

25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

LIVE LIFE ALFRESCO

Embrace indoor-outdoor spaces

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WITH A TWIST**
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finally starting the build. 'The property was quite sprawling and its space and room layout didn't work for our family of six,' explains Rachel. The plan was to achieve openness and a greater feeling of space with high ceilings and as much natural light as possible. 'We completely reconfigured the interior layout by building a main bedroom, bathroom and dressing room off the mezzanine balcony and raised the roof above one of the living spaces to create two more bedrooms and a bathroom for the younger children,' says Rachel.

The biggest transformation the couple brought about was the demolition of the existing kitchen and utility room. 'This allowed us to create another floor and make the most of the fabulous views across open countryside,' says Rachel. 'It also

meant a very high ceiling could be built in the kitchen-diner with a fireplace and snug area at one end. The kitchen is such a fabulous space. It is literally the heart of this house and the area where most of our family life goes on.'

Inspired by her experience of sourcing beautiful items for her home, Rachel has now set up her own online studio. 'Friends often ask me for help with their projects,' she explains. 'I enjoy being able to find furniture and accessories for them and to help visualise their finished scheme.'

Rachel's passion for interiors is evident throughout her house. 'I've absolutely loved all aspects of the design,' she says. 'I think taste is such a personal thing and I'm constantly surprised and proud of the response our home receives.' 25



BATHROOM

Rachel has chosen a rug that picks out the colour of the inlay chest of drawers.

Try Emily's House for a similar Moroccan rug, from £645. Chest of drawers, £1,395, Graham and Green, has the same look. The Tay cast-iron skirted bath, £3,500, Drummonds is a close match