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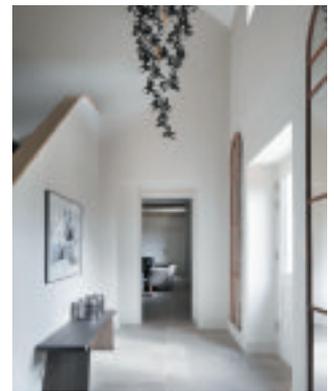
IN THE MOOD

Interior designer Pippa Paton had much to consider when she began transforming the interiors of five stone barns into holiday retreats. **Denise Barkley** finds out more...

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **PAUL CRAIG**

Bibury Farm Barns offer refined self-catering accommodation on George and Polly Phillips' family farm in the little Gloucestershire village of Bibury, near Cirencester. Once described by renowned Victorian Arts & Crafts designer William Morris as "the most beautiful village in England", Pippa's design certainly had a lot to live up to.

"The overall design was informed by the history of the barns, their architecture and materials and we set out to create luxurious but liveable accommodation – a true destination for enjoying the Cotswolds," said Pippa, whose eponymous company, Pippa Paton Design, is based at Longworth in South Oxfordshire. The multi-award winning



‘I wanted to create something a little different, with a sense of warmth and deep richness’

designer is famed for her use of neutral colours, natural materials and layers of texture to create a canvas to which are added large, eclectic pieces of furniture, art and artefacts.

“George and Polly allowed me total freedom to create the look and feel of the barns, and I take great pleasure in knowing that every piece was sourced and selected to fit the aesthetics I defined at the start of the project,” she revealed.

“It allowed me to seek out local artists and commission work bespoke to each scheme. As a result, I feel the barns are possibly even more personal to me as, in many ways, it was like creating my home.”

Pippa created five different interior expressions for Bibury Farm Barns - Scandi/fresh, artisan/industrial, rustic farmyard, Belgian linen and, finally, deep and moody.

And so the detailed work began on

designing living rooms, kitchens and bathrooms. This included everything from flooring, tiles, art and decorative pieces to all the kit that goes into a high-end self-catering property such as Sonos sound systems, Smart TVs and coffee machines. The bespoke furniture was sourced from Pippa’s own new bespoke range and luxurious cotton bed linen came from Cotswolds-based Bedfolk.

Pippa’s design service also encompassed ➔



the outdoor furniture, with exquisite dining and lounging areas and gas barbecues.

She is proud of the dramatically different, dark and cocooning scheme she created for one barn in particular - The Stables - especially the kitchen-diner and master bedroom suite.

“I wanted to create something a little different, with a sense of warmth and deep richness,” Pippa explained.

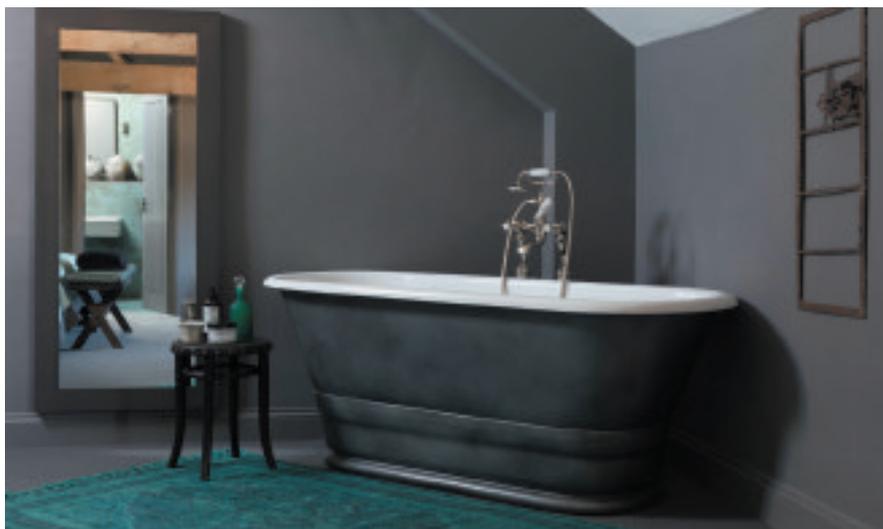
In the kitchen, dark grey hues with hints of green and blue and an oak floor toned with the countryside setting, enhanced by bright accents such as the copper lining of the pendant lights above the dining table and the reflective qualities of the intense blue wall tiles. The layout is kept simple, with a large island alongside a big dining table balancing the scale and slender shape of the room.

“It pays to be brave with colour because it can add such depth and magic to a room,” Pippa advised.

“Everything in one colour would have looked dull, it’s the variation in shades and textures that create the interest.”

“In the master bedroom we used a single colour palette and combined this with natural materials. I love the texture of linen, leather and wool and always try to introduce these into my designs. Blake Architects had done a great job with preserving the original beams in the barn and I was able to marry dark stained oak furniture from my furniture range with these beams.

“The hint of burnished metal in the



pendant lights and en-suite mirror frame echo the burnished iron exterior of the freestanding bath, which added a further layer of interest.”

“Quite often I find that a single item can inspire an entire scheme. I found some vintage copper buoys and loved the verdigris patina and weathered texture, which works really well with the dark grey walls and large format verdigris tiles”.

“The resulting spaces are very atmospheric and, in places cocoon-like, enabling true relaxation away from home.”

Positive endorsement that Pippa’s designs have hit the spot perfectly has come from Bibury Farm Barns’ first delighted guests, and bookings are buoyant. 📞



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