

NATURAL *beauty*

In this pretty manor house in the country, studio Jessica May Design orchestrated sophisticated schemes inspired by the landscape outside

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HOME TRUTHS

DESIGNER
Jessica May Design

THE PROPERTY
Manor house

ROOMS
Sitting room, dining room, kitchen-diner, playroom, snug, office, boot room, cloakroom, five bedrooms, five bathrooms

LOCATION
Lancashire

KITCHEN
'The kitchen is priority number one in all our projects because it's where households spend so much of their time,' says Jessica. 'This had been the music room before.' Reclaimed tumbled floor tiles, Pierre de Bourgogne. Ciro Abaca embossed wallcovering in Quartzite, Romo Fabrics



HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE PROJECT?

My clients fell in love with a manor house set in quintessentially English countryside. They're in their early thirties and were recently married and found us on Instagram. They liked our classic contemporary approach to heritage properties and that we're a younger studio. We did all the interior architecture and interior design for them.

WHAT DID YOU CHANGE IN THE LAYOUT? The house is 6,500sq ft but there was no sense of arrival and rooms were disjointed. The kitchen was disproportionately small – we made this the heart of the home where a music room had been. The redundant glazed garden room was made into a

generous dining room, which we opened to the sitting room to create a large entertaining space. Upstairs, we swapped the large en suite and dressing room around to maximise storage. We also moved the wall back in the main bedroom by a very small amount to create full depth wardrobes – it's a small bespoke detail that completely transformed the room.

WHAT WERE YOUR INFLUENCES FOR THE INTERIORS?

My clients bought the property for the countryside location, making this an obvious anchor point for design. Through discussions we agreed on classic contemporary elegance, layered with textured neutrals and gentle hints of nature. For example, the framed oak leaf embroidered wallpaper panels

‘When you have symmetry in a room you create a very calming atmosphere’



DINING ROOM

‘This is now a great entertaining space with comfortable chairs upholstered in a UV-protective fabric.’
Bespoke chairs, Jessica May Design. Vases, Hicks & Hicks. Bespoke table, Nathan Christopher



SITTING ROOM

‘We kept the original fireplace and ceiling panelling,’ says Jessica.

Joinery design, Jessica May Design. Joinery build, RK Carpentry. Garda chandelier, Bella Figura, is similar

HALLWAY

‘Three glamorous chandeliers make a lovely contrast with the aged wood beams.’

Eichholtz's Hector chandelier is similar; Visual Comfort's Brenta single scone, both Olivia's. Bespoke sideboard, designed by Jessica May Design; manufactured by RK Carpentry



in the sitting room mirror the oak trees out in the garden. The core foundation is the period elements in the original tiled flooring, fireplaces, ceiling panels and joinery details.

HOW DID YOU BLEND HERITAGE WITH CONTEMPORARY LOOKS?

We preserved and reinstated period details – one of the biggest wins for the kitchen was sourcing matching reclaimed tumbled floor tiles from France. We layered contemporary elements into the heritage foundation, such as black aluminium doors in the dining room and contemporary chandeliers in the entrance hall. A warm neutral backdrop complements the period details with hints of tonal shades in sage green, dusky blues and pinks – visually the house flows.

HOW DID YOU LAYER THE SCHEME?

Embroidered and silk fabrics with woven wallpapers bring interest without being overtly colourful. For example, the sitting room chairs have a beautiful damask on the back as they can be seen from the dining room table. The kitchen chairs are leather with a dark wood detail that ties in with the island.

DID YOU DO A 'BIG REVEAL' TO THE CLIENTS AT THE END?

