

Tina Moizer, 44, together with her husband Mike, 47, has restored character to her Somerset farmhouse, turning it into a warm, comfortable home

# I've made a home we'll never want to leave



**PROPERTY  
DETAILS**

**Type of house:**  
Five-bedroom  
1750s farmhouse  
**What we bought  
it for:** £325,000  
**What we spent  
doing it up:**  
£381,000  
**What it's worth  
now:** £1.3 million



*Opposite page:* Tina wanted a traditional kitchen, so she chose cream-painted oak units and mottled grey granite worktops. The glass-fronted wine cooler fridge (on the left of the island unit) came from John Lewis, and the wicker baskets in the centre hold bread and vegetables

*Left:* The 75-year-old butcher's block came from Fagins Antiques in Devon, and its rustic look suits the farmhouse kitchen perfectly. The walls are painted in Caramel Cream by Duracool from Homebase

**M**ike and I moved into our farmhouse near Clevedon, Somerset, on April Fools' Day, and while it was a wonderful day, the state of the house was no joke. There was damp and the whole place was very dark. But although there was a great deal of work to be done – we had to rewire, replumb, replaster and put in a damp-proof course – we knew it could become our dream home.

We both have experience in house renovation. I run my own interior design business and Mike and I have renovated four cottages and a flat in the past, so we were

ready for the challenge. Sadly, previous owners had ripped out a lot of the character from the house, and our main priority was to put it back in.

We tackled the kitchen first, with the help of a team of reliable tradesmen we knew. When Mike and I moved in, the kitchen was in a small room at the back of the house, while the entrance hall had an Aga sitting in it all by itself, inside an inglenook fireplace with a bread oven behind and an oak lintel above. It made no sense for it to be so far

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*Left:* Although much of the period character had been removed by previous owners, a few features – such as the large inglenook fireplace in the sitting room – still remain

*Right:* The table and chairs in the kitchen are from The Creamery Pine Shop in Yeovil, Somerset

*Below:* Tina chose sofas from Chalcions of Clevedon and patterned carpet from Axminster Carpets



away from the kitchen. The Aga was still in good working order, so we decided to leave it where it was and move the kitchen to the hall. We spent two weeks installing the units and granite worktops and laying a new laminate floor. The concrete floor proved to be a bit of a challenge because we had to drill through it to lay the pipework.

As the kitchen is in the entrance hall, I designed it so that the appliances aren't immediately visible when you walk in through the front door. One problem I had was that there's a door or window on every wall of the new kitchen, so there wasn't anywhere to put a run of wall or floor units. I decided to fit an island unit instead, which incorporates enough storage space for all my kitchen equipment. It was difficult to find a large piece of granite worktop to cover the island without having any joins, but I

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'I wanted to decorate the house in such a way that it would look warm and inviting whatever the season'



*Above:* The table and matching chairs in the dining room are French reproduction cherrywood and are from an antiques shop. The walls have been painted in Turkish Gold from Dulux

*Left and below:* Tina has furnished her home with a mixture of genuine and reproduction antiques she's picked up at auctions and antiques fairs. The cat picture was a present from Mike



