The
ENGLISH HOME

GARDENS SPECIAL

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Curtains in Ariadne by Colefax and Fowler frame Crittall doors at the garden end of the double-length sitting room. The armchairs are in Petra in Raspberry by Ian Sanderson while the cornflower blue sofa is from Sofa.com.

'Wherever possible, we upgraded or restored the period features that create the feel of an English country home'

Emma and Archie lived in the the three-bedroom farmstead for three years before their thoughts turned to extending it to make a five-bedroom home that would work better for their growing family. They are parents to Daisy, four, and Orlando, 20 months, as well as sharing their home with black Labrador, Tikka, yellow Labrador, Toto, and Piglet, the miniature dachshund.

An architect drew up the plans, but then it was down to the couple to oversee the building work. Both Emma and Archie were keen to retain the character of the early 19th-century stone-built house. "Wherever possible, we upgraded or restored period features such as panelling, dado rails and cornicing – all the things that create the feel of an English country home," explains Emma.

The extension was built using stone that is the closest possible match to the original. In addition, the couple even included a bricked-up window – a legacy of the window tax that was in place from the late 17th century until the mid-19th century. "The house bears witness to how the earliest residents had to pay a levy for every window, so we replicated that quirk," Emma explains.

As the house was opened up brick by brick, Emma and Archie discovered another interesting original feature: each gable end of the roof had a glass bottle inserted horizontally into the apex, so the base was

ABOVE Emma's colour palette for the sitting room echoes blooms that grow in the garden, with walls in Donato's Eau de Nil limewash by Francesca's Paints and bursts of colour from Wisteria lamps by Pooky and the ottoman in Andrew Martin's Las Salinas 5.

Emma used a limewash in the warm shade of Adoration Rose by Francesca's Paints and set twin beds under the pitched ceiling. The headboard is a family heirloom and the cushion is Oka.