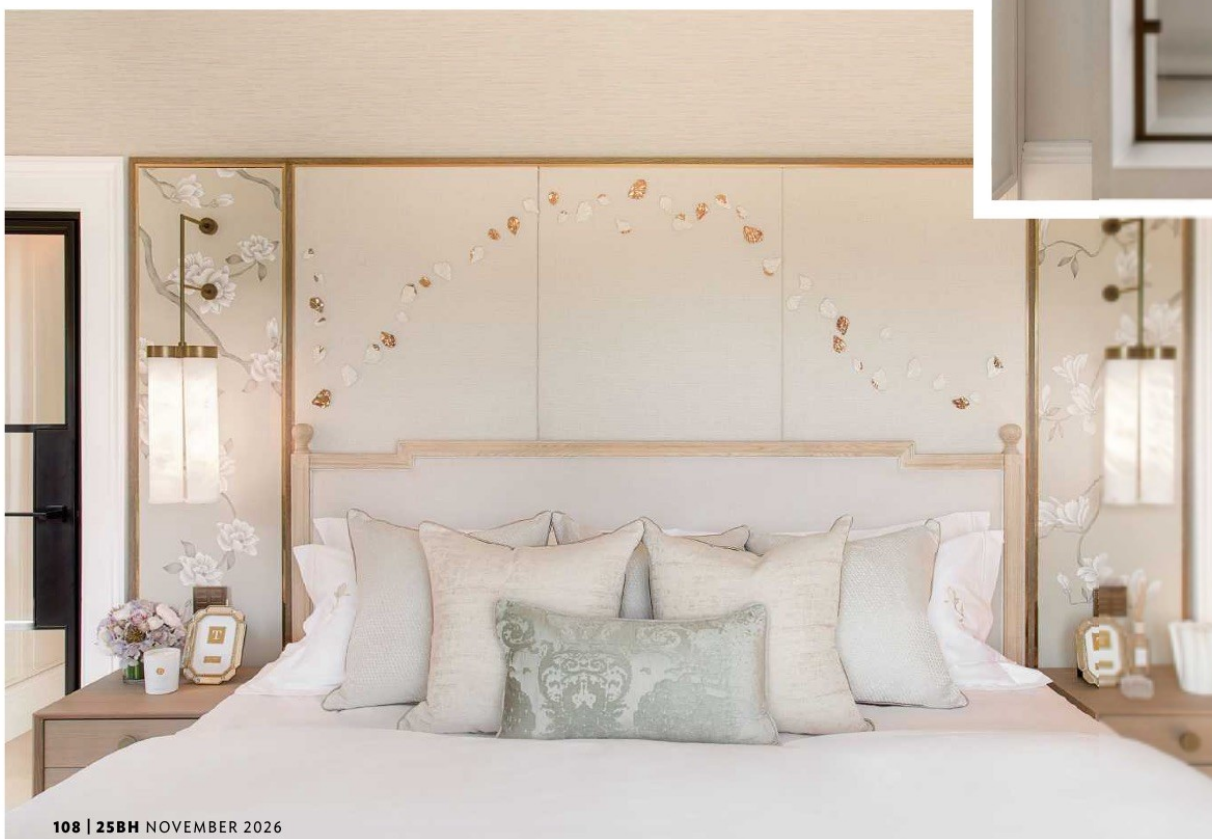
Yes, it was a magical moment! My team and I spent a week installing all the furniture, hanging curtains and so on to make the house perfect for them. When they came inside and looked around, they were emotional and overwhelmed – it was a career highlight for me. ²⁵

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‘We moved a wall back in the main bedroom by a very small amount to create full-depth wardrobes’



MAIN BEDROOM EN SUITE
‘The contemporary heritage look encapsulates our whole approach to this house.’
Puzzle Canara Chevron tiles have a similar look, Mandarin Stone.
Stourton single rail, The Sterlinghans Company



MAIN BEDROOM
‘The bed is centred between doors to the dressing room and en suite and faces the garden,’ says Jessica. Gustavian bed in Ash & Linen, French Bedroom. Neutral cream textured cushion is a detail, Sarah Rimmer

DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM
‘The woodland butterfly print wallpaper was inspired by the landscape.’
Land of Milk & Honey Butterflies in blush pink, Woodchip & Magnolia. Oval island storage, Jessica May Design. Milo Liner pendant, Heathfield & Co