

WEEK IN WEEK OUT



Kate working in her studio. She sells her jewellery online from her website or takes bespoke commissions – her clients have included *Grazia*

completely rewired and re-plumbed to take the state-of-the-art eco technology. This included insulation of the outside walls and floors, as well as a special heat-recovery system that takes damp air out of the kitchen and bathroom and converts it into dry air for the upstairs bedrooms.

Downstairs, beneath the combination plywood and larch floor, is under-floor heating. Kate and Oliver also moved rooms around to create a larger bathroom and utility room, and the existing garage became the kitchen. Large picture windows were installed to make the most of the light.

Today, the house is unrecognisable from when they bought it three years ago. The outside has been clad in sweet chestnut for an instant style update, and inside, the combination of rough and pretty makes for an unusual but chic look. Kate, a jewellery designer, loves texture, pattern and colour, and all three can be found throughout the house in bright cushions, chandeliers and DIY pieces that are a contrast to the wooden panelling on the walls and kitchen units.

'It's a pretty eclectic look,' admits Kate. 'It's a bit like my jewellery, where I take old pieces and give them a contemporary edge. Here, I bought some old chairs and reupholstered them, and I took a chest of drawers and wallpapered the insides to make shelving.'

Before this house, Kate lived in Oliver's former bachelor pad. 'Which was much more masculine with not a lot of colour,' says Kate. So this is very different, then? 'Yes, but he's happy for me to explode,' she laughs. Which is only fair when you've got to live with a kitchen tap pump! ■

For Kate's jewellery, visit www.katieuweiner.com



Above: in the bedroom, old wooden floorboards from a reclamation yard extend up over the bed (which Oliver made) for a canopy-like effect. The chandeliers are antique. The square cushions are from Plumo (www.plumo.com), while the bird cushion is by Maria Tilyard (01273 676659)



Left: Kate has done the old and new look with style in the bathroom. The gold-coloured vintage mirror, picked up at a local car boot sale, and the antique French cupboards are a pretty contrast to the modern basin