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COUNTRY HOMES & INTERIORS

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**HOW TO CREATE AN OUTDOOR ROOM
GORGEOUS GREENHOUSE INSPIRATION
DINING SETS & ALFRESCO FEASTS**

Shoreline style

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DO COASTAL
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**KINDNESS &
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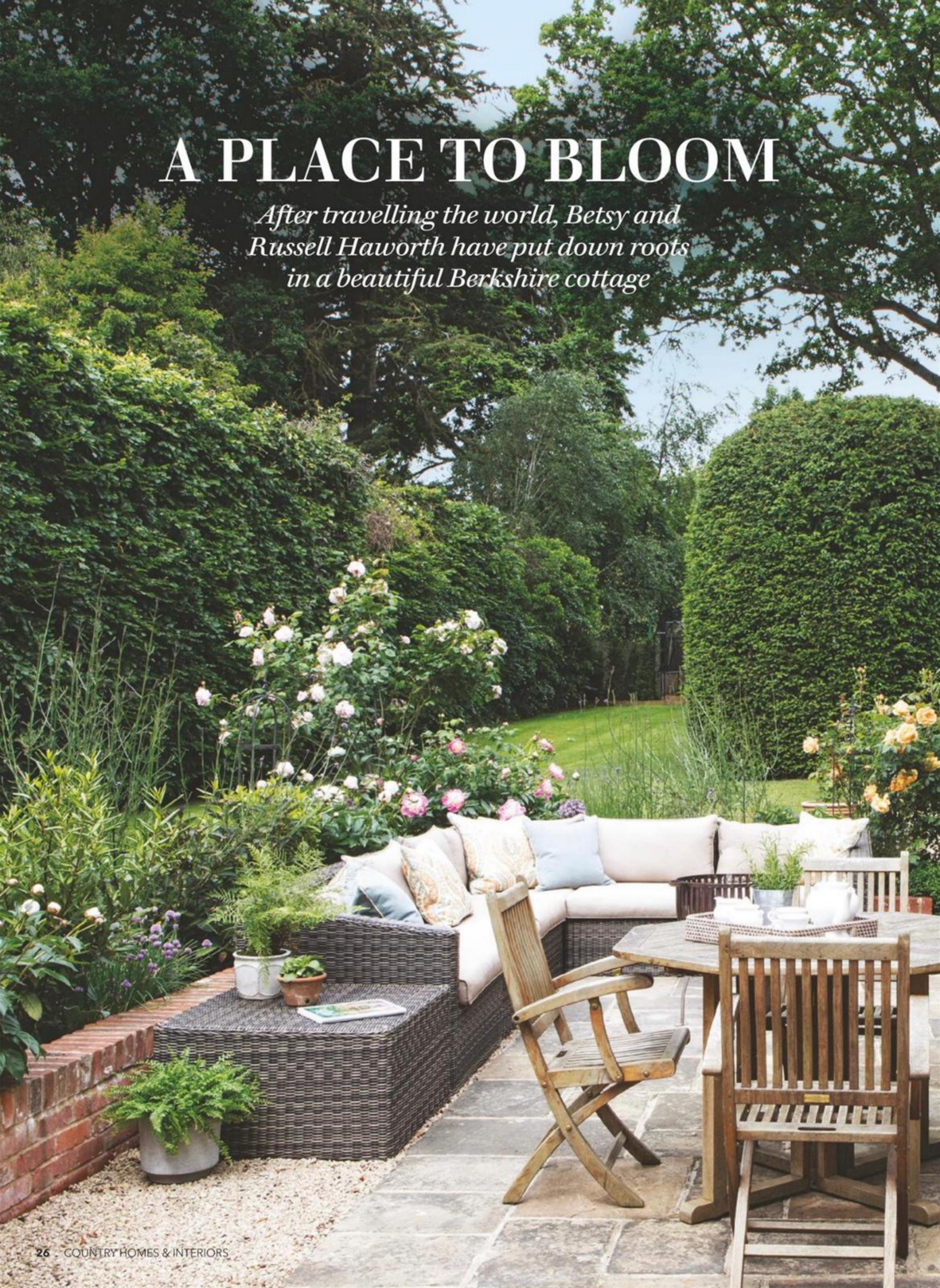
THE VOLUNTEER-
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COUNTRY BUSINESS
GIVING BACK
TO CHARITY

Country living

❖ SUSSEX FARMHOUSE ❖ NORFOLK
FLINT HOUSE ❖ ROSE-COVERED COTTAGE
❖ LOVELY COTSWOLD RESTORATION

A PLACE TO BLOOM

After travelling the world, Betsy and Russell Haworth have put down roots in a beautiful Berkshire cottage



