

AS SEEN IN
25 BEAUTIFUL
HOMES



HOME TRUTHS

REPLANNED
THE PROPERTY 1930s house, extended in the 1970s
LOCATION The Cotswolds
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, playroom, cloakroom, five bedrooms, three bathrooms
PURCHASED 2010
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We used to live in a 17th-century Cotswold stone cottage in the same village,' says Kathryn.



SITTING ROOM
The previous owners watched TV in the playroom, so this space was relatively unused. Morso 8180 woodburner, £1,879, Stoves Are Us. French oak flooring, from £43sq m, Precious Stone



KITCHEN
An antique mirror takes pride of place behind the Aga instead of a splashback. The bespoke mirror frame was made by Woodchester Cabinet Makers. Walls in Churlish Green emulsion, £32.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

ROOM to GROW

KATHRYN AND MARTIN BAKER HAVE GIVEN A NEW-ENGLAND FEEL TO A TIRED 1970S HOUSE, USING LIGHT TONES AND WOOD PANELLING

FEATURE VICTORIA JENKINS | PHOTOGRAPHY WILL GODDARD

Kathryn and Martin Baker wanted to stay in the village where they had lived for nearly 11 years, but with two young sons, Charlie, eight, and Harry, six, plus two cocker spaniels and three cats, they desperately needed more space.

While out dog-walking, Kathryn would often pass a pretty house and although it had been on sale for a couple of years, she had

never viewed it, as it seemed to need a great deal of work. 'It was while Martin and I were in America that we began to consider the property as our potential new home,' says Kathryn. 'The house we stayed in – in Cape Cod – was so full of space and light, that we wanted to achieve the same look in England.'

On their return, Kathryn and Martin found the house had been taken off the

market, however they approached the owners anyway and asked to see around it. 'We were 99 per cent certain we wanted to buy the place and once we'd viewed it we were convinced,' says Kathryn. Fortunately, the owners agreed to a private sale and to wait until the Bakers sold their own property.

Despite its look of an old Cotswold cottage, the five-bedroom house was actually ▶



SITTING ROOM
Tongue-and-groove panelling helps enclose this large space. Bluebell sofa, from £910, Sofa.com. Scumble Goose provided the painted panelling, from £99



HALL
A wooden bench complements the timber flooring. Two-seat country wooden sofa, £379, Scumble Goose



DINING AREA
This space was originally a hall that led to the front door. Bravur clock, £46, Ikea. Barock chairs, from £187 each, Scumble Goose



PLAYROOM
A quirky shelf houses the childrens' collection of books and DVDs. Kartell Bookworm shelf, £232, from Made In Design



MASTER BEDROOM
 Floral prints and hints of soft green and berry make for a restful scheme. Great Ormond St wallpaper, £63.25 per roll, Little Greene Paint Company. Coco bed, from £745, The Sleep Room

DECORATING TIP
'Don't spend too much time deliberating. If you like a colour or wallpaper then just go for it – it can always be changed'

built in the 1930s and featured stone-clad fireplaces, a Mediterranean-style archway and the odd orange wall. With lots to be done in order to make the house family-friendly, the Bakers spent the next five months either staying with friends or renting. 'We lived in eight different places in total,' says Kathryn.

Work on the house began with walls being taken down and others built. 'We

wanted to redesign the layout so that rooms were given different functions,' says Kathryn. 'For example, the kitchen became the hall, the hall became a breakfast area and the breakfast area became the kitchen. We also replaced the staircase with a new oak design.

'We really liked the New England look,' continues Kathryn, 'and decorated throughout using light tones, choosing

tongue-and-groove panelling for the large sitting room to make it feel cosier.'

Six months later, the Bakers moved in and were overjoyed at being able to invite friends and family round for their first Christmas in their new home. 'This house feels so comfortable,' says Kathryn. 'We're still adding finishing touches, but with each little change we love this place more and more.' 25



FAMILY BATHROOM
 Kathryn and Martin changed the original orange bathroom for a more calming palette. Walls painted in Shaded White emulsion, £32.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



GUEST BEDROOM
 Traditional pine furniture and a muted colour scheme makes this the perfect space for overnight visitors. A similar pine bed from Scumble Goose costs around £1,157