

MAKE A WISH

This couple gave up the day job to follow their dream of renovating a farmhouse – and it's created new opportunities they never expected

Dining room

The pitched-roof extension comes into its own in summer when owners Shan and Stephen throw open the doors to the garden. They had the Welsh stick chairs handmade for their holiday cottage and decided to have the same design here. **Chairs** by J W Henderson. Brooklyn Cone pendants are similar, Industville



WILTSHIRE FARMHOUSE

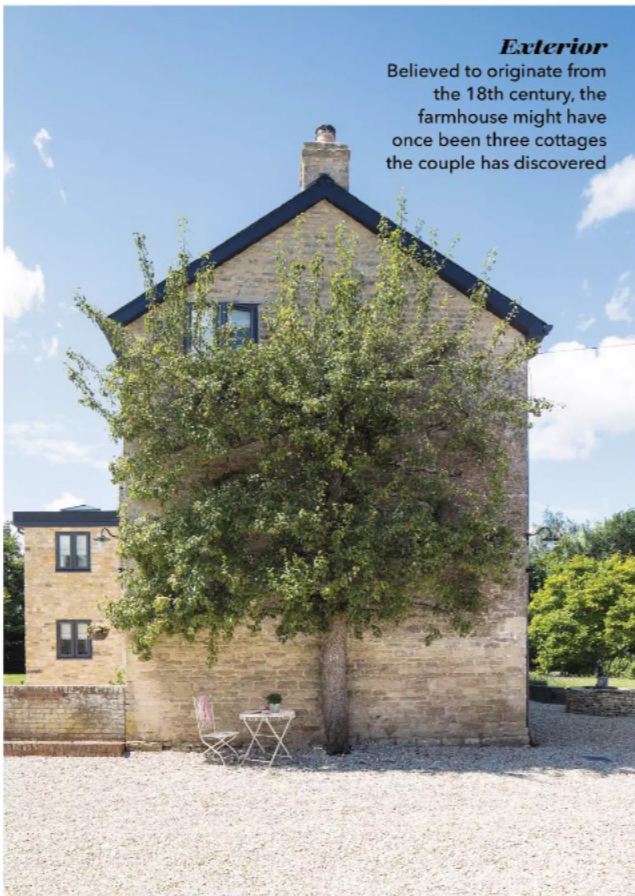
Hallway

Two rooms were taken out and the front door moved to make the bright entrance. Riad glass lights are similar. Bespoke Lighting



