

CHARACTER BUILDING

Georgie Pridden has used her creative skills and an eye for a bargain to give a new-build house a classic period style

FEATURE HEATHER DIXON | PHOTOGRAPHY DAVE BURTON



KITCHEN
Wood accents lend warmth and contrast, while the oak floor creates a lived-in finish. Units painted in Mylands Mayfair. Dark emulsion: £3.4 for 1l, Upside Down Design. Try Chic. Chiquette white wall tiles, £52.66sq m, Topps Tiles

NEW BUILD
HOME TRUTHS
THE PROPERTY
Detached country house, built in 2004
LOCATION North Yorkshire
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, boot room, utility, office, six bedrooms (two en suite), family bathroom, dressing room
RENTED SINCE 2010
PREVIOUS HOME
'Before moving here, we lived in a four-bedroom detached house nearby,' says Georgie.



SITTING ROOM
This striking space is furnished with sofas, cabinets and tables handed down from both sides of the family. 'It was my mother-in-law's idea to create a table from the urns and glass,' says Georgie. Walls painted in Farrow & Ball Archive Print Room Yellow estate emulsion, £45 for 2.5L. Designer Paint Store

DINING AREA
The Lindsay Madden painting of Georgie's three children is one of her favourite items in the house. Feston pine fixed top dining table, £79, Dunelm, is an alternative. Try Scott LED floor lamp, £95, John Lewis. Pyers coffee table, £379, Atkin and Thyme, is similar



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GUEST ROOM
Georgie made the headboard herself in a material that matches the room screen, which she purchased from her mother, who is an antiques and fabric dealer. The Arthouse room dividers, from £89.99, Very, are similar

BATHROOM
The bath was painted to co-ordinate with the wall colour for a calming scheme. Towel rail, £10, from the Shambles in York. Patterned rug, £15, Hare & Wilde



FAVOURITE FEATURE

'I love the period details, which have been so skilfully incorporated into a new house. It's easy to forget that it was built just 14 years ago'



Growing up in a large family taught Georgie Pridden to be practical, imaginative and self-sufficient. 'If you wanted something doing you learnt to do it yourself,' she says. So when she and her husband Ben, an estate agent, and their three children, Lottie, 12, Taggie, 10, and Bertie, nine, moved into their rented stone-built country house on a Yorkshire estate, it was second nature for her to create a stylish home on a budget.

'I make my own soft furnishings, including curtains and upholstered bedheads, and I can turn my hand to most DIY projects, so that has saved us a small fortune,' says Georgie, a PR and events manager. 'I wanted to make the house personal to us, but we didn't have a lot of money to play with. I run the Newburgh Priory Christmas Fair, so I buy individual pieces of art, pottery and sculpture from there and combine them with more traditional furniture to create the balance between old and new.'

The house had been decorated in neutral colours, and Georgie's first instinct was to bring some colour and character into the high, spacious rooms. 'Having lived close by, we already knew the house well and had often visited,' she says. 'I have always loved its beautiful features, but I was keen to decorate and furnish it to our tastes.'

With three very young children and her career to juggle, Georgie found very little time for home improvements during the first few years in the house. 'I painted the kitchen units because this is the room where we spend most of our time as a family, and I wanted it to be bright and cheerful,' she says. 'The rest of the decorating developed quite slowly, but it gave me time to think about what I wanted to achieve.'

Since moving in, the kitchen has been painted twice but Georgie is particularly pleased with the current shade of blue, which gives it a fresh look. 'It's tempting to go down the road of country or period style because of the design of the house,'

she says. 'But it's still a modern home and I wanted to introduce a contemporary style.'

The furniture has heavily influenced some of the rooms, particularly the sitting room where sofas, rugs, photographs and traditional paintings have been handed down from both sides of the family. In the kitchen's dining area, Georgie has combined family heirlooms with a sale-item dining table and retro coffee table, which she bought for just a few pounds from a local shop. 'You have to think twice when budgets are limited,' she says. 'You find creative ways of making things look lovely and homely without spending a fortune.'

The Priddens' house is as welcoming on the outside as it is on the inside, and visitors will often be greeted by a small menagerie of animals roaming the gardens – including dogs, cats and chickens. 'Our two Pekin chickens are particularly adventurous and on occasion have been found roaming in the house,' says Georgie. 'We certainly do embrace our life in the country.'

