

# Treasure Trove Home

A barn conversion in Nottinghamshire features warm tones, textural furnishings and superb open-plan living areas. Words **Jennie Musgrove** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**



After spending a few years on a home renovation project, most people like to take a break and enjoy the benefits of the changes that have been made to their home. Interior design team Richard Bond and Jamie Hemsall, however, are not like most people – and no sooner had they completed renovating their five-bedroom Victorian property, than they were on the lookout for their next challenge. This happened to be a barn in rural Nottinghamshire that had already been partly converted and was the total antithesis of a Victorian building. “Once we completed our Victorian house we realised we wanted more living space and light,” explains Richard, “So we sold it. This barn conversion was a bit of a reaction to having spent so long on period detail.”

The location of the barn was perfect for Richard and Jamie – very private and with some commanding views of Nottinghamshire

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– which meant that they knew they wanted to buy the property before they even saw it! “We knew when we came up the drive that the place would have to be really appalling for us not to buy it!” says Richard. “The original part of the building was divided into a number of small rooms, without much head height. However, we could see that, provided we got planning permission, there was great potential to create some larger rooms with more open-plan living.”

Jamie took on the challenge of project managing the conversion, and the couple briefed architectural practice Williams Architects Ltd with creating a home they could enjoy and relax in. “We wanted to achieve a comfortable home that people would want to relax in and visit,” says Richard. “We both have large families who are very important to us, so it’s not unusual for us to have a dozen friends »»»»

**THIS PAGE** Vibrant colours, intricate patterns and tactile textures work together to create a beautiful sitting room. **OPPOSITE PAGE** Contemporary bar stools by Lloyd Loom add to the ‘country cottage’ feel of the kitchen.





and relations visiting at any one time.”

Richard and Jamie wanted to create a large, double-height room for daytime lounging and occasional parties. One of the main problems they faced during the conversion was how to create this without having too many structural beams. In the end, four steel frames and trusses were constructed off-site and installed in one piece at their home, in what Richard describes as, “a nail-biting, but satisfactory conclusion.”

Other structural changes Richard and Jamie made to the barn were to knock a small en-suite and bedroom together to create their master en-suite, as well as the addition of a new entrance, utility room, bedroom and shower room with a steam sauna – “a slight indulgence but wonderful for relaxing in,” says Richard.

It was important to the couple that the kitchen space was open and welcoming, so that guests never felt left out of a conversation while food was



being prepared. “Our previous home had a lot of small rooms and you tended to feel isolated from other activities, such as cooking,” says Richard. “We wanted to achieve more open-plan living, with a natural flow that meant every room was used on a daily basis; avoiding having any ‘formal’ rooms which only got used at Christmas and Easter.”

The kitchen Richard and Jamie chose for their home is warm and inviting with a ‘country cottage’ feel created by the wood worktop on the central breakfast island and contemporary Lloyd Loom stools. The inspiration for the kitchen, Richard explains, was a film. “An Italian film we

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saw about six years ago featured a wonderful kitchen where everyone stood around chatting, drinking and helping to cook,” he says. “We knew that was definitely what we wanted to achieve with ours. The central unit does a wonderful job and the kitchen ends up being the centre of any weekend party we have. Mind you we have discovered that ‘too many cooks’ is very accurate and sometimes excess guests are ‘banished’ to the day room to chat – being open-plan they still feel part of it all though.”

Richard and Jamie are both interior designers and so when it came to furnishing their home, they knew exactly how to approach it. However before they decided on any alterations, the couple lived in the house for six months so that they could understand its flow, how they used it and what they wanted it to feel like. “I had plans for a minimalist interior, but it is obviously not in our nature to achieve this,” says Richard. “At the end of the day, we like a home to be a home, not a show piece. Homes should be lived in and you should surround yourself with objects you love to look at, touch and enjoy.” Richard and Jamie looked meticulously at each room when choosing colours, textures and patterns; and the results >>>>

TOP This stunning display cabinet is filled with some of Richard and Jamie’s favourite finds. BOTTOM Tones of orange and earthy reds create a warm sitting room, perfect for curling up on the sofa when it’s cold outside.