## TIP CLEVER TRICKS

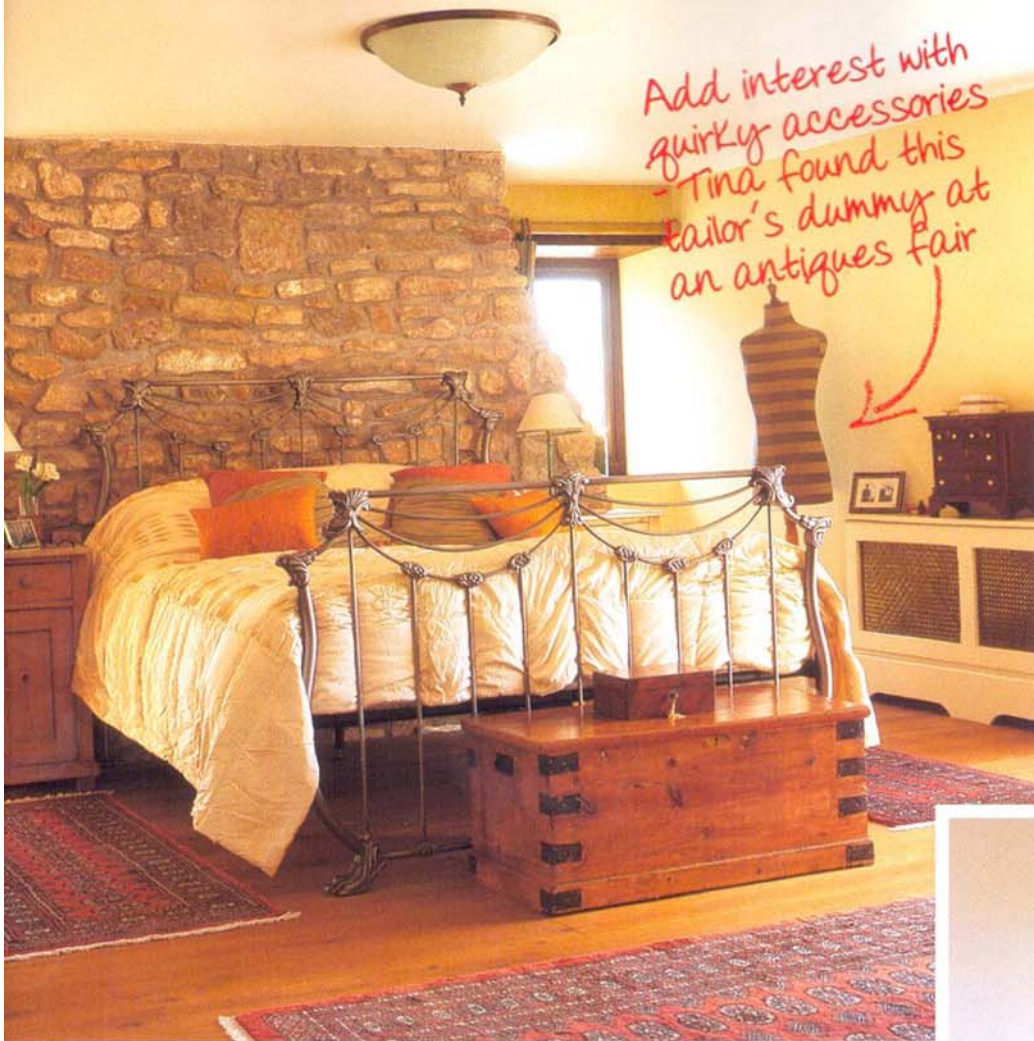
### Integrate white goods

Buy freestanding white goods and get a carpenter to build them in as integrated items. Most dishwashers or washing machines will fit into a kitchen unit and you can adapt the door to fit, which will cost a lot less than buying the integrated version.

### Put period details back

A lot of the character had been ripped out of Tina's home, so she has added cherrywood panelling in the study, an oak floor in her bedroom, roll-top baths in the bathrooms and used period furniture. Visit reclamation yards and auction houses to find period pieces.





Left: A focal point of the main bedroom is the old brickwork behind the bed, which is from The Iron Bed Company



Above right: Tina had solid oak flooring laid in the main bedroom

Right: She decorated the guest room in soft blues and magnolia

got in touch with a gravestone maker and he was able to get a piece exactly the size I wanted.

I also managed to 'integrate' a wine-cooler unit into the island. I bought a freestanding, glass-fronted wine-cooling fridge and put it on a plinth with pillars on either side – it was cheaper to do it this way than to buy one that needed to be fitted from a shop, and I'm delighted with the result. We also saved money by buying a freestanding dishwasher and concealing it behind a cupboard door.

Finally, I decorated the room in a warm cream to make it inviting whatever the time of day or season. It's always warm in the winter because of the Aga, and because we have a sofa in the kitchen, there's plenty of space for friends to sit and chat. The old kitchen is now a study.

As for the hall leading off the kitchen, we wanted it to have more light, so we removed the ceiling. This meant we lost half of one of the six original bedrooms, but it was worth it – and we turned the other half into a bathroom.

When it came to the main bedroom, we replaced the rotten floorboards with solid oak flooring, while in the other

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## TINA'S INSIDE STORY

Her most important accomplishment and biggest decorating mishap

- 'We had a wonderful sense of achievement when the first wild birds flew in and nested on the islands in our lake. Now swans nest here every year and we attract dozens of different types of wildfowl.'
- 'One disaster was when the plumber drilled through a water pipe in the bathroom and the ceiling in the study fell down. We had torrents of water gushing through the hole – and we'd just had the study painted! It took a month to sort things out and get everything back to normal.'



'We're so lucky to live in such a wonderful place. I truly believe we won't be moving again'



*Left: The Victorian-style suite in the guest bathroom is from Bathroom Desire in Weston-super-Mare*

*Above: Tina used reproduction fittings to create a classic look. The floor tiles are from Weston Tile Warehouse*



Text: Victoria Jenkins. Photographs: Colin Poole

bedrooms we laid new floors and carpets. In the bathrooms we put down marine ply floors, so that we could lay new tiles without them cracking.

We loved the fact that the main bedroom had its own ensuite bathroom, but I couldn't stand the avocado suite. We've replaced it with new white Victorian-style fittings, which reflect the period feel of the house. We've also built a huge wooden balcony off the bedroom. In the summer we enjoy having breakfast out there while we admire the view.

The balcony looks down onto a lake which Mike and I dug when we moved in. We had to persuade local planners to give us permission for this, but when they realised we were hoping to attract wildfowl from around the world, they agreed. It took us six months to create, but now we can look out of any window at the front of the house and see hundreds of birds.

After all the hard work, I'm delighted with our home. I often think how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful place. I truly believe we won't be moving again.

• Contact Tina Moizer Designs on 01934 815100 or visit [www.tinamoizerdesigns.com](http://www.tinamoizerdesigns.com)



*Above: His-and-hers matching vanity units, both from Bathroom Desire, feature in the couple's bathroom*

*Left: Tina with her two boxer dogs, Duke and George, enjoying a spot of sunshine on the porch*

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE OUR STOCKISTS PAGE