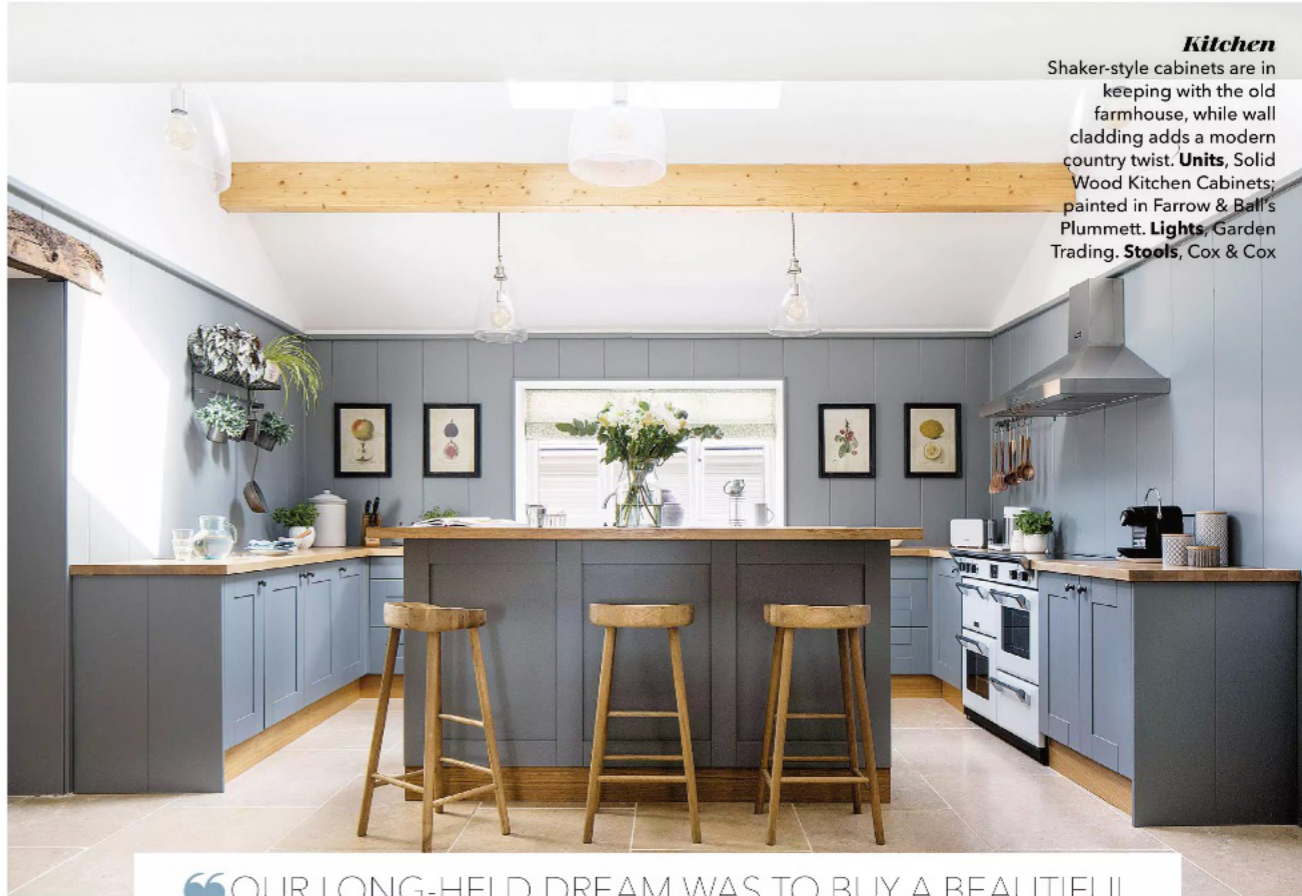
Exterior

Believed to originate from the 18th century, the farmhouse might have once been three cottages the couple has discovered



Kitchen

Shaker-style cabinets are in keeping with the old farmhouse, while wall cladding adds a modern country twist. **Units**, Solid Wood Kitchen Cabinets; painted in Farrow & Ball's Plummett. **Lights**, Garden Trading. **Stools**, Cox & Cox



“OUR LONG-HELD DREAM WAS TO BUY A BEAUTIFUL FARMHOUSE WITH SOME LAND; NOW IT'S COME TRUE”



AT HOME WITH

Owners Shan and Stephen Treadway, who work renovating their outbuildings into holiday lets. The house was bought in 2018 and is used for location shoots (peagreenlocations.com).

House A four-bedroom farmhouse in a hamlet near Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

Shan and Stephen Treadway have boundless energy for renovating, having completed several projects over the years to rent out or sell on, as well as working on their bungalow in Royal Wootton Bassett, where they brought up their now grown-up children, Dan and Amelia. But they still had some dreams to fulfil.

'Our long-held wish was to buy a beautiful farmhouse with some land,' Shan says. The couple began looking in the Malmesbury area and spotted a farmhouse on a property website in the summer of 2018. 'We'd driven through the nearby villages before, but not through this hamlet and as soon as we saw the house we knew it was the one,' says Shan. 'The striking Cotswold stone, "cock and hen" stone walling, and surrounding fields were everything we'd been looking for.'

Along with the rundown farmhouse, there were two derelict barns and three holiday cottages all needing attention, pushing Stephen to make the timely decision to sell his business so he and Shan could work on the renovations full time. The couple had owned a design and manufacture company for the retail industry, so they had a useful toolkit of practical and project management skills. They took on most of the work themselves, with builder and stonemason, Tim Elliott.

