



SUMMER SWEET

This Oxfordshire manor celebrates the country. Interior designer Katharine Pooley weaves her charm in with a warm and delicious colour palette

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THE DESIGNER

An innate sense of adventure has shaped Katherine Pooley's design philosophy. The contents of her eponymous boutique on London's Walton Street reveal rare and exquisite objects from distant corners of the globe. The accessories and furnishings are simple yet sumptuous, many displaying Oriental motifs. Quality and craftsmanship are evident in every item.



Vibrant notes of terracotta and orange create an ambience that spells energy and loads of smiles. Oh, and don't miss those lovely yellow sunflowers!

The Buddha figurines in the living room were picked up by the owners during their travels abroad. Overall, the space looks cushy.



Summers in the country...now that's a storybook dream we've all grown up with — especially urban-bred, city slickers, like me. The word 'country' almost immediately has my imagination racing...past the smoke, rush, skyscrapers, to reach a place replete with green meadows; grazing wild horses; uninterrupted bike rides along the countryside; the quintessential country home with its warm earthiness; the sense of belonging and the simplicity of life. Oh! I could go on!

So, what do I think about this sprawling manor tucked in this sleepy Oxfordshire countryside? It feels like a space far removed from the reality we're so familiar with. It's far from the excesses of city life. It's like a breath of fresh air — liberating, relaxed... and did I mention, magical!

What's interesting about this country home is that the space was originally the stables and coach house for a nearby manor home. It was in 1977, that the property was finally converted into a home. More recently, London-based interior designer Katharine Pooley was commissioned the task of giving the home a completely new look and feel.

Katharine embraced the project of overhauling the dated interiors with the aim of creating the best of London whilst keeping the look in sync with the country environment. The finished home exudes unmistakable luxury, and yet with its neutral schemes — peppered ever so often with a dash of exuberant colour — manages to capture the essence of the countryside beautifully.





The dining area uses a profusion of dark wood and looks dressed for a king's feast. We also love the light and airy kitchen. Don't miss the pretty window displays.





The bedrooms upstairs have been dressed in soft pastels in an attempt to create a peaceful atmosphere. So beautifully country!



Katharine has created a consistent, sophisticated style using a couple of principle colours throughout the property. To maintain a sense of cohesiveness, she has added contrasting identities into each room with coloured accessories and unique objets d'arts. The living room room in particular stirred my senses, with its refreshing colour palette. Teracotta and orange dominates this space, adding a wave of energy and fun!

This 'project transformation' is a marriage of wonderful contrasts — of design, style and cultures. And Katherine has accomplished it with finesse and immaculate perfection. Not to mention the colour combinations that will put any one at ease and calm their senses. We're going with a big thumbs up. [GQ](#)