



## HOME TRUTHS

DESIGNER  
Manuela Hamilford  
HOUSE A new-build home  
in the Cotswolds  
WORK Complete decoration of  
the entire house

# COOL, CALM AND COLLECTED

Designer Manuela Hamilford explains how she ensured  
this lakeside home felt serene and sophisticated

FEATURE MELANIE WHITEHOUSE | PHOTOGRAPHY DARREN CHUNG

## KITCHEN/DINING AREA

The raised bar on the island hides clutter, while the mirrored wall (below) emphasises the view. Units painted in Hague Blue estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Industville's Brooklyn giant bowl pendant has this look, £119



## SITTING ROOM

The indoor log fire sits between the two sitting areas, so it can be seen from all aspects. Similar chunky wood rustic coffee table, Ashley Moore, from £242



## HALLWAY

A solid, circular table makes a statement in the entrance. Bespoke table, William Yeoward. Hurricane lamps, from £295, Ralph Lauren





#### CHILDREN'S BEDROOM

Built-in bunk beds are a streamlined choice.

Bunks painted in Little Greene's Aquamarine intelligent eggshell, £68 for 2.5ltr

#### INSPIRATION

'The owners wanted a Soho Farmhouse vibe – a little bit country and a little bit sophisticated'



#### GUEST BATHROOM

Flowing curtains soften the aesthetic.

Try Canterbury slipper bath, from £1,795, Fired Earth



#### GUEST BEDROOM

The wallpaper behind the bed replicates the look of silver birch planks.

Andrew Martin Timber wallpaper in Driftwood, £82 a roll, Wallpaperdirect

#### HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT?

This was a new build that needed decorating from scratch - we were involved from conception to completion, working with the contractor for two years. A holiday home for Emma and Stephen Chandler, a family with a twin boy and girl, the house on The Lakes by Yoo in the Cotswolds needed complete design direction - from the colour of the window frames to the ceiling height, sanitaryware and interior design. My company Hamilford Design Studio ([hamilforddesign.com](http://hamilforddesign.com)) had done a similar project for a mutual friend who

lived nearby and so we were the obvious choice for this renovation.

HOW INVOLVED WERE THE HOMEOWNERS? The homeowners, Emma and Stephen Chandler, were very involved and Emma had a good idea of the direction she wanted the house to go in, which was to give it a country, 'Soho Farmhouse' vibe. It had to be super comfortable and include loads of seating - a 15-seater dining banquette and three living areas with sofas.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE HOMEOWNERS' STYLE? They wanted muted colours throughout. To

achieve an interesting outcome, we added loads of textures using different materials in various subdued shades, so that the spaces throughout retained the relaxing energy of this house on a lake. They didn't like anything too bright or garish.

WHAT WERE THE BIGGEST PRIORITIES? Emma and Stephen wanted the house to be child-friendly, with loads of squishy seating to sink into and a rustic fireplace that guests could view from any part of the house. The fireplace is situated between two living areas, the dining area and the kitchen, so everyone can enjoy the view.



#### GUEST BEDROOM

This space includes an open-plan bathroom separated by a wall of storage.

Similar polished nickel Provence floor lamp, £525, Lighting Room.  
Similar silk ikat cushion covers, £59, Rug Store

#### WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION?

We started with a few tartan fabrics and some samples of aged limed wood - the client loved them, so we went from there. We didn't want anything too predictably 'country', but we still wanted to bring through that Cotswold style. It usually includes lots of florals or tight pinstripes, pastels like dead salmon and olive tones. We stayed away from floral and used bold tartans in modern colours instead.

**WHICH AREAS WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT?** The ground floor was the most important for the owners as it contains the sitting and dining

areas, and the sliding doors open to access the swimming pool, hot tub and fire pit. Because the views of the lakes were so incredible, the outdoors was also important, so there needed to be seating built on all the decks to get the most from the scenery. **HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE COLOUR PALETTE?** We wanted to create a Cotswold feel without looking like a typical Cotswold cottage, so we chose bold but muted fabrics and modern tartans, and mixed these with some relatively colourful stripes. Because the house is on the lake, we opted for colours that co-ordinated with the blues and greens of the water, and

included loads of wood detail in things like the coffee tables and flooring.

#### THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE?

Getting the copper bathtub up the stairs after the handrails had gone in! In the end we managed to get it through the windows on the top floor with a pulley system.

#### YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME?

Consider your home as a whole and plan how it will flow with one consistent look. We have clients that piece together furniture and lamps they've picked up along the way but they don't always work together, so good co-ordination and a holistic view is key. 25