



REGENCY HOME

Refined COUNTRY

A magnificent 19th-century property has been expertly reworked to create an inviting home that respects its historical roots while lending itself perfectly to modern family life

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CONSERVATORY

Formerly L-shaped, the conservatory (above) was squared off to make better use of the space. Its relatively modern interior (above right) reflects the fact that it is not original to the Regency house. Double doors lead onto the large terrace (above), which offers separate dining and

seating areas from which to enjoy the views down to the river.

Similar planters. Geo Cube planter, from £67. Capital Garden Products, 01580 201092, capital-garden.com. **Similar firepit.** Celeste 83, £195, firepitsuk.co.uk. (Interior) **Similar trunks.** Mackenzie Cabin trunk, £950; **Hamilton table lamps.**

£195 each; all Andrew Martin, 020 7225 5100, andrewmartin.co.uk.

POOL HOUSE

The landscaping of the garden created space for a new pool house (right), the exterior of which is based on a traditional barn style. Sean's passion for fly fishing is well

served by the River Test (far right), which runs through the grounds.

Pool house. The English Joinery Company, 01722 711401, theenglishjoinerycompany.com. **Similar loungers.** Cuba lounger, £325, Wovenhill, 01789 741935, wovenhill.co.uk. **Garden design.** New Forest Garden Design, 07791 162260, newforestgardendesign.co.uk.





ENTRANCE HALL

"Stephanie has a real talent when it comes to flooring," says Sean. "The rugs used in the old part of the house (left) are mostly Persian antiques." **Bespoke console table**, designed by Stephanie Dunning Interior Design, 01722 710608, stephaniedunninginteriordesign.com. **For a similar runner**, try Farnham Antique Carpets, 01252 851215, farnhamantiquecarpets.com.

SITTING ROOM

As this room (above) is part of the original Regency building, Sean and Kim asked for it to be decorated in a more traditional style. **Venetian Damask wallpaper** in Flax, £84m, Lewis & Wood, 01453 878517, lewisandwood.co.uk. **Monroe occasional table**, £2,200, Justin Van Breda, 020 7349 7089, j-v-b.com. **Tondo circular mirror**, £1,578; **Leaf two-arm wall light**, £408; both Richard Taylor Designs, 020 7351 2567, richardtaylor designs.co.uk.



No matter how beautiful your home or how idyllic its setting, there comes a time in the life-span of a property when rooms no longer function as intended, or the connection between spaces is wrong. That is the situation in which Kim and Sean Parrott found themselves after living in their Regency house in Stockbridge, in Hampshire's Test Valley, for seven years.

Sean, a private investor, explains: "Dating back to 1808, this was originally the country house of the sitting MP. The previous owner lived here for thirty years and, when we moved in, the house hadn't been touched for ages. The kitchen was cut in two by a chimney running through it, so we removed this and knocked through some rooms to make a bigger space. We also made the Lodge (a wing that had been added later) liveable and decorated our sons' rooms, but did little apart from that."

Eventually, three years ago, the moment was right to tackle the house and garden, so they called interior designer Stephanie

Dunning. "I'd known Stephanie for a while, from her commercial developments and through an architect colleague," says Sean. "She's very talented and had a feel for the kind of country house we wanted. She also has good spatial awareness, which was essential, as we knew we needed to reconfigure the layout; we just weren't sure how."

"The first thing I noticed was the lack of a proper entrance," Stephanie says. "The family and visitors barely used the front door; instead, they came in through the back and directly into the kitchen, which did not give the impression a house of this size should."

Stephanie had a half-glazed extension built outside the kitchen, on what was a rather dank terrace where the family kept their bikes. "It's a light entrance that's improved the flow of the house, while enhancing its solidity by linking it with the Lodge," says Sean. "Now, when we have guests in the Lodge, they can come and go without disturbing us."

The other issue Stephanie solved was a redundant walkway between the dining room



and the conservatory at the back of house. The conservatory was L-shaped and wrapped around the sitting room, but the shorter end was not used. Stephanie blocked this up, squaring off the shape, and turned the former passage into a wine cellar, appropriately accessed from the dining room.

The largest structural change, however, was the reworking of the main bedroom, dressing room and bathroom. When the couple first moved in, they had converted two of the eight bedrooms into dressing rooms, but by the time Stephanie set to work, these had spilled over into other spaces and Kim, chief operating officer of an asset management company, required much more organised storage.

