



Natural high

Interior designer Pippa Paton has transformed a Cotswolds home into a light-filled and contemporary oasis, peppered with warmth and textural interest

Words: **Amelia Thorpe** Photography: **Paul Craig**

After living in Australia for three years, Lucy and Nick James and their two teenage daughters, Rose and Charlotte, returned to their home in the Cotswolds with fresh ideas. “The family had got used to living in an open-plan house that made the most of the natural light, and they wanted to re-create that positive feeling when they came back to the UK,” explains interior designer Pippa Paton.

Lucy and Nick found Pippa through a recommendation and tasked her with reconfiguring the entire 1980s-built five-bedroom property. “The ground floor had a long corridor with lots of rooms leading off it,” recalls Pippa. “My job was to remove most of the internal walls to create an open-plan kitchen, living and dining area with a much more spacious feel.” Pippa also added a small extension with glazed roof and wall to maximise the natural light in the living space, designed a new staircase up to a gallery leading to the girls’ and guest bedrooms, and totally re-planned the master bedroom suite on the ground floor. Here she reveals more about the project...

Tell us about the design of the kitchen and living area?

The backdrop is all white to maximise the sense of light and space. The sweeping curve of the staircase makes a dramatic focal point, and its grandeur is matched by the two large islands in the kitchen area, each wrapped in smooth, white Corian. The outer island is designed as the sociable hub of the room, with space for a dining area and six barstools at one end, and a home admin area at the other. Meanwhile, the second island is the main food prep zone, close to the AGA and built-in appliances on the end wall. Behind the tall appliance run is a walk-in larder, which can be accessed from both sides.

And the finishes?

In a large, white space, I like to introduce textures and finishes to provide interest and warmth. Here, the cupboard doors are finished in patinated brass, which contrasts beautifully with the cool white of the Corian. Pale oak frames the tall cabinets, which are painted in a muted warm grey, and above the AGA there is a patinated brass niche, with integrated lighting, which adds a beautiful golden glow to the space. ▶

Opposite page: The glass roof and wall in the newly extended sitting area let plenty of natural light into the living space.



Left: A formal dining table and chairs are situated at the far end of the space.

Below: The home admin area includes two shorter barstools, plus a phone and iPad drawer with recharging station for each member of the family, and one spare. There is also a power socket under a lift-up panel on the island top.

Opposite page: Supported by transparent curved glass panels, the contemporary staircase sweeps upwards with a dramatic flourish.



What was your concept for the guest cloakroom?

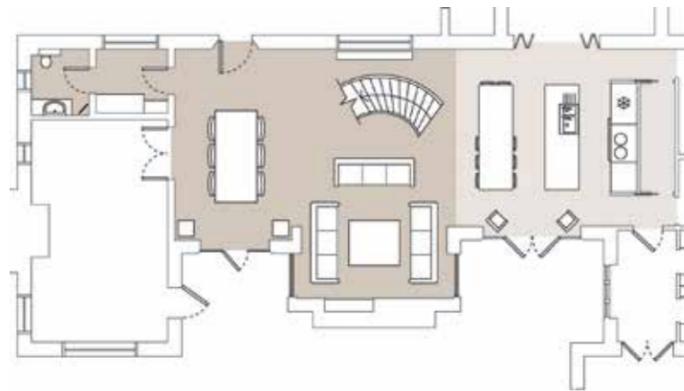
It has a sumptuous feel with dark colours used for drama, and a beautiful solid marble washbasin added for contrast and classic elegance. The swivelling mirror to one side appears to run all the way through the basin countertop; it is actually two pieces, but the illusion is fun.

How did you plan the master bedroom?

Originally, there was a loft extension above this room, but the space could not be accessed from the bedroom and it was rarely used. So we extended the back of the bedroom to add a staircase, and opened the upper area to make an intimate seating zone with glass balustrade. Not only does this make better use of the space, it also gives a wonderful double-height drama to the bedroom, and makes it feel much more spacious and light.

How did you achieve the indulgent feel in the master ensuite?

