

COUNTRY HOMES & INTERIORS

Good times start here

- A CONVERTED CHAPEL, CUTE COTTAGES & A RESTORED BARN
- PAPER CRAFTS & GINGERBREAD HOUSES
- A HIGHLAND FEAST FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE

DECOR WITH
ADDED SPICE
WARM TONES
FOR WINTER

'WINTER ON THE FARM IS BREATHTAKING'
The Yorkshire Shepherdess, Amanda Owen, shares the magic of the season

MUST-VISIT
GARDENS
UNSUNG STARS
TO SEE THIS YEAR

INSPIRATION COMES HOME

Chef's tables –
the new islands

Dreamy en-suite
bathrooms

Remodel
your kitchen

STYLE STORY

GOING TO THE CHAPEL

Jack has restored his historic home with rich greens and curated finds



1 ELEGANT DETAILING Red glass bauble, £6.99, Dobbies
2 NEW COLOURWAY Heritage Green Italian side plate, £18, Spode
3 TRANQUIL GREEN Nar pure matt, £60 for 2.5ltr, Birdie Fortescue
at Fenwick and Tilbrook 4 PRETTY PENDANT Hadano pendant
in natural brass and wavy glass, £72, Dar Lighting 5 GRACEFUL SHAPE
Emma Azure blossom temple jar, £110, Casa By JJ 6 SEPIATONES

Journal wallpaper, £438 a roll, Andrew Martin 7 BLOCK PRINT Jade
inverse palm grove linen frilly cushion, £105, Alice Palmer
8 TRADITIONAL WARMTH Milano Beatrix cast iron radiator, from
£759.95, BestHeating 9 RUSTIC AND REALISTIC Blueberry cinnamon
garland, £20, Habitat 10 CLASSIC CURVES Alwinton armchair in Ferns
Toile Terracotta, £3,288, RHS Botanicals at Sofas and Stuff

FEATURE ALICE HUMPHREYS



COUNTRY HOMES & INTERIORS

NORFOLK CHAPEL

EXTERIOR Jack's love of greenery is as evident on the outside of the property as it is on the inside, with lots of trailing plants and bright green foliage beautifully popping against the red brick walls

STAIRCASE The cast iron spiral staircase was originally from a railway station and discovered in a reclamation yard. It is covered in pots of ivy all year round, with bright red baubles and fresh flowers added for the festivities

DECK THE HALLS

Interior designer Jack Kinsey creates a warm festive welcome at his converted chapel with his signature style and a flourish of traditional charm

'We designed and made the wall of floor-to-ceiling shelves ourselves, including the secret door concealed with vintage books that leads into the adjacent snug' that leads into the adjacent snug'

LIVING AREA The coffee table was designed and made by Jack with reeded panels attached to an MDF frame and a faux marble paint finish. Coffee table finish with reeded panels, Natural wall. Wood burner, Norfolk Stoves



ivy resonates heavily with Jack Kinsey and partner Alex Walters, and not just at Christmas. 'When we bought this old chapel, it was derelict – the roof literally had ivy growing through it,' explains Jack. 'I was on a job and had some spare time to do a bit of house hunting,' he says. 'The chapel had been listed on Rightmove for 30 minutes, and I knew I wanted it.' So, after a frantic call to the agent, an offer was put forward and accepted.

Jack then returned home to explain all to Alex. Fortunately, he loved it and was on board.

Now ivy adorns the staircase, creating an evergreen statement not just for Christmas, but as a year-round fixture. That won't be a surprise to anyone who followed Jack's journey as a contestant on the 2023 series of BBC's *Interior Design Masters*, or his 800k Instagram followers, who know and love his flamboyant style. He can transform any bland space into one that oozes magical charm and historic exuberance. Hence the appeal of the chapel.

'The actual building was well constructed but had fallen into disrepair, so we fixed the roof, rewired and replumbed it, added a kitchen and new radiators, put a first floor in for bedrooms and built an extension on the back, which mirrors the chapel in a more contemporary way,' he says. But the pair held back from over-renovating to allow the period features to shine. 'An architect suggested we could squeeze in another bedroom upstairs, but it would have compromised the lofty sense of space and historic charm, so we decided not to,' Jack explains. 'What I love about the chapel is the light that floods through the beautiful old windows, which we retained. And as it is quite open plan, it makes it feel uplifting and airy.'