'Initially, Tim came to repair one of the stone walls and he stayed for two years!' says Shan. 'Our son Dan >



Living room

The Cotswold stone fireplace was rebuilt with lime cement and the oak lintel reinstated. **Rug**, Nain. **Throw**, Melin Tregwynt. **Lamp**, Downton Interiors

“IT'S PEACEFUL LIVING HERE, WITH PHEASANTS IN THE GARDEN AND HORSES TROTTING PAST”



Landing

White-washed wood cladding complements the natural tones and textures of the stonework and oak flooring



WILTSHIRE FARMHOUSE



Guest bedroom

The William Morris Acorn pattern repeats throughout, seen here on the blind in Lagoon to complement the Welsh textiles. **Throw** and **cushion**, Melin Tregwynt

helped out, too, so we were a really small unit, which meant we weren't affected by lockdown. In fact, with nothing else to do, Stephen and I often worked seven days a week.'

The couple renovated one of the holiday cottages first so they had somewhere to live while they tackled the farmhouse, which was in desperate need of a new roof, kitchen and bathrooms. An architect drew plans for a side extension and loft conversion. However, once the roof was stripped back they discovered that the beams were rotten.

'We realised this was going to be a massive project,' says Shan. 'We replaced all the structural oak beams and rotten floor joists - at one point we could see all the way up to the sky. We also chipped off all the modern plaster to reveal the stone and cleared rubble out of the fireplaces.'

As time went on, the layout evolved. The front dining room was opened to the rear kitchen to create one through-room, and the staircase moved into a new double-height entrance hallway after removing the downstairs study and an upstairs bedroom.

Shan and Stephen wanted the emphasis on the exposed Cotswold stone and oak beams so chose limestone and oak flooring to complement the natural materials, along with pale grey decoration.

'We like a modern country look with maximum light >





Dressing room

Oak flooring and Stephen's customised grey furniture link the three rooms in the main bedroom suite. **Pendants**, Garden Trading. Similar **chest** from The Cotswolds Company

Main en suite

A copper freestanding bath with a nickel coating sits on a slate plinth with the exposed stone as a feature wall. Ouse **bath** is similar, London Encaustic



ON OUR DOORSTEP

Visit... 'Dyrham Park (nationaltrust.org.uk/dyrham-park) has a beautiful 17th-century baroque manor house and lots of big, open parkland. It's great for walks and they also have a lovely tearoom.'

Shop at... 'Malmesbury Artisan and Farmers' Market (discovermalmesbury.life) is on every Friday in the historic town centre, selling local produce such as Cotswolds honey, cheese, fresh vegetables and baked goods.'

Go for a meal at... 'The Horse and Groom in Charlton (butcombe.com/the-horse-and-groom-wiltshire), a 16th-century pub that's won awards for its gorgeous meals made using ingredients from nearby counties.'



Guest bedroom

The original ceiling beam was saved and new wood panelling brings back a traditional feel to the room. **Bed and bedside table**, Rowico Home

so we mostly decorated in Farrow & Ball's Cornforth White,' says Shan. 'We began at the top, in our bedroom, where Stephen fitted wood panelling to walls. Once we'd painted it, the room came alive. We decided this was the right approach and continued the panelling and colour scheme throughout the house.'

Textiles also draw a common thread through rooms, with the same William Morris print blinds in different colourways and bedrooms styled with handmade woollen accessories from Welsh mill, Melin Tregwynt.

'I rediscovered the mill soon after we bought our Welsh holiday cottage, remembering it as a child while on holiday visiting my grandmother,' says Shan. 'You can see the weavers at work. I chose a different colour scheme for each of the bedrooms so there are similarities, but not everything looks the same.'

The couple moved into the house in July 2020, but didn't stop as they had a pressing timeline to finish one of the barns for their daughter Amelia's wedding reception the following September.

'Amelia married in the local village church and we held a lovely reception in the barn, which we now also hire out for location shoots,' says Shan. 'We're currently renovating the other barn and holiday cottages. It has been worth all the hard work. It's lovely and peaceful living here with pheasants in the garden and horses trotting past - the farmhouse is perfect for us.'