



HALLWAY
These bells were discovered in the part of the house that was once the servants' quarters. The bench was a wedding present that Jojo had re-upholstered. Bench in Angelique Pink, £85m, Kate Forman. Painting by Terence Lambert

PERIOD PIECE

Interior designer Jojo Bradley knew just what was needed to turn two neglected Georgian houses into one beautiful home

FEATURE NATALIE FLAUM | **PHOTOGRAPHY** COLIN POOLE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Georgian double-fronted house
LOCATION Cheshire
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, orangery/dining room, playroom, laundry room, boot room, cinema room, six bedrooms (all en suite)
PURCHASED 2013
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We lived in a barn conversion nearby for four years,' says Jojo.

SITTING ROOM

This is Jojo's favourite space, where calm aquas and warm pinks blend seamlessly. Wing armchairs, from £925, Jojo Bradley Interiors. Chair by fireplace in Perseus Red/Aqua fabric, £72m; ottoman in Malabar Red, £242m, both Colefax and Fowler. Painting by Daniel Crane



DINING ROOM

An orangery was built to complement the style of the house.

Oak bespoke tabletop finished in Distressed Grey, £2,500, Venables Oak. Dining chairs upholstered in Khalid Blue, £76m, Colefax and Fowler. Sir John Soane hanging lanterns, £1,044 each, Hector Finch

LESSONS LEARNT *'I wanted to create rooms with personality and spaces that flow – we spent months sourcing antiques to add to the Georgian aesthetic'*

A Yorkshire girl at heart, Jojo Bradley and her husband Mark came across their red-brick Georgian double-fronted house in a picturesque village near Chester in 2013. 'Mark grew up here and we've lived in this area for a long time, yet we had never noticed this house before, with its dilapidated farm dwellings and overgrown trees,' says Jojo. 'We both fell in love with it and I could see it had the potential to be beautiful, but I also knew it would be a total labour of love.'

Two become one

Formerly a working dairy farm, the property had been divided into two separate homes over time – one habitable, the other completely derelict. Jojo's challenge was to reconfigure the space as well as replumbing, rewiring and installing mirrored joinery to reconnect both sides of the house.

'The Georgian style – with its symmetry and room proportions – is my favourite,' says Jojo. 'This was a house of its time with lots of small rooms throughout.'

The renovation plan involved demolishing a more recent extension, which was falling apart, and building an orangery in its place, sympathetic to the period of the house. The kitchen is the heart of the home with the interconnecting orangery, snug and playroom designed to be functional spaces to enjoy downtime with the family.

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 reinstated architraves, cornices and ceiling roses, and arranged for local artisans to produce replica internal arches and pillars, ensuring the stone matched existing external sills.

'Mark was great at figuring out nitty-gritty technicalities and I managed the design side,' says Jojo. 'We listened to the planners' suggestions 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.'

Upstairs, several rooms were reconfigured to create six master suites and a laundry room. 'I always suggest having a laundry room upstairs to my clients – it increases space on the ground floor and saves time carrying all the laundry downstairs only to bring it all upstairs again!' adds Jojo.

Back to life

Beginning with upholstery projects for friends and family, Jojo now heads her own interior design studio and showroom from a converted farm building on the grounds of her home. 'I have an amazing team of designers, who have assisted me with my own renovation journey,' she says.

Jojo, Mark and their two boys, Archie, now four, and Bertie, three, moved in when Archie was just eight weeks old. 'Bringing this beautiful building back to life has been rewarding and I have learnt so much from this project,' says Jojo. 'We have put all our energy, thoughts and so much love into this house and we hope future generations of our family will enjoy it as much as we do.' 🌿



MASTER BEDROOM

Accents of vibrant pink are a modern touch. Headboard in Milas embroidered linen, £217m, Vaughan. Armchair upholstered in Malabar Red, £242m, Colefax & Fowler. Find vintage bedside tables, from £250, Vinterior. Flowers, Velvet Peony



KITCHEN-DINER

Three reception rooms were knocked through to make this room. 'I love a well-organised space and the island is packed with storage,' says Jojo.

Similar bespoke oak cabinets, from £45,000, Venables Oak; painted in Pigeon estate eggshell, £64 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



MASTER EN SUITE

Jojo never tires of the countryside view. Grand La Rochelle bath, £2,695, The Cast Iron Bath Company. Walls in Paris Grey Elite emulsion, £45.90 for 2.5ltr, Zoffany