Everywhere, there is the sense of two creative minds joining forces. Period-style plaster moulded shelving takes pride of place around the fireplace, designed by Jack and made by Alex. In the modern extension, Jack's signature style

plays out in the form of handmade mouldings framing trompe l'oeil style murals to introduce a dash of tongue-in-cheek historic humour. Even some of the decorations are ideas made up in Jack's head and then conjured into existence. 'We didn't have a Christmas tree, just because we never really had the space to store one. But then I made this one, and it conceals down so it can easily be stored within a round footstool,' he says, pointing to the layered circles of plywood painted and decorated up to resemble a tree that hangs from the spiral staircase.

The chapel comes into its own at Christmas, when traditional ginger jars and ceramic house decorations add a festive touch to the mantelpiece and shelves. 'I'm generally quite conscious of having Christmas decorations that will last the test of time. So, we have the ceramic houses and baubles, then we mix in some more affordable pieces and natural elements, too,' says Jack.

Everywhere, there is a sense of nature with foraged foliage from the fields and lanes of rural Norfolk brought in to adorn the surfaces. 'Christmas in the chapel wouldn't be the same without foliage. It feels as natural as it would have done back in the days when people would come in here on Christmas Day and sing festive songs and carols. So, we embrace it and go all out with the foliage and the decorations and have family over. It feels like the perfect hub for Christmas.' Amen to that. Follow Jack on Instagram @jackkinsey; jackkinsey.co.uk

AT HOME WITH

OWNERS Jack Kinsey lives here with partner Alex Walters

HOUSE The property is a converted Victorian chapel and comprises an open-plan kitchen-diner/living area, an additional living room/snug, three bedrooms and a bathroom.



SNUG Traditional picture panelling and trompe l'oeil murals bring a real sense of sophistication to this cocooning space. Walls in French Gray, Farrow & Ball. For similar murals, try Wallpaper Mural

SNUG Despite being part of the new extension, this room has been tastefully decorated to fit the heritage of the chapel. Rug, La Redoute. Christmas tree candles, Dunelm. Street scene decoration, Quality Discounts



LIVING AREA A well-stocked drinks station is a must when hosting friends and family at Christmas. A few decorative festive touches complete the look. Try Cozy Christmas tree candles, £6 each, M&S

LIVING AREA A secret door leads from the open-plan living space to a snug in the extended part of the chapel. Shelving in Beverly, Farrow & Ball. For similar vintage books, try Country House Library

KITCHEN Appliances are kept in cupboards to which the pair have attached louvered doors, creating a sense of calm orderliness. Marble splashback, Neolith Worktops, Dining table and chairs, Dunelm

KITCHEN Jack's love of blue and white prevails in the kitchen, with tiles, appliances and accessories showcasing his signature style. Blue and white tiles, Tile Superstore. Accessories, Dolce & Gabbana at Smeg



LIVING AREA The vintage piano adds so much authentic charm to the room and is well played at Christmastime. For a similar vintage piano to this one, try Vinterior

LIVING AREA Jack's collection of pretty ceramic Christmas houses are a timeless addition to any country festive scheme. Ginger jars and decorative houses with candles, all Spode

JACK'S COUNTRY LIFE

SIMPLE PLEASURES 'I love looking out over a landscape of bare trees and fields that sometimes have a sprinkling of frost.'

SHOP AT 'Jarrolds - they are like the Norwich version of Harrods. Their deli is incredible and they sell stunning homeware.'

EAT AT 'Benoli in Norwich is a beautiful authentic Italian restaurant. For the festive vibes though, nothing beats a Norfolk seaside pub, such as The Victoria in Holkham.'

VISIT 'Holkham Hall at Christmas is incredibly magic - the house is transformed into a festive wonderland.'

NORFOLK CHAPEL



EXTERIOR Both the rear extension and the creation of an upper floor have been thoughtfully designed and incorporated to blend seamlessly with the existing chapel structure, for a cohesive look



GUEST BEDROOM Bespoke touches have been added throughout the house for unique charm, without a high price tag – this headboard was made from a reclaimed door. Framed prints, John Lewis

GUEST BEDROOM A rich, opulent deep green on the walls gives a luxurious, hotel-like feel. Walls in Collage Green, Crown. Bed linen, Dunelm. Radiator, BestHeating. Reindeer faux fur rug, Dunelm, is a good match

FEATURE SAHA ENSLIE
PHOTOGRAPHS MICHAEL SMITH

BEDROOM This room oozes whimsical charm with armchairs in a pretty spring design. Jack created the canopy by suspending a pole from the ceiling. Chairs and footstool, Cath Kidston. Chandelier, Sweet Pea & Willow

