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Touch of the exotic

Emily Readett-Bayley and Nyoman Sugata have carefully married Western and Eastern styles to give their Georgian farmhouse an eclectic flavour

Words: Maggie Calvin Photography: Johnny Bauchier



Meet the owners...

Emily Readett-Bayley, who runs a furniture and decoration company, her husband Nyoman Sugata, who is an online art dealer, and their twin sons Raj and Mark, plus their terrier Gus Melton.

Previous home 'Before we moved here, we lived in a Georgian rectory in Brompton, south London,' says Emily.

Current property...

Georgian farmhouse in Nottinghamshire, built in 1850

Rooms Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, study, games room, office, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom

Purchased 2000





Sitting room Emily gave this airy space a soothing tone by painting the walls in Rose 2 from Francesca's Paints (020 7228 7694). The rustic driftwood director's chair, coffee table, console table and mirror frame are all from Emily Readett-Bayley (01400 281563). Pré à Vivre (0845 130 5161) supplied the curtain fabric

The branches of a cherry tree frame the pretty front door leading into a gem of a Georgian farmhouse bought by Emily Readett-Bayley and Nyoman Sugata seven years ago. 'We were living in London when I became pregnant with the boys,' Emily recalls, 'and the combination of needing more space for our business and the children persuaded us to up sticks and move back to this lovely part of Nottinghamshire, where I grew up.'

Initially, Emily's parents had bought the farmhouse to live in themselves, until they were offered another property belonging to some relatives living nearby. 'The timing of events dovetailed beautifully,' Emily continues. 'So we bought the house instead, which was perfect for us. It even came with an old grain barn-cum-stable block, which we're now using for our business.'

The farmhouse, which had been owned by a teacher who taught at the local school, was totally primitive and unspoilt – much to Emily's delight. 'I don't suppose it had been renovated since the 1930s and you can't imagine how unsophisticated it was,' she states. 'The kitchen was a scullery with

a single electric ring and there were rows of old ornate metal coat hooks similar to the ones you used to see at school. There were so many beautiful original features, such as the fireplaces, shutters, shelves, panelled doors and window sills,' she enthuses, 'and we still have a row of bells that were used to summon the servants – each bell linked to a specific room.'

Emily explains how fortunate they were in only having to move the position of one door and extend pipes to install a new kitchen in what used to be a sitting room. The couple also replaced the old gas fires with a central-heating system. But there was no need for any structural changes. 'We simply removed the carpets, stripped the wallpaper and repainted the woodwork throughout the house,' she says. As soon as the floorboards were painted, the house appeared significantly lighter, and she insists that living with painted floorboards and deep-pile rugs makes a room cosy, and not cold, as some may think.

Emily describes her style as 'theatrical eco-chic.' She loves to mix old and new, and having trained at Wimbledon Art School ▶

Favourite room: 'I love the kitchen – it's the ideal place for the family to congregate at the end of the day'



Inspirations:
'Inheriting such fabulous features as the window shutters made us want to make our own contribution to the house's history'

DID YOU KNOW?
The teak used for Javanese furniture originates from forests planted by the Dutch in the early 1800s.



1 Kitchen Shaker-style units from Wickes (0800 106068) are complemented by worktops made from reclaimed teak that Emily imported from Java. The cooker is by Beiling (0870 444 9939), while the floor is a limestone-look Marmoleum from Forbo (01592 643111). Emily painted the walls in Mint 2 Chalky Emulsion by Francesca's Paints (020 7228 7694).

2 & 5 Dining room Made from reclaimed teak sourced from former bridges in Java, the sturdy table and bench seat are both from Emily Readett-Bayley (01400 281563); the black-and-white check used to cover the cushions is from Bali, but John Lewis (0845 604 9049) sells similar. The original Georgian arch is used to frame Emily's collection of white china. Ikea (0845 355 1141) is a good source of white tableware.

3 Study The couple inherited the Edwardian writing desk from Emily's grandfather; for similar antique furniture, try Elisabeth James Antiques (01234 714141).

4 Games room The row of old servants' bells reflects the heritage of the family's lovely farmhouse. Framed front covers of *Picture Post* magazine from the 1940s and 1950s are another interesting talking point; The Vintage Magazine Company (020 7439 8525) sells a range of similar periodicals.



and worked as a set designer, she likes to make some bold visual statements with bright colours and unusual accessories, such as the letters that feature throughout the house. 'I've always liked the punchy, crisp quality of typography, and they're a great way to decorate a wall,' says Emily.

She is also a great admirer of Balinese furniture, and even before her marriage to Nyoman, who is himself Balinese, she had collected several pieces that now mingle with the couple's antiques and paintings. Far from looking incongruous, they blend in easily. 'People associate classical English furniture with the Georgian style,' Emily asserts, 'but you only have to go to the Brighton Pavilion to see how an offbeat look played a part in Regency architecture. Giving the farmhouse a touch of the exotic is in keeping with that tradition.'

'The house is a mix of old and new, traditional English and Asian, but it all seems to work together,' Emily concludes. 'I really love the atmosphere – it has such a sense of history from all over the world.'



1 Master bedroom Emily and Nyoman's inherited bed and chest of drawers, and the fine pair of chairs bought from The Newark Antiques Fair (01636 702326) are lent an eccentric air by the Posh Graffiti gilded wooden letters and the set of silk-covered cube stones, which are both from Emily Readett-Bayley (01400 281563) **2 Bathroom** Painted tongue-and-groove panelling retains the period theme in this space; for similar fittings, try Victorian Bathrooms (0845 130 6911)

Inspired buys

Emily and Nyoman's white tableware will never go out of fashion. This selection of bone china, high-street ceramics and accessories is equally timeless



Serenity range, from £23 for a teacup and saucer, Royal Doulton (01782 292292, royaldoulton.com).

Rose jug, £8; Renaissance white-frame, from £8, Matalan (0845 330 3330, matalan.co.uk).



Sophie Conran pouring bowl, £16, Cox & Cox (01870 4424787, coxandcox.co.uk).