It is a large room, so we created three generously sized zones: one for showering, another for bathing, and another for the vanity units. The grand freestanding natural stone bath takes centre stage, built on a plinth to accentuate its role as the focal point, while the dark stained oak floor and tactile wallcovering signal a change in zone from the tiled area. The walk-in shower is spacious, with a choice of showerheads for different spray patterns, while 'his and hers' vanity units on either side of the room include storage to keep clutter out of sight. KBB



“I like to introduce textures and finishes to provide interest and warmth. Here, the kitchen cupboard doors are finished in patinated brass, which contrasts beautifully with the cool white of the Corian.”



Left: The patinated brass niche set into the back-painted glass splashback above the AGA provides rich contrast.

Below: The dining area of the first island is indicated by the slate panel by Martin Cook set into the surface and six barstools.



Above: The cook zone island sits on the left, while the sociable hub is on the right.

Right: In the guest cloakroom, the mirror appears to slice through the basin countertop. It is, in fact, two pieces, with the top one designed to swivel to catch the best light.



Q&A

Designer Pippa Paton says...



Which element took up the majority of the budget?

The kitchen. Every detail is bespoke to the clients, down to the individual phone and iPad drawers, with built-in recharging docks, for each member of the family.

What was the biggest challenge with the project?

The bath is so big that it was difficult to get it into position. We had to install it while we were building the rear extension to the master suite and before we put the wall back!

What advice do you give clients on finding contractors?

Seek recommendations, always try to see examples of their work, and tender to at least two or three builders before you decide.

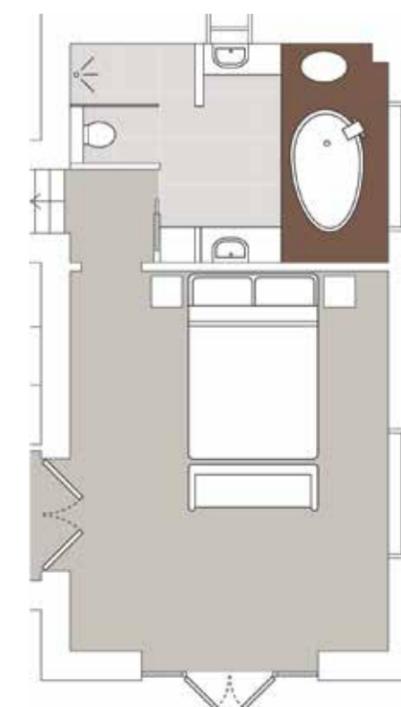
Any tips for people embarking on a similar project?

Try to get every single detail sorted, down to the position of the electrical sockets, before your contractors begin. It saves doubling up on the work and any hurried decisions.





In the master bedroom, a vintage 1970s Italian glass chandelier accentuates the drama of the double-height space.



Top: In the ensuite, the large freestanding tub creates an indulgent, spa-like bathing zone.

Left: The mirror above the vanity conceals a window and swivels to make cleaning easy, while the wall niche to the left is a charging point for an electric toothbrush.

GET THE
LOOK

Craft porcelain tiles in Rice (1200 x 1200mm), £95 per sq m, Refin Ceramiche. (020 3603 1884 or www.refin-ceramic-tiles.com)

Right: Starkey Smoke Glass pendant, £89, Made. (0344 257 1888 or www.made.com)



Travertine bath, 1900mm-long, £7980, Indigenous. (01993 824200 or www.indigenous.co.uk)

Above: Venus chandelier, £565, Sweetpea & Willow. (0345 257 2627 or www.sweetpeandwillow.com)

Left: Tide vases, £52.50 each, Broste. (0800 028 1403 or www.brostecopenhagen.com)



Left: Brooklyn wall-mounted basin mixer in Vintage Brass finish, £1104, The Watermark Collection. (020 7740 7340 or www.thewatermarkcollection.eu)



SourceBook

DESIGN

Interior design Pippa Paton Design (01865 595470 or www.pippapatondesign.co.uk)

KITCHEN

Design and bespoke cabinetry Islands wrapped in Glacier White Corian (0800 962116 or www.corian.co.uk) and finished with patinated brass doors, with tall cabinets painted in Opus, Paint & Paper Library (0845 880 5844 or www.paintandpaperlibrary.com), framed in light oak and featuring a patinated brass alcove, all bespoke by Pippa Paton Design, as before

