

# A BOLD MOVE

When Patricia and David Morgan migrated from London to the West Country, they gave their 18th-century farmhouse a strong, contemporary feel

Words VICTORIA JENKINS Photography STEVE RUSSELL



## SOMERSET country house

### THE PROPERTY

#### LOCATION

Somerset

#### BUILDING

1750s farmhouse, extended

in the 1850s and 1980s

**ROOMS** Sitting room, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, laundry room, conservatory, home cinema room, cloakroom, 4 bedrooms (1 en suite), dressing room, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool

**MOVED IN 2004**



### THE OWNERS

Patricia and David Morgan and their King Charles spaniel Jasper

**OCCUPATIONS** Patricia is a banker and David is a financial adviser

**FAVOURITE ROOM** 'The dining room, because we love to entertain our friends and this is the most glamorous room in the house,' says Patricia. 'We've had some great New Year parties there. It's an evening room – intimate, friendly and sophisticated.'

**W**hen Patricia and David Morgan said they were moving from their London flat to a Georgian house in rural Somerset, their friends were shocked. 'We're very urban and love the contemporary look,' says Patricia. 'They couldn't understand why we'd want to move away from shops, theatres and restaurants.'

However, although the Morgans' new home is typically Georgian on the outside, the interior is even more contemporary than their former city apartment. The front of the house, which stands in three acres of land, dates from about 1750 and the rear is from 1850, with a 1980s extension. 'We found it on the internet and liked it straight-away,' says Patricia. 'Within six months, we'd bought it. We spent the next two years renovating, decorating and furnishing it.'

However, quite a bit of work was needed. 'The decor had been badly done, with faux-Georgian fireplaces, pink wallpaper and PVC window frames,' says Patricia. So she and David employed a local builder who knew the house from his childhood. He ►

1 Alternative Plans (020 7228 6460) supplied the Dove Grey cabinets and the stainless-steel worktops, as well as the Boffi architectural tap in the kitchen. The range cooker came from Stoves (0870 444 9929). John Cullen Lighting (020 7371 5400) supplied the recessed lights

2 Bold furniture creates a modern dining space in the breakfast room. Try New Heights (020 8452 1500) for similar. Reed Harris (020 8877 9774) supplied the marble floor tiles, while the radiator was bought at Bisque (01225 478500)





took it back to the bare stone and had it rewired, replastered and replumbed.

The construction work included swapping over the breakfast room and kitchen. The German-made kitchen has Dove Grey cupboards, stainless-steel worktops and a stainless steel range cooker in a large alcove. 'Unfortunately, those are the only rooms that don't have underfloor heating,' says Patricia, 'as by the time we'd decided to install it, we'd already laid new marble floors in there, as well as a complicated lighting system with floor lights. So we installed radiators instead.'

The couple then decided to have the flagstones taken up in the dining room and replace them with marble tiles which were also laid in the conservatory. It was while they were putting down the floor in the breakfast room that they discovered an unusual original feature – a Georgian reservoir. 'There must have been a well in here, too, as this was once the kitchen,' says Patricia. New features were also installed, including new fireplaces and a heated swimming pool, while polished plaster walls were added in the sitting room.

When it came to the decorating and furnishing, Patricia had a very clear idea of the look she wanted. 'It had to be orderly and uncluttered, with nice clean lines,' she says. The wallpaper in the home cinema room ▶



## 'WE LOVE THE CONTEMPORARY LOOK'



1 Jasper the spaniel has a rest in the spacious conservatory. Lyndon Design (01242 584897) supplied the two cream sofas

2 The linen-texture wallpaper in the home cinema room was from Donghia (020 7823 3456). Marble Hill Fireplaces (020

8892 1488) supplied the fire surround. The coffee table came from Baker Furniture at Selfridges (0870 837 7377)

3 Alchemy Helio wallpaper from Altfield (020 7351 5893) covers the dining room walls. The voile curtains

were supplied by JAB International (020 7349 9323)

4 Stucco lustro by Sally Ellwood (0794

010 8333) on the walls of the sitting room creates a textured effect. Try Bella Figura (020 7376 4564) for similar table lamps



was one such item. 'The linen-texture wallpaper was expensive at £150 per metre, but I liked the quality and I firmly believe that you get what you pay for,' says Patricia. 'We have an audio visual system in here that operates all round the house and the wallpaper helps absorb the sound.'

The only wallpaper Patricia was not sure about originally was the silver-coloured paper in the dining room. 'I wasn't very keen at first, but I eventually came round to the idea,' she says. 'The little swatches I had been looking at hadn't done it justice, but in situ with the black floor it looks stunning. In fact, we had eight people to dinner on New Year's Eve and with all the candles lit and the light reflecting off the glass tableware, the room looked fantastic.'

A bedroom, bathroom and small computer room were converted into a large master bedroom and dressing room, with the two linked by an arch, and both ceilings raised. 'We uncovered some old oak beams in the process and decided to keep them, as we like their contrast with the modern decor,' says Patricia, 'although we wouldn't have been able to remove them anyway, as they're apparently integral to the structure.'

Patricia and David's home is now somewhere that her city friends love to visit. 'We wanted somewhere in the country that was classically elegant but would be simple and easy to run,' Patricia says, 'and in this wonderful house, we've found just that.'

1 Knowles & Christou (020 7352 7000) supplied the Ikebana blind fabric in the guest bedroom

2 The bathroom tiles and fittings came from The Bathroom Centre (020 8504 1765)

3 A cherrywood bed from Amazing Emporium (020 7351 0511) fills the large master bedroom

## PATRICIA & DAVID'S STYLE SECRETS

Emulate the **luxurious, modern look** of the Morgans' well-appointed home with our selection of furniture and accessories



Deliver a sense of opulence with elegant cream upholstery. Chaise Copenhagen, £875 plus upholstery fabric, from KA International (0870 011 4334, ka-international.com).



Create a dramatic focal point in a room with this beautiful Bea lightshade, £45, from John Lewis (020 7629 7711, johnlewis.com).

Seek out stylish, individual pieces such as this Tribeca crossed-leg coffee table in Ebony, £650, from Mufti (020 7610 9123, mufti.co.uk).



LAST  
WORD

'Our favourite retailer is Baker Furniture at Selfridges (0870 837 7377)' says Patricia. 'It has beautiful contemporary furniture.'