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25 BEAUTIFUL HOMIES

Come inside...

25 homeowners give us a complete guided tour

Farmhouses, flats & family homes – we've got the lot!

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£2.70



COVER STORY 'We turned a derelict outbuilding into this cosy cottage' see p100



1 The Taylors' home is now also a b&b (01736 711883) with views of St Michael's Mount

2 The French bed and sofa were bought at auction. The walls are Parma Grey by Farrow & Ball (01202 876141)

3 A checked paint effect in one of the bathrooms reflects the Jane Churchill fabric on the chair

4 The four poster bed was built in situ by the Crown Guild of Master Woodcarvers (01823 444684)



Charles, who believe that 'a barn should always look like a barn.' 'We were determined to keep the character,' says Christine. 'What we didn't need to change has been left undisturbed. We love the way the building almost wraps itself around us.'

The natural slate roof, however, had to be renewed, and the ground floor excavated to replace the old cobbles. 'One of the biggest challenges was manoeuvring the groaning wheelbarrow to the builders' skip,' remembers Christine with a laugh. 'We like to be hands on!'

The interior is arranged 'upside down'. An open-plan living space, incorporating the sitting room, dining area and kitchen, is on the first floor, while the bedrooms and bathrooms are downstairs. More bedrooms, and a cosy sitting area for bed and breakfast guests, have been created in the former cowshed, while the old dairy has become a garden room.

The house, with its spectacular A-frame ceiling, thick stone walls and polished wooden floors, is full of rustic atmosphere, thoughtfully orchestrated by Christine. 'I've taught myself about interior design by reading lots

of homes magazines,' she explains.

The mood in the kitchen and dining area is reminiscent of a traditional farmhouse – right down to the Rayburn in British Racing Green. Christine decided on a style, bought some hardwood, and asked a local carpenter to build the cupboards and workstation, all for just £1,000. The set of 'really old' dining chairs have quite a history: 'They once

belonged to Charles' mother, but had been sold, and had found their way to London. Some time later they came to a dealer in Cornwall and we bought them back from him.'

Christine has particularly enjoyed decorating and accessorising the bedrooms, all painted in lovely colours.

'Each bedroom has a very different character,' she says. 'I tend to see the completed room in my mind even before I start the decorating.'

The Taylors have accomplished a lot. Their barn is lovely, but Christine's enthusiasm for interior decorating is bound to move things on further still. So what's next? 'We plan to install roll-top tubs in the bathrooms,' she says, 'and we are looking forward to re-designing the courtyard...'

'A barn should always look like a barn'

WORDS Anne Armstrong PHOTOGRAPHY David Parmiter





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5 Re-rushed antique dining chairs flank the 10ft long oak reproduction dining table. The ironwork chandelier was an end-of-line bargain

6 Light Blue from Farrow & Ball makes a fresh background for the deco-style suite in the bathroom



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25 Good ideas

For bathroom accessories like the extendable shaving mirror in the Taylors' bathroom, look no further than Argos (0870 600 3030), who have this chrome-plated version. It has a magnifying option and costs just £9.99.

