

Refined ELEGANCE

Interior designer Jojo Bradley has brought a neglected Georgian house in Cheshire back to life, creating a stylish and inviting home for her family

FEATURE NATALIE FLAUM PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE
STYLING ANNABELLE GRUNDY

Calm aqua tones and raspberry pink for warmth create an inviting scheme in the drawing room. The ottoman is in Malabar by Colefax and Fowler, whilst the curtains are in Carrera by Zoffany. The painting above the fireplace is by Daniel Crane. The flowers are by Velvet Peony.



Three former reception rooms were knocked through to create a spacious open-plan kitchen-diner with the playroom accessed off the kitchen. The bespoke oak cabinetry is by Venables Oak and painted in Pigeon by Farrow & Ball. The window dressings are in Baker's Indienne by GP & J Baker.



Yorkshire girl at heart, Jojo Bradley met her husband Mark 12 years ago at Newcastle University, and soon after they relocated to Cheshire to be near his relatives and the family business. The couple married five years ago and have since welcomed the arrival of their two sons – Archie, now four and Bertie, two.

Jojo and Mark came across their now family home in 2013. Set in a picturesque village near Chester, the red-brick Georgian double-fronted house had a Victorian era kitchen extension and another ramshackle extension to the rear. A former working dairy farm, over time the property had been divided into two separate homes; one habitable, the other completely derelict.

“We had driven past this house many times, never noticing it with its dilapidated farm dwellings and

overgrown trees,” says Jojo. “We both absolutely fell in love with it. Georgian style – with its symmetry and room proportions – is my favourite. I could see it had the potential to be beautiful and a home for life, but knew it would be a total ‘labour of love’ project. The run-down building was riddled with damp – carpets squelched as we walked across some of the rooms and mushrooms were sprouting off walls.”

Jojo and Mark continued living at their barn conversion as they set to work on a two-year renovation of the Georgian house whilst planning their wedding. During this time, Jojo worked on upholstery projects for friends and family from her spare room and completed an interior design qualification. Her business, Jojo Bradley Interiors, evolved organically and she now heads her own interior design studio and showroom from a converted

ABOVE Jojo used marble flooring in the entrance hall. For similar, try Mandarin Stone. The globe pendant and circular glass table were both sourced by Jojo Bradley Interiors. For a similar light, try Jamb.

FAR LEFT Jojo in the garden.

LEFT The Victorian extension can be seen to the right, with steps down to the garden.



The dining room in the new orangery connects to the kitchen, snug and playroom and has a staircase leading to the cinema room on the lower ground floor. The pendant lights are by Hector Finch and the curtains and Roman blinds are in Benaki by Lewis & Wood.



‘Our home is a classic, elegant, fun and loveable space we all enjoy as a family’

farm building in the grounds of her home. “I have an amazing team of seven, including four fabulous designers who have assisted me with my renovation journey,” she says.

Jojo’s challenge was to reconfigure the space entirely as the house was stripped back to brickwork and trades replumbed, rewired and produced mirrored joinery to unite and reconnect both sides of the house together. “This was a house of its time, with lots of small rooms throughout. We kept the Victorian extension where the kitchen is and demolished the latter extension, which was falling apart, and built an orangery in its place, sympathetic to the period of the house.

The couple took on active roles and with the help of the architect, project manager, council planners and various trades, authentic features were installed. Jojo spent time researching detailing appropriate to the era of the house to reinstate architraves, cornices and ceiling roses. She also arranged for local artisans to produce replica internal arches and pillars, ensuring the stone matched the existing external sills. ►

ABOVE A roll-top bath from The Cast Iron Bath Company provides the perfect place to relax and enjoy the surrounding views. The armchair is in Quinn Stone by Colefax and Fowler and the Roman blinds are in GP & J Baker.

LEFT Bells found in what were the servants’ quarters are displayed in the entrance hall. The seat pad on the monk bench is upholstered in Kate Foreman fabric. The bird painting is by wildlife artist Terence Lambert.



ABOVE A tall headboard in Milas Embroidered Linen by Vaughan is teamed with matching pink piping on the cushions by Titley & Marr in the master bedroom.

RIGHT Jojo has created a cosy reading corner in this guest bedroom with an antique armchair upholstered in blue fabric from Ian Sanderson.

“Mark and I work really well together. He was great at figuring out the nitty gritty details and technicalities of the build and I managed the design side,” says Jojo. “We listened to suggestions from the planners and felt we were very much on the same page, as we were aligned with what they wanted and tried to keep within their constraints, which made it a smooth and straightforward process.”

The warren of rooms upstairs was reconfigured to six master suites and a laundry room. “Having a laundry room upstairs works really well and I always suggest this idea to my clients – it reduces space on the ground floor and saves time carrying all the laundry downstairs to wash, dry and iron it, only to bring it all upstairs again,” adds Jojo. “The six bedrooms were designed with en suites so that when guests stay with their families, we can easily accommodate them.”

With an emphasis on functional, practical spaces, Jojo has created elegant interiors using a soft colour palette in a traditional style with a contemporary twist. “Every room in our house has a completely unique and different feel and I was keen to create rooms with personality and spaces that flow,” she reflects. “I love pattern and texture, calm aqua blues and raspberry tones. We spent months sourcing antiques and pieces of art to add to the Georgian aesthetic and give a slight contemporary edge.” ▶



The indigo and taupe scheme in this guest bedroom is fresh yet soothing. For a similar bed, try The French Bedroom Company. The scatter cushions are in fabrics by Titley & Marr and Ian Sanderson, and the lamps are by India Jane.



‘We love finding buried treasures in reclamation yards and travelling to source unique pieces of art’

ABOVE LEFT The headboards in a vibrant Manuel Canovas fabric in this guest bedroom are teamed with a Roman blind in Bitlis Embroidered Linen by Vaughan.

ABOVE RIGHT The basin in this guest en-suite bathroom is by Lefroy Brooks. The Roman blind is in Matanta by William Yeoward and the walls are painted in Green Smoke by Farrow & Ball.

Colefax and Fowler is a favourite resource and its fabrics play a key part in Jojo’s home, but she finds inspiration elsewhere as well. “I’m totally inspired by other designers, especially the work of interior designer Kit Kemp – co-owner and creative director of Firmdale Hotels in London and New York. Her gorgeously unusual collections of prints and textures force me to push my own design boundaries,” she says. “I’d always suggest choosing fabrics before deciding on paint colours.”

Jojo advises not to underestimate the preparation work, as a professional decorating finish stands the test of time. “I’m a huge fan of built-in joinery that utilises every inch of space and fits perfectly. I usually prefer a spray paint over a farmhouse brush finish; our kitchen cabinets were painted off-site as the paint was mixed with hardening products for a cleaner finish,” she says.

Those early Georgian residents could not have asked for better custodians than Jojo, Mark and their two boys. “We moved in when Archie was just eight weeks old, on a damp February day in 2018,” she explains. “I feel so lucky to have such a lovely family home. Bringing this beautiful building back to life has been so rewarding and I have learnt so much from doing this project.”

As most of Jojo’s family live in Yorkshire, with a sister in London and a brother in Sussex, she wanted to create a welcoming house for guests to stay. “We’ve recently developed the outbuildings to include a party barn, which is a perfect entertaining space for parties,” she says. “We have put all our energy, thoughts and so much love into creating this house, which we know has been built to last. We hope future generations of our family will enjoy the house as much as we do.” ■