

# GRAND DESIGNS

DREAM HOMES FOR THE REAL WORLD

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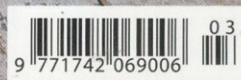
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# 2

ANN KING'S 16TH CENTURY HAMPSHIRE HOME WAS BEAUTIFUL BUT TERRIBLY DISJOINTED UNTIL HER SON, ARCHITECT JEREMY KING, RECREATED IT AS A MUCH MORE FLUID AND WELCOMING FAMILY SPACE

## CONTEXTUAL

Words by **Cathy Strongman** Photographs by **Jefferson Smith**



*Clockwise from this picture, the new extension butts up against the listed house on the garden side; Jeremy next to the large sliding doors; a view of the extension and timber-framed house from the driveway; the new kitchen opens on to the garden*





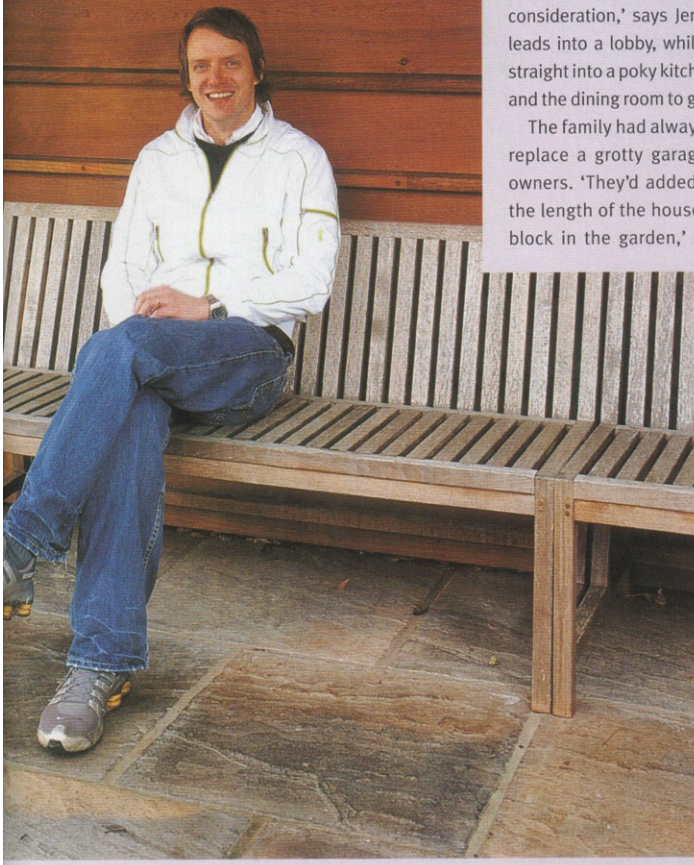
**C**onstructed in 1573 as two workers' cottages, Ann King's timber-framed house was originally long and narrow with dark, low-ceilinged rooms which led directly into each other. Cosy, yes, but impractical with four grown-up children and a penchant for entertaining guests.

Thanks to Ann's son, architect Jeremy King, the house has been transformed – a sizeable extension (75 sq m) in 2003 has provided a bright and airy kitchen/living space, while a new entrance lobby has completely changed the way the house is navigated. 'Reconfiguring the space was a major consideration,' says Jeremy. 'The main door now leads into a lobby, while previously visitors came straight into a poky kitchen and had to go through it and the dining room to get to the living area.'

The family had always planned an extension to replace a grotty garage tacked on by previous owners. 'They'd added a glass corridor running the length of the house at the back and a stable block in the garden,' says Jeremy. 'The garage

had been cobbled together from the building materials they had left over. We kept the glass passageway, attaching it to the lobby to create a central corridor, but we completely demolished the garage.'

The Kings received planning permission in 1989 but it wasn't until 12 years later that the project got off the ground. Although the planning permission only needed to be amended, as it had been renewed every five years, the buildings status as Grade II listed meant Jeremy had to repeatedly consult both the planning and conservation officer. 'The officers' concern was that the extension should pay homage to the earlier building,' says Jeremy and, with this in mind, the Kings' extension is slightly lower than the rest of the house, jutting out at an obtuse angle to create a lopsided 'L' around the back garden. The inspiration came from the local vernacular buildings. 'I wanted to echo the elegance of the barn structure, its use of few materials and its beautiful simplicity,' says Jeremy. ▶





## GRAND GUIDE: EXTENSIONS



Clockwise from top, a view from the dining room in the old house to the sunny kitchen; patio doors slide back to connect indoors and outdoors; Ann's Seventies-inspired kitchen; the extension is clad in untreated western red cedar



An untreated monolithic skin of western red cedar cloaks the outward facing side of the extension, while the garden side is dominated by full-length glass doors which open out onto a patio. The conical roof adds a quirky individualism.

While Jeremy led the way on the external appearance, Ann was very prescriptive about the interior design and layout. 'Mum always had in mind a picture of a dream kitchen that she'd ripped out of a magazine in the Seventies,' says Jeremy. 'We tried to do a contemporary version of this, incorporating all her old appliances and a few modern touches.'

With its Scandinavian simplicity and muted tones, the space looks fitting, yet fresh. It shouts, but not too loudly. 'With both the interiors and exteriors, it was all about treading a fine line between being contextual and yet also contemporary,' says Jeremy. The final cost of £135,000 and the seven months of builders caravanning in the paddock was definitely worth it. 'Mum loves it,' he says. 'She spends all her time in the new space, so much so that the rest of the house is a bit redundant.' ■

Jeremy King (020 8896 1195)