Garden

The re-laid York stone now gives the garden a seamless connection to the cottage. For similar **garden furniture**, try Garden Trading





Kitchen

A grey island adds definition, while pendant lights create a focal point. **Island** in Smoke eggshell, Neptune. **Pendants**, Jim Lawrence

Swapping a footloose life for a permanent home is easy when the setting is as idyllic as this Arts and Crafts cottage, with its romantic, rose-filled garden. Betsy and her husband Russell had been living and working overseas for many years when, in 2014, Russell was offered a CEO position in Oxford. 'I'm American and Russell is British and his career has taken us all over the world, but with two young boys, Russell's new position in the UK seemed like the perfect opportunity to put down roots,' says Betsy.

The couple settled on Berkshire, with its quintessential English villages and rural country charm, all within a stone's throw of both Oxford and London. A charming 1930s cottage in a pretty village had been on the market for a while when the couple snapped it up. It needed someone with a clear vision to sort it out and, as Betsy and Russell both have a passion for designing, it was the perfect project for them both. Surrounded by a pretty country garden, the house consisted of two parts - the new extension and the original cottage. The extension, although home to a fabulous Neptune kitchen, was a vast empty shell that needed to be configured for family life. Equally, the old part of the house needed updating, and both spaces needed to feel more cohesive.

Keen to modernise the house while honouring the building's heritage, the couple enlisted the help of Jo Calver at Isla James Interiors. 'I had ideas and possible >



AT HOME WITH

Owners Betsy and Russell Haworth, CEO of a technology company, live with their two sons, Harrison, 11, and Nate, nine, plus Barnaby, a black shorthair cat and Fleck, a fox-red retriever.

House A detached Arts and Crafts cottage built in the 1930s with five bedrooms. The couple bought the property in 2015.

Exterior

The detached cottage is set amid beautiful Berkshire countryside



“WE’VE TRANSFORMED THE COTTAGE, LINKING THE OLD AND NEW PARTS OF THE HOUSE, CREATING WARM AND INVITING ROOMS”



Kitchen

Betsy loves floral fabrics and this printed blind is an ideal way to warm up a neutral scheme. **Blind** in Amborella, Harlequin at Style Library



Kitchen

Nothing completes a country kitchen better than a range cooker. **Dove Grey range cooker**, Everhot. **Pale green metro tiles**, Walls and Floors



Living room
Stepping away from the muted tones used elsewhere, vibrant orange gives this space a cosy, homely feel. **Sofas**, Neptune. **Rug**, Crucial Trading

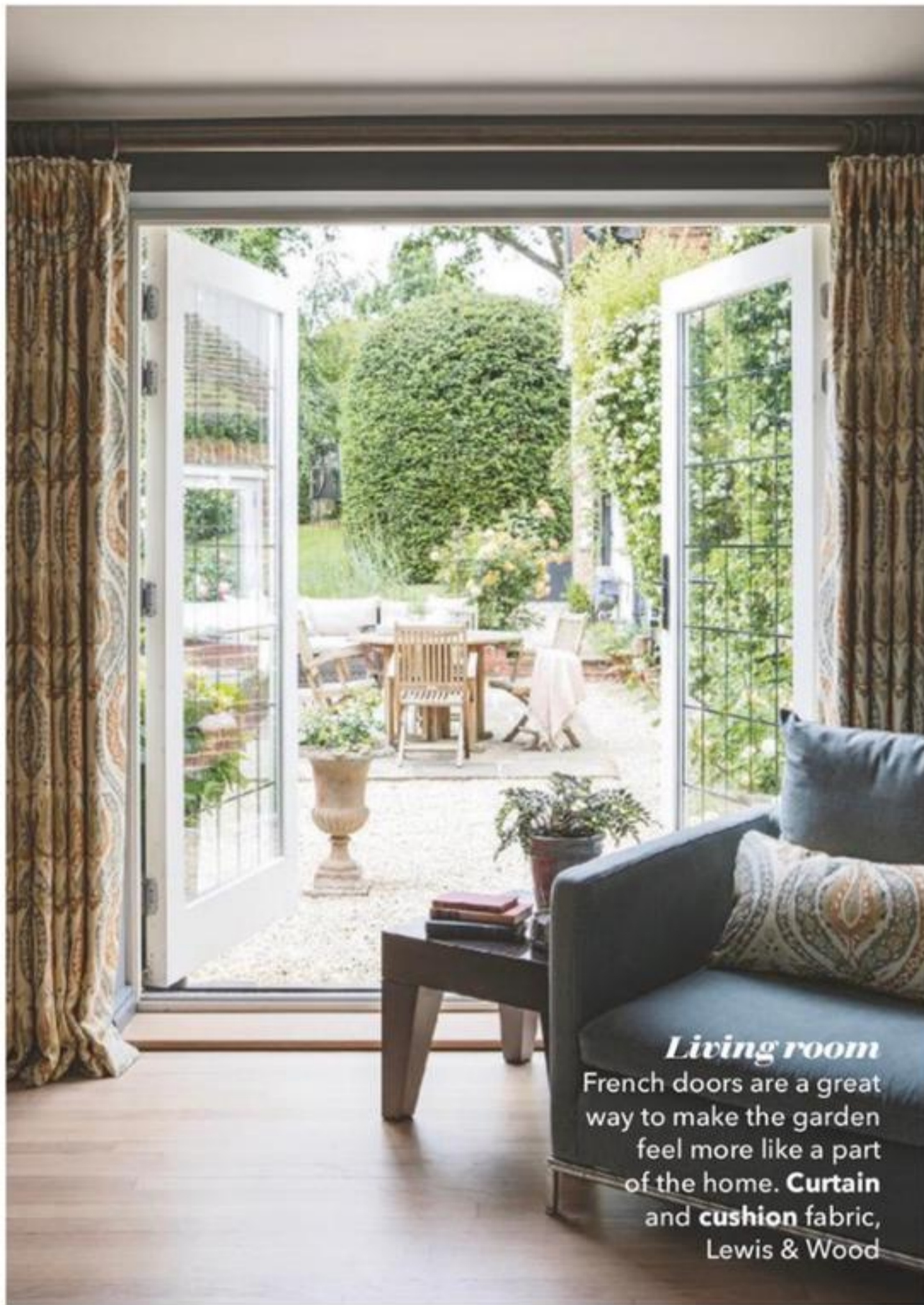
“THE BIGGEST TRANSFORMATION TOOK PLACE IN THE LIVING ROOM, WHICH HAS BEEN DIVIDED INTO TWO BY POCKET DOORS”



