

A place in the country

Interior designer **Amelia Wilson** opens the door on her 1756 cottage and explains how blending styles – such as vintage, contemporary and industrial – creates character, makes your scheme unique and can prevent a room from quickly becoming outdated



HAVE A BUTCHERS

The focal point is the butcher's block on top of the island. I wanted a block 100mm thick like an authentic butchers block so had it custom made. I treated it with Osmo oil but use it as a working surface so that it will naturally age over time. This island has transformed the kitchen into a kitchen, dining room, work place and the social hub of the house. People want their homes to look unique and not straight off the pages of a catalogue and that's what I've tried to achieve with my own home and what I try and give all my customers.

The heart of the home

'Although the original kitchen was large there was poor use of space, limited work surface, and it was very dark. I knew I could correct this with a better layout and felt there was huge potential to create something in keeping with the age of the property but a little funky. I chose a simple shaker style kitchen from a range called 1909, which was supplied and fitted by the Cockermouth Kitchen Company. I went for a striking colour scheme of deep red, black and ivory and added the industrial elements to give it a little edge.'



CLOSER LOOK

- The oversized industrial pendant lights and adjustable height stools give it that industrial touch. Both are from Industville.



- I created the localised time zone clock above the oak mantelpiece using a set of clocks I bought in Homesense.

'The Lurpak breakfast set is from a second hand shop in Greenwich, where I lived for a while'





SHOP LOCAL

- The Melt candle is from Lily & Co. in Cockermouth
- The parafin lamp was made by Mel Nicholson, Egremont
- The Leaf pottery dishes are from an artisan pottery in Cockermouth called Bitter Beck Pottery
- The Pheasant is from White & Green in Cockermouth
- The bellows, irons and teapot are from Oxfam in Keswick
- The coffee table is from John Young in Keswick



Tip

LIVING WELL

I always ask a customer how they will use a room before we discuss style or colour as you won't use a room that's not fit for purpose no matter how pretty it is. I wanted to create a large social space where everyone could sit comfortably when we had visitors, and talk or play board games without the distraction of a television. The position of the house means it can be quite dark inside so I've kept the walls downstairs light and added recessed spotlights to make it as bright as possible. Autumn is the time of year I think the Lakes is at its most beautiful so I have used a range of autumnal colours and textured fabrics to add warmth.



Dulux Soft Truffle was used in the inglenook fireplace and Dulux Ivory was used on the walls



FINAL TOUCH

There is nothing more luxurious than made-to-measure curtains using good quality fabric, but they are an investment so be sure you are not going to want to change them in a year or two. I designed the décor in our living room to last using good quality Moon fabrics and authentic Persian rugs throughout the downstairs to create a scheme that flowed. I spent less on accessories so I can afford to replace these when I see new ones I like. It's an interior designers dream to work with customers who only want the best, but I love bargain hunting and some of my favourite commissions have been on a tight budget.

BACK TO BASICS

When we knocked a hole in the chimney breast we found the original fireplace which we sandblasted to restore it, replacing the broken pieces with new ones from Bigrigg quarry. We also brought in a company called Back from Black to restore the original beams which had been gloss painted.

For more advice from Amelia on how to achieve a look check out her blog www.mrsu.co.uk

Amelia Wilson Interiors Ltd

01946 861194

07712 079 728

www.ameliawilsoninteriors.co.uk

