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MARCH
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Plan your dream home

CREATE THE INTERIOR LOOK YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED

Georgian
cottage

Revamped
coastal home

City
apartment

Irish
country house

Victorian
semi

COTTAGE CORE

Easy-going and cosy sum up this delightfully rustic living space perfectly

WORDS JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY JONATHAN BOND

PROJECT DETAILS

DESIGNER

Alice Leigh of
Alice Leigh Design
(aliceleigh.co.uk)

PROPERTY

A five-bedroom
17th-century cottage

WORK Decorating
and furnishing as
part of a wider
brief to update the
whole property

LOCATION

Surrey

A cottage not far from London became the ideal weekend bolthole for the owner and her two children but needed a decorating update. A mutual friend recommended designer Alice Leigh. 'Our brief was for a relaxing refuge from city life,' says Alice.

1 STARTING POINT

The owner had already sought advice from a Farrow & Ball colour consultant and chosen Cromarty for the room. 'It's a warm blue-grey that complements the natural light that spills through the window,' says Alice. 'We took the shade into consideration along with the garden view and original fireplace with its gorgeous wood mantel, leading to a scheme of blue and earthy tones.'

2 PATTERN BALANCE

A plush blue velvet armchair pairs with a neutral herringbone wool sofa while the lampshade's delicate print contrasts with the bold striped ottoman. 'Starting with a statement fabric with a mix of colours took the scheme forward,' Alice explains. 'The blue in the stripes repeats in a pair of Moroccan cushions with a touch of burnt orange, while the framed textile above has less of the blue but more of the earthy colours.'

3 FURNITURE ARRANGEMENT

A rug anchors the room while the chaise section of the sofa creates a natural divider from the lobby that has doors to the garden. However, the open space also needed to feel welcoming from all angles. 'The blue armchair is positioned to allow the occupant to interact with someone in the kitchen-dining room,' says Alice. 'Placing the handcrafted turned side table next to it makes an intriguing piece that catches the eye.'

4 FINAL TOUCHES

Low lighting, artisan pieces and rustic textures draw the cosy, casual feeling together. 'This is a good size room that feels like a snug,' says Alice. 'I like that you might walk past and think, this looks like a comfy place to hang out.'

FAMILY FRIENDLY

'As there's also a separate formal sitting room, this space is for the children and the dog to spill into from the nearby kitchen-diner,' says Alice.

Walls in Cromarty, Farrow & Ball. **Bespoke sofa** upholstered in de Le Cuona's Huckleberry in Nougat; **bespoke armchair** upholstered in GP & J Baker's Vintage Velvet in Indigo; **bespoke ottoman** upholstered in Madeaux's Jajim 02 in Camel, all Alice Leigh Design. **Rattan chair**, Zara Home. **Bespoke lampshade** made with Cypress Linen in Cocoa, Howe London. **Brass floor lamp**, Paolo Moschino. **Turned side table**, Galvin Brothers. **Jute rug**, Alternative Flooring. **Framed textile**, Lrnce