Boot room
A well designed space to store outerwear stops the hallway from becoming a dumping ground. For a similar **storage** solution, try The Cotswold Co



Living room
Using the same or similar fabrics for curtains and cushions creates cohesion. **Fabric**, Lewis & Wood



Living room

French doors are a great way to make the garden feel more like a part of the home. **Curtain and cushion fabric,** Lewis & Wood



Hallway

Although bare wooden stairs look good, carpet acts as a sound buffer - a big plus in homes with young children. **Carpet,** Alternative Flooring

design scenarios in mind, but I wanted someone to help me think through the choices I was making,' says Betsy. 'Jo and I immediately connected; she understood my aesthetic and we had great fun brainstorming.'

The existing extension needed to be reconfigured to suit the Hawthorns. As Betsy loves to cook and entertain, the layout was divided into three zones - a kitchen area with an island, a living area with comfy sofas and a dining area in front of the French doors. The cabinetry was repositioned to better fit the space and to allow for updated appliances to be installed. Jo arranged the lighting to reflect the three new zones.

'I've always loved floral linen fabrics and base most of my design choices around those,' says Betsy. 'Jo helped me decide on paint colours - a muted palette that also reflected the cottage's quiet and beautiful surroundings.' The cabinetry was resprayed and the colours used were referenced throughout the rest of the room to tie in the three zones.

A boot room was then added to an unused hallway off the kitchen. 'This helped to link the old part of the cottage to the new and is now an integral part of our family home, storing wellies, coats and the children's sports gear.' In the older part of the cottage, a formal dining room has been reinstated, exposing the original oak herringbone flooring, while an inherited dining >

LIVING THE DREAM

Betsy and Russell created an idyllic country garden full of traditional flowers - a perfect setting for their Arts and Crafts cottage

How was it before?

'The garden had a few beautiful old trees, large shrubs and a nice lawn area, which was a good starting point, but there were no traditional flower beds and I felt the house needed to be linked better to the surrounding space.'

What did you change?

'I started by digging out all the beds and planting boxwood balls and roses. Then, the old York stone paths around the house were re-laid to reflect how we would use the house, creating links between the patios.'

And now?

'I love spending time there. The traditional beds and garden are blooming with roses, peonies, delphiniums, dahlias and lavender.'



Main bedroom

An upholstered bedhead adds a touch of luxury to this elegant bedroom. For a similar **radiator**, try Best Heating

ON OUR DOORSTEP

Visit ... 'The Bell Inn (01635 578272) in Aldworth is a quintessentially English country pub that has been in the same family for 250 years. With roaring fires and great beer, it's a welcoming stop after a long country ramble.'