Slate Bespoke, mounted in Corian dining island, by Martin Cook (01494 880724 or www.martincookstudio.co.uk)

Splashback Glass back-painted in Library Opus, Paint & Paper Library, as before, by Pippa Paton Design, as before

Appliances Range cooker in Pewter, AGA (0845 712 5207 or www.agaliving.com); Coffee machine, combination microwave and fully integrated dishwasher, all Miele (0330 160 6600 or www.miele.co.uk); Similar integrated extractor, Westin (01484 421585 or www.westin.co.uk); Integrated fridge, Sub-Zero (0845 250 0010 or www.subzero-wolf.co.uk)

Sinks Integrated in Corian worktop, as before

Taps Ono Highflex mixer, KWC (01793 754130 or www.kwctaps.co.uk); Fusion boiling-water and mixer tap, Quooker (0345 833 3555 or www.quooker.co.uk)

Floor tiles Limestone. For similar try Town & Country (01993 824331 or www.towncountryflooring.co.uk)

Barstools Mark Albrecht Studio (+1 7187869860 or www.markalbrechtstudio.com)

Pendant lights (above dining island)

Rowan, Ebb & Flow (+45 98163488 or www.ebbandflow.dk); (above prep island) Bespoke, made from Corian, by Pippa Paton Design, as before

Armchairs Bespoke, Pippa Paton Design, as before

LIVING AREA

Sofas and side chairs For similar try The Sofa & Chair Company (020 8993 4415 or www.the-sofaandchair.co.uk)

All other furniture, rug and staircase Bespoke, Pippa Paton Design, as before

CLOAKROOM

Basin Solid marble, Frassk (0161 848 0246 or www.frassk.com)

Basin mixer Brooklyn wall-mounted mixer in Oil Rubbed Bronze finish, The Watermark Collection (020 7740 7340 or www.thewatermarkcollection.eu)

Vanity unit, stool and mirror Bespoke, Pippa Paton Design, as before

MASTER BEDROOM

Bed and sofa Client's own. Bed re-painted and sofa re-upholstered by Pippa Paton Design, as before

All other furniture Bespoke, Pippa Paton Design, as before

Chandelier Vintage. For similar try Vincenzo Caffarella (020 7724 3701 or www.vinca.co.uk)

Beside wall lights Best & Lloyd (020 3410 2031 or www.bestandlloyd.com)

Carpet For similar try Town & Country, as before

Mirror and table lamp For similar try Porta Romana (01420 23005 or www.portaromana.com)

MASTER ENSUITE

Bath For similar try Indigenous (01993 824200 or www.indigenous.co.uk)

Taps and shower fittings MEM freestanding bath mixer, MEM wall-mounted basin mixers, MEM hand shower set, Tara Logic showerhead and Tara Logic rain shower with wall fixings, all Dombracht (024 7671 7129 or www.dombracht.com)

Vanity units, shower exterior wall and tall storage Bespoke, in Corian Pearl Gray, by Pippa Paton Design, as before

WC For similar try CP Hart (0345 873 1121 or www.cphart.co.uk)

Towel warmer Vulcano, Fiora (020 3432 6635 or www.fiora.es)

Shower screen Bespoke. For similar try Matki (01454 322888 or www.matki.co.uk)

Shower walls SKIN panels, Fiora, as before

Wood flooring Schotten & Hansen (020 8752 0978 or www.schotten-hansen.com)

Floor tiles Gotha Diamon Lux Lappato, Minoli (01865 778225 or www.minoli.co.uk)

Wallcovering For similar try Infinity, Tektura (020 7536 3300 or www.tektura.com)

Mirrors and stool Bespoke by Pippa Paton Design, as before

Wall lights For similar try Palermo 900 LED, Astro Lighting (01279 427001 or www.astrolighting.com)

COST

Bespoke kitchens by Pippa Paton Design start from around £50,000, bespoke bedrooms from £20,000 and bespoke bathrooms cost from £20,000

