



SWEET harmony

Charlotte Findlater on how this home renovation in the Lake District really taps into her company's approach to design

At Charlotte Findlater Design, we redefine the essence of design, transcending the conventional roles of mere architects and interior design to become what we like to call 'artisans of ambiance'. Our philosophy is rooted in the harmonisation of the simplicity of natural and organic elements with a rigorous attention to detail. This synthesis goes beyond aesthetic appeal, aiming to create environments that resonate emotionally and leave a lasting impact on all who experience them.

The breathtaking location of this property was not being taken full advantage of inside – the rooms were dark, all orientated to face away from the Lake and mountain scenery. The kitchen comprised of a small room, leading off from this was a small dining space that had a bay window and on from this two

further small rooms used as overspill for kitchen storage and a utility area.

Working for our existing client meant that we had established a great relationship in which they fully trusted our vision and expertise. We proposed to knock all the spaces together in order to create one large light space that would incorporate a fabulous cooks kitchen, custom Oak seating in the bay window, garden room and the most divine laundry room.

Our starting point was the structural elements. Walls needed to be removed and a large section of external wall too so as to insert large bi-fold doors allowing the space to be opened up throughout the summer months. Beyond the bi-fold doors we created a new patio with steps leading down onto the main terrace.

MATERIALS AND COLOURS

Taking our cue from the colours within the terracotta floor tiles, we created custom colours for the shaker style cabinetry, a wonderfully soft buttermilk and a dark khaki green. The worktop on the island is Copper, which will further patina with age and use. The green slate worktops around the sink and in the laundry room are from a local quarry, they have the most fantastic natural patterns which evoke the movement of the waves of the lake or the mimicry of the mountain ranges that can be seen from all the windows. A darker local slate was used for the hearth on the fireplace and mantle above which nods to the anthracite of the fabulous sectional radiators and the Bang and Olufsen speakers. We further incorporated the darker slate into the two large larder cupboards as two shelves, allowing for the natural cool temperature

of food storage. As a further nod to the past we chose to incorporate a wall hung plate rack to house the family's crockery keeping it all visually to hand. The tiles are all handmade in a rich nutty brown colour; the laundry room in a cherry red.

Upon opening the door to the laundry room you are immediately greeted by a rich colour palette of berry pinks on the tiles, we have taken this colour onto the ceiling creating an unexpected moment. A softer shade of plasterboard pink was selected for the walls.

We like to incorporate elements of fun into our designs, so we opted for a new fabric that has rows of various vegetables including radish, onion and carrots, further complementing and uniting the colour palette and evoking a 'grow your own' feeling which ties into the farmhouse kitchen brief.

SUSTAINABILITY AT THE CORE

The styling of the space seeks to connect the design to the past and elevate an abundance of natural materials including those which were found within the breathtaking gardens of the property. Stone, wood and feathers washed up on the shoreline have all been incorporated, highlighting the natural beauty of each piece, providing a connection to nature. Aligning with our ethos of both Biophilic design and Salutogenic design, we know that exposure to nature reduces anger, fear and stress. A cornerstone of our ethos is our dedication to sustainability and eco-friendliness. This commitment is vividly brought to life through our sourcing of reclaimed and natural materials introducing a wealth of eco-conscious elegance into our projects. 🌿

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