Shop at ... 'Vicars Game, Butchers & Farm shop (vicarsgame.co.uk) in Ashampstead is an award-winning butcher selling local produce.'

Go for a meal at ... 'The Royal Oak (royaloakyattendon.co.uk) in Yattendon serves delicious, simple, Michelin-rated food and award-winning ales in the prettiest of surroundings.'

table takes centre stage. The main bedroom has been renovated with an en suite in place of a built-in wardrobe and an unused landing converted into a dressing room, which makes much better use of the space.

The biggest transformation took place in the living room - a vast, long room at the far end of the house. 'It was really hard to create any sense of cosiness as it was so open,' says Betsy. A family friend suggested splitting the room into two more functional rooms. Betsy, Jo and carpenter Jason Tonge came up with a plan. 'Based on some elements we'd seen in a hotel, coupled with Jo's beautiful designs, we ended up dividing the room with two large bookcases on either side, which held hidden pocket doors that allowed us to define the two rooms - one is our family room and the other is a media room.'

The overall results have been game-changing for the Haworths. 'We've completely transformed the cottage, linking the old and new parts of the house, creating warm and inviting rooms with useful defined spaces that work so well for us now and feel like they've been there forever. The changes look traditional and true to the house and I love walking around seeing all of the gorgeous fabrics and fittings - all of our hard work has paid off. I feel we've made our English country cottage the best it could possibly be. It's a wonderful place to be able to call home.'



Nate's bedroom

A vintage-style trunk brings character to this white country scheme. For a similar **toy chest**, try Etsy



En suite

This bathroom has been designed in keeping with the calm colour palette of the main bedroom. **Tiles**, Minoli. **Basin**, Grant & Stone

“ I CHOSE A PALETTE OF MUTED PAINT COLOURS TO REFLECT OUR BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS ”



Main bedroom

By picking out the blue of the curtains in other accessories, Betsy has brought the scheme together. Similar **art**, Junique



Bathroom

Wall art is often overlooked in a bathroom, but can really elevate a scheme. For whale **wall art**, try Party Animal Print

Be inspired by BETSY'S OUTDOOR TERRACE

Pretty-up the sofa with water-resistant textiles. Cushion, £49, Beliani



Provide a captivating focal point. Barrington firepit, £160, Garden Trading

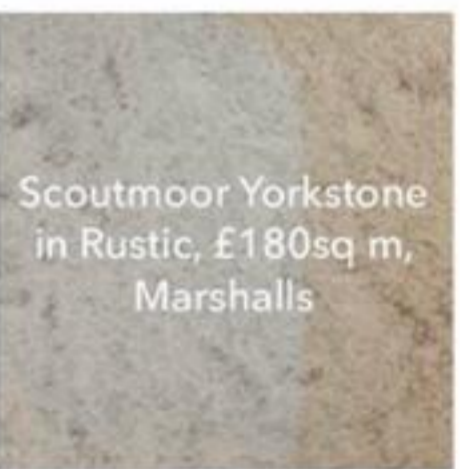


Wrap around bare shoulders. Diamond blanket in Coral, £45, Weaver Green

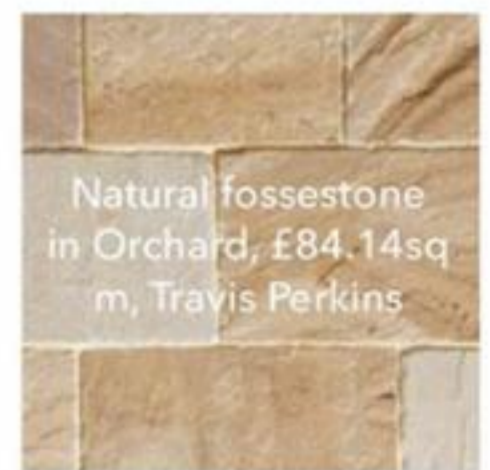


Enjoy alfresco afternoon tea poured from striking glazeware. Heritage flagstone teapot, £65, Denby

CH&I loves... RUSTIC STONE PAVING



Scoutmoor Yorkstone in Rustic, £180sq m, Marshalls



Natural fossestone in Orchard, £84.14sq m, Travis Perkins



Icaria Plus Ocre, £29.95sq m, Walls and Floors

CH&I
MODERN
Country
CLASSIC



Configure the perfect garden lounge with an L-shaped arrangement. Tosca modular sofa set, £1,395, Alexander Francis

Betsy's style tip...

MIRROR THE COLOUR PALETTE OF FLOWERS THROUGHOUT YOUR OUTDOOR ACCESSORIES TO SEAMLESSLY BLEND NATURE WITH HOMELY COMFORTS



Display plants in sunbaked fashion. Florence pot, from £16, Patch