The main bedroom was at the end of a corridor, with a smaller bedroom next to it. Stephanie partitioned this to create the new dressing room, as well as a bathroom for the guest bedroom; she also siphoned off part of the corridor to increase the size of Kim and Sean's room. Finally, to create the best aspect for enjoying the outlook over the garden to

the valley, Stephanie raised the bed to give an unhindered view directly out of the window.

Although the garden did not come under Stephanie's aegis, she worked closely with landscaper Caroline Musselwhite, particularly on the neglected, overgrown area surrounding the pool. They hacked it all back, creating space for a pool house that incorporates a gym and showers, plus sofas, a woodburning stove and a kitchenette. "It's fantastic in summer," says Sean. "It's bright inside and there's plenty of seating. The interior is slightly more country in style, but still ties in with the house."

As well as the landscaping around the pool, Caroline added greenhouses and a kitchen garden, and there is an orchard, replete with apples and pears. "Now the garden all links together, like the house," says Sean. "There are updates to be done in the future, such as the kitchen, but for the moment we're enjoying our home. It's clearly a country house, but its not too traditional or twee. We spend a lot of time at our London house, so when we're here we really like to feel we're in the countryside."

KITCHEN-BREAKFAST ROOM

"We wanted the island (above) as the central point for cooking and eating and the lights help the ambience," says Sean, who designed the pendants and had them made by an independent manufacturer in Scotland. **Similar pendant shades.** Nordlux Funk 22 semi-opaque ceiling pendant in Deep Blue, £44.99, Lyco, 0843 317 7820, lyco.co.uk.

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DINING ROOM

As a glazed door is the only source of natural light entering this space (above), Stephanie used mirrored glass to line the alcoves either side of the fireplace to create a more open feel. The striped chair fabric brings traditional notes of deep red to the scheme, while abstract oil paintings add a modern touch. **Chairs** in Springhouse Stripe in Black, £68m, Ralph Lauren Home, 020 7535 4600, ralphlaurenhome.com. **The Edinburgh fire surround in**

statuary marble, £2,820, Chesneys, 020 7627 1410, chesneys.co.uk. **Painting** (above fireplace) by Chloe Lamb, Josie Eastwood Fine Art, 01962 776677, josieeastwood.com.

WINE CELLAR

Walls painted in grey-blue (right) carry through from the dining room to this new space, which was created from a redundant passage. **Walls** in Down Pipe, Estate Emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com.





GUEST BEDROOM

This scheme (above) was designed with Kim's mother very much in mind. She lives overseas, so this room, which has an adjoining bathroom, is her home from home when she comes to stay. **Similar wallpaper**, La Chasse, £46.50 a roll, Marvic, 020 8993 0191, marvictextiles.co.uk. **Gustavian medium bench**, £739; **Provence chair**, £1,165; both Chelsea Textiles, 020 7584 5544, chelseatextiles.com. **Monochrome X lamp** with shade, £155, Oka, 0844 815 7380, okadirect.com.

JONATHAN'S ROOM

The couple's teenage son chose this colour for the walls (left); its blue-green hue is a perfect foil for the garden and river views. **Walls** in Lulworth Blue, Estate Emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com. **Similar desk**, Gerton/Finnvard table, £120; **similar chair**, Jules desk chair, £25; both Ikea, 020 3645 0000, ikea.com/gb.

MAIN BEDROOM

Space was skilfully reconfigured to enlarge Kim and Sean's bedroom (opposite page, above right) and add a dressing room. The bed, with its comfortable oversized headboard, is set high to allow a clear view through the window. **Plain Stripe wallpaper** ST1149, £62 a roll, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141 farrow-ball.com. **Similar cushions**, Wildflower Vine cushion C463, £183, Chelsea Textiles, 020 7584 5544, chelseatextiles.com.

DRESSING ROOM

Careful planning went into the layout of this bespoke room (right), to ensure sufficient hanging space for clothes, as well as storage for shoes and accessories.

BATHROOM

To make this room (far right) fit for purpose, it had to be completely rebuilt; the walls, floor and ceiling are new. **Empire bath on plinth**, from £6,300, The Water Monopoly, 020 7624 2636, thewatermonopoly.com. **Bath Limestone Artisan Aged Finish floor tiles**, from £201.60/sq m, Artisans of Devides, 01380 720007, artisansofdivides.com.

