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# 25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

MAY 2023

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# *In the* RIGHT TONE

A palette of extraordinary colours has made Ana Engelhorn's 17th-century farmhouse absolutely fabulous

FEATURE RUTH CORSETT | PHOTOGRAPHY PAUL MASSEY



## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Grade II-listed 17th-century farmhouse which has been extended and renovated many times

**ROOMS** Sitting room, dining room, kitchen-diner/living area, study, games room, boot room, four bedrooms, four bathrooms

**LOCATION** Surrey



### KITCHEN

Using different blue hues ensures the all-over colour look feels layered. Kitchen designed by Plain English with Robert Timmons Furniture. Units in Tommaso's Periwinkle; Pigi's Piggy Pink, both eggshell, £80 for 2.5ltr, Francesca's Paints. Photograph by Gian Giovanoli

### SITTING ROOM

This dispels the adage that blue and green should never be seen. Tarantino sofas, from £12,000 each, Ghidini 1961 at Do Shop. Walls in Esmeralda's Emerald Green eco emulsion, £75 for 2.5ltr, Francesca's Paints. Try Asfour crystal chandelier, £1,750, Italian Lighting Centre

**WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THIS HOUSE?**

My background is in property development: buying properties that I can renovate, upgrading the bones of the building and transforming the interior. I am drawn to properties where simple changes can be hugely effective – very much the case here.

**TELL US YOUR PRIORITIES.** The house was not fully used, as the previous family's children had moved away. My priority was to make each room usable, creating dedicated areas for different activities, with the kitchen as the central hub.

**WAS THE HOUSE IN GOOD CONDITION?** It had been added to many times, but not in a way that took the building's history and structure into account, so the condition was not great. It was important to lift the floors and re-do the electrical and mechanical pipes. Now all the services are nicely hidden behind walls and underneath flooring.

**WHAT INSPIRED YOUR COLOUR CHOICES?**

I went with my instinct. Sometimes, I have pre-formed ideas of colours that I just have to use and I think about how and where I can do so. This was the case with the red dining room. I went back and forth with Francesca (of Francesca's Paints) until we got the shade right. For other rooms I ordered samples and got my

kids to help me paint pieces of paper with the shades. Once these were tacked to walls, I could imagine how everything would look.

**DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE ROOM?** The transformation in the sitting room is especially dramatic. Picture a low ceiling, a fireplace that was off-centre and a chimney flue that went sideways! The structural alterations alone changed the room. Add bold new colours, and it's a complete overhaul.

**THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF THE PROJECT?** It was a full-blown renovation using a team that had never worked together. I loved how the project manager and construction company were constantly innovating and adapting based on what we found as we went. It's amazing to see a concept you imagined come together so beautifully.

**YOUR TOP TIPS FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME?**

First inspire yourself by looking at magazines, hotels and restaurants. Then think about what you could look at every day and go for that. If, further down the line, it turns out to be not what you wanted, relatively small changes – a new paint colour or placement of furniture, for example – will usually solve the problem, so just go for it! [anaengelhorn.com](http://anaengelhorn.com)

'I always think about how a colour makes me feel and if that is the right emotion to evoke in that room'

