

Behind the design Susie Atkinson

The project

This is the kitchen of a new-build barn in the grounds of a family home in north Hampshire. It's positioned beneath an ancient oak and close to a river

THE aim was to create a multifunctional space that could either accommodate 20 people for dinner or be somewhere for the owners' children to entertain friends. Constructed in green oak with roof tiles salvaged from a farm building in Newbury, the barn includes a fully functioning kitchen, sitting area, dining area and gym, where the family watch films and play table football, as well as cook meals on the indoor barbecue. The focal point is a large fireplace constructed with reclaimed bricks, which is open on two sides, serving both the dining and sitting areas. The kitchen comprises oak cupboards and a honed, hammered-granite work surface. The floors are made from wide, reclaimed oak planks that add a textured, lived-in feel to the space.

Oscar Norton



Designer profile

Training and experience

After training at the Inchbald School of Design, Susie worked for the designer Chester Jones (*Designer's room*, November 5, 2014) who had recently left Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler and set up his own design studio, before launching her own business based in west London

Past projects Susie has worked on a variety of residential projects as well as Dean Street Townhouse, Babington House, Soho House Berlin and Farleigh House (the home of Bath Rugby Club). More recent commissions include The Queen's Tennis Club and Beaverbrook, a new hotel in Cherkley Court, the former Surrey home of Lord Beaverbrook

Contact Block 1, Thames Wharf Studios, Rainville Road, London W6 (www.susieatkinson.com; 020-7835 5525)



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Things I couldn't live without

1 My collection of shells gathered on family holidays

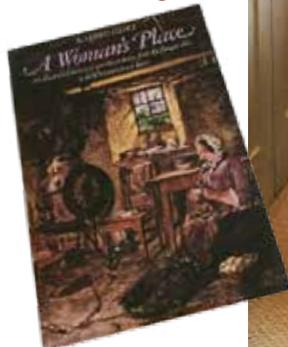
2 The first painting my husband bought me, *Mug & Mat* by Daphne McClure

3 My one and only school prize, which I love and hate in equal measure, called *A Woman's Place*

4 My grandmother's deep-buttoned Victorian nursing chair

5 *Bob*, a large bronze sculpture made by my son

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Interior design The designer's room

Susie Atkinson was one of the creative forces behind some of the most talked about interiors in the Soho House group, including Babington House and Soho House, Berlin. Her ability to combine the best of both classic and contemporary has since gained her a number of high-profile commercial and residential commissions



How to get the look

Furniture

For a passable reproduction of the classic steel bar stool designed by Xavier Pauchard, visit www.milandirect.co.uk, where the Premium bar stool is currently available for £65. It's also worth having a look in the Heal's flagship store at 196, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (020-7636 1666; www.heals.com)

Lighting

Pooky Lighting sells more than 50 styles of pendant lamps perfectly suited to kitchens. Visit its showroom at 25, Chelsea Wharf, 15, Lots Road, London SW10 (020-7351 3003; <http://pooky.com>).

Porta Romana, 6-8, Chelsea Harbour Drive, London SW10 (020-7352 0440; www.portaromana.co.uk) sells a range of table lamps in sculptural shapes

Shelving

Open shelving is a great addition to a kitchen and Jim Lawrence (01473 826685; www.jim-lawrence.co.uk) sells wall brackets that are perfectly suited to the purpose ➤