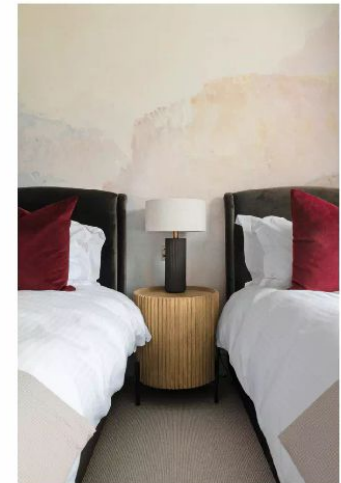
BEDROOM

‘I decorated in a grey-blue to pick out the blues in the stonework outside,’ says Melinda.
Walls in Lie-In, Coat. Cushions upholstered in Etta fabric in Granite by Wemyss, Keyhole Interiors



BATHROOM

Warm wood tones and brushed gold fittings bring warmth to the white space.
Ava vanity unit, Harvey George. Bianco brass single sconce wall lights, Jimmy Raiden. Uyova brass arch mirror, La Redoute



BEDROOM

‘Rust red cushions dial the colour up a notch but keep the relaxed soft feel in here,’ says Melinda.
Plum simple velvet cushion, The Cotswold Company. Dazzler beds in Coal Scuttle Clever velvet, Loaf. Lou side table, Tikamoon