TOP A neutral colour scheme is a versatile option in the dining room. BOTTOM Richard describes the master bedroom as a ‘sanctuary’. Brown, earthy tones make a calming and luxurious atmosphere.

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speak for themselves. Earthy reds and dramatic suede curtains create an Eastern aesthetic in the sitting room, while a neutral colour scheme ensures the dramatic lighting, furniture and art is what stands out in the dining room. “We like an eclectic feel to our interiors, mixing old and contemporary,” says Richard. “For example, the armchairs in the sitting room are both Georgian and have been reupholstered in William Yeoward fabric. Our rooms aim to provide comfort and visual surprises, so that there is always something new to find – whether it be a piece of art, pottery, lamp or item of furniture. The first thing friends do when they arrive is scout around for anything new!”

Having gone straight from one project to the next, Jamie and Richard’s hard work has finally paid off and they now enjoy a fabulous home filled with character and charm – and Richard’s verdict is a happy one: “I’m delighted to say that for us, the end result is pretty much perfect.”

**ADDRESS BOOK**

Richard Bond and Jamie Hemsall are partners in interior design consultancy, Jamie Hemsall Interior Design. Visit: [www.jamiehemsall.com](http://www.jamiehemsall.com).  
 Williams Architects Ltd designed all the structural changes to the home. Visit: [www.williams-architects.co.uk](http://www.williams-architects.co.uk).  
 Several of the chairs in the home are from Lloyd Loom of Spalding. Visit: [www.lloydloom.com](http://www.lloydloom.com).  
 Some of the pieces of furniture throughout the home are from Julian Chichester Ltd. Visit: [www.julianchichester.com](http://www.julianchichester.com).  
 The large bespoke sofa and Chesterfield in the day room were made by Artistic Upholstery Ltd. Visit: [www.artisticupholstery.co.uk](http://www.artisticupholstery.co.uk).  
 The library drum tables, mirror and sideboard in the day room are from Iain James Furniture. Visit: [www.iainjamesfurniture.co.uk](http://www.iainjamesfurniture.co.uk).  
 Several of the home’s bespoke units were made by Chiselwood. Visit: [www.chiselwood.co.uk](http://www.chiselwood.co.uk).  
 The Main Furniture Company fashioned the kitchen’s bespoke freestanding units from recycled pine. Visit: [www.mainpinecompany.com](http://www.mainpinecompany.com).

**TOP** The attic bedroom was inspired by a New England beach house, and is the room that guests fight over when they visit Richard and Jamie. **BOTTOM** Super-stylish contemporary fittings have been used in the home’s bathrooms, alongside clean tones of white and grey.



**BEDROOM**

Be brave and add a dazzling bar chandelier to your bedroom for an extra sparkle. This one is priced at £315 and is available from Heal’s.

**BATHROOM**

It’s easy to overlook the bathroom when accessorising. Like Richard and Jamie why not add simple stylish touches in the form white vases – CFL love this glass vase, £17.50 from Stylish Life and the ‘Butterflies’ vase, £15 from Breeze.



STEAL THEIR **STYLE**

Richard Bond and Jamie Hemsall’s vibrant home is an eclectic mix of vibrant accessories and stylish soft furnishings. For a home that mixes the old with new take a look at our fabulous finds.

For stockist details see page 128



**KITCHEN**

Tall and sturdy the ‘Joe’ high stool, £179 from Habitat is the perfect accompaniment to casual kitchen dining.

**DAY ROOM**

Richard and Jamie have chosen to make a big impact with an over-sized statement mirror. You can do the same with the ‘Fig’ mirror, £220 from Sweetpea & Willow.



**GUEST ROOM**

Keep your home eco-friendly and stylish with these funky cushions from Love Eco, priced at £35 each.



**SITTING ROOM**

Cosy up by the fire on this luxurious and tactile sheepskin rug, £175, from John Lewis – a great fireside feature.

**DAY ROOM**

For Richard and Jamie it’s all about an eclectic mix of furnishings mixed with vibrant accessories. So why not add a splash of colour with this purple ‘Petal’ sofa, priced at £2,350 and available from Rume.

