

COUNTRY STAR

This cottage may be a rural idyll but it also has contemporary interiors that are simply beautiful

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PROJECT DETAILS

DESIGNER/ OWNER

Bee Osborn of
Osborn Interiors
(osborninteriors.com)

PROPERTY

Three-bedroom
extended cottage

WORK

Complete renovation
with new interiors

LOCATION

Oxfordshire

Designer Bee Osborn used to pass this old stone cottage, which was once a pub and bakery, while driving to her studio. It was derelict but she fell in love with it and made plans to restore the original building and extend it to make it her dream home.

1 EXTENSION BUILD

The exterior of the 10m-long new extension had to look subservient to the property, but Bee didn't want the inside to look soulless. 'The sitting room needed the relaxed feel of the cottage, to be light-filled and open to a wraparound terrace,' she says. 'To do this we dug down two metres, added metal-framed doors along one wall and put in a fireplace.'

2 NATURAL MATERIALS

Bee is known for interior schemes using layered neutrals – it's no surprise to see the echo in her own sitting room. Lime plaster combines with wood flooring and ceiling cladding, sold in her online shop. 'Layering textures avoids spaces looking bland or cold – I love hessian, wool, jute, hemp and linen,' she says. 'I adore the warmth of taupes, off-whites, browns – the wood panelling is in my own paint colour, Alfie's Tail, named after one of my dogs.'

3 BESPOKE DESIGN

Bee's company also made the coffee tables using aged oak and decorative resin. She had a generous 3.5x3.5m L-shaped sofa made for relaxing, too. 'I hid the TV above the fireplace behind a Roman blind with a hessian border,' she adds. 'It looks just like a wall hanging.'

4 FINISHING TOUCHES

Ambient light diffuses from a table lamp, floor uplighters and a wash over artwork, curated by Bee's art consultant daughter. 'Hettie knows my taste for abstracts and the earthy tones, greens and burnt oranges reflect the olive trees outside and the orange tree inside,' says Bee. 'The sitting room is a wonderful space, there's light all day and beautiful sunsets – everything feels exactly right for the cottage.'

COUNTRY CHARM

'I'm drawn to calm, neutral schemes with textures for warmth and cosiness because this is how I love to feel when I'm at home,' says Bee.

Waterfall resin oak coffee tables; washed charcoal oak flooring; Cotswold fleece cladding; jute and wool ottomans, all Osborn Interiors. **Wood paneling** in Osborn Interiors' Alfie's Tail; **door frames** in Algy's Patch; both Fenwick & Tilbrook. Mossley corner sofa in linen Bisque, Soho Home, is similar. **Florian armchair** is similar, Sweetpea & Willow. **Table lamp**, Porta Romana. **TV blind** made with a Pierre Frey fabric. **Art collection**, Art Untamed