

property

ON SUNDAY



CASHING IN AS A LANDLADY

Former EastEnders gangster's moll Charlotte Avery makes a killing with her investment Pages 2&3

Cartland's pink hideaway

Dame Barbara's romantic former cottage is for sale Page 14

Poptastic Frinton

Why DJ Mike Read is in a spin over seaside property Pages 6&7

Hooray for Henley

The £3.25m superhome on the river Pages 18&19

The interior designer who has given free rein to her love for the countryside and antiques

Country classicals



DARREN JACK

OPEN SPACES: Henriette, inset, reconfigured two cottages, left, to create a gorgeous home. The kitchen doubles as the breakfast room and dining area



Fiona Fullerton's
Design Solutions

The trouble with living close to Swindon is that you really don't want to admit to it. But as with many ugly, urban conurbations, the surrounding villages and countryside are simply gorgeous.

The village of Bourton, seven miles east of Swindon, is no exception. It has no shop or pub, but is only five minutes from a 24-hour Sainsbury's and, for smart shopping, Marlborough is 20 minutes to the south.

Interior designer Henriette von Stockhausen, 32, bought two adjacent cottages in Bourton last June and proceeded to knock them together by more or less gutting them.

'They had already been knocked through but not properly opened up, so I moved the staircase and reconfigured the space, especially upstairs. I put in new bathrooms and opened up the kitchen,' says Henriette. 'I don't think the house had been touched for 50 years.'

The result is a fabulous home designed in a classical way, which you could move straight into. 'I know what family living in the country is like, so I know what people expect.'

Originally from Munich, Henriette trained at the Inchbald School of Design and then worked with star designer Stephen Ryan for three years. She then set up her company VSP Interiors with her business partner Jane Petti. Together they are currently working on a large flat in Earl's Court, West London, and a chalet and spa in Switzerland.

Describing her personal style as 'classical country', Henriette, who is recently divorced, is more often required to design ultra-modern homes



ELEGANCE: The main drawing room, left, is a fusion of cream with brown highlights, while antlers adorn the walls of the hall, below



for her clients. However, here in her own home one can see her love of the countryside and classical pieces.

There are beautiful antiques ('some are from my grandfather and some I

like to collect'), fine paintings and strict symmetry. Polo sticks hang in the hall alongside her riding hats and boots, and a clutch of antlers adorns the walls.

The main drawing room is an utterly gorgeous fusion of cream sofas, walls and carpets, with brown highlights

such as the carved panels on either side of the fireplace from Stephen Ryan, which are copies of Spanish leather panels, and the two velvet stools which double as a coffee table.

The stone fireplace is old but new to the house, and the pair of stone lamps are in fact pots from a garden centre that Henriette had converted with light fittings.

covered chairs in the kitchen that doubles as a breakfast room and dining area. A chandelier hangs over the table, providing the right amount of elegance.

Upstairs there are four delicious bedrooms where all the fabrics are by Ralph Lauren and the soothing wall colours are Farrow & Ball. In one, her father's old trunk exactly replicates the striped blue fabric falling from the corona above the bed.

It seems a shame to leave such a lovely house with its stunning views across fields, but Henriette is ready for the next project.

For anyone relocating to the Wiltshire/Oxfordshire borders who needs to be within sneezing distance of the M4 (whisper it; the Swindon exit) this is the perfect home.

● *St Aubins in Bourton is on the market for £635,000 with Knight Frank, 01488 682726.*

My guide to getting the look...

Henriette has some lovely monogrammed linen cushions and faux-fur cushions in the sitting room. Oka (0870 160 6002) has the monogrammed ones, right, for £24, and faux fur for £17.50.

If you like the panels on either side of the fireplace, they came from Stephen Ryan's

showroom in Holland Park, which is a treasure trove of yummy things. Call 020 7243 0864 or go to www.stephenryan.com. The Pier (0845 609 1234) has the Chen hand-painted panel for £75, far left, which is quite similar. The store also has an oriental lantern for £35. Laura Ashley (0871



230 2301) has chandeliers, above, from £90, similar to the one in the dining room.

