



Welcome to my home

A BIT ABOUT ME

I'm Charlotte Coleman, an interior stylist and content creator. I live with my husband, Chris, and our children, William, seven, and Cecelia, four, plus our chickens and cat, Boris.

WHERE I LIVE

My home is a five-bedroom house in Wiltshire, part of which dates back to the late 1800s. We've lived here for six years and you can see more of my home on Instagram @wiltshirewonderland.

WHAT I WANTED TO CHANGE

The entire house needed work to make it liveable. The kitchen wasn't fit for purpose and the bathroom was from the 1970s – basically everything needed an update.

HOW I MADE IT MY OWN

I put in a new kitchen and bathroom plus a new roof! I love pastels so I decorated throughout with soft, sugary shades. Colourful upcycled furniture features in most rooms, too.

MY FAVOURITE PART

I love the built-in arched shelves – we made them ourselves, so they give us a sense of achievement every day. I also love being surrounded by my favourite colours when I'm cooking in the kitchen.



Feature Colette Earley Photos Kasia Fiszler



style idea
Jazz up wall lights with new lampshades and a tassel trim

'I love gallery walls! We have quite low ceilings in our house and adding pictures from the ceiling down can give the illusion of space. I get lots of my prints from Fy! and I won the neon light in a competition years ago. Sadly, it doesn't work anymore but it still looks good. The flowers are paper party plates from Meri Meri'

PASTEL PARADISE DOER-UPPER

My story

After the birth of our first child, I wanted to move back to the countryside after many years in London. I grew up in Dorset and was keen for my children to have a similar upbringing. We set our sights on rural Wiltshire. Finding our dream property took around three months, but I knew as soon as I came down the driveway that this house was for us.

It was clear from the get-go that it would need a lot of work – it was in a bit of a state. Despite this, it was easy to see past all the faults. I knew I could make it a wonderful home. The previous owners had cut a lot of corners, so we had lots to fix, like dodgy

plumbing, leaks, cracks and wiring issues. We started with the kitchen and bathrooms to make it liveable, which took about a year while tackling the rest of the rooms was an ongoing project.

When we moved, we didn't have any furniture, so we had to fill it quickly. I found lots of bargains in local charity shops and upcycled them to suit our style. I also made cushions and bedding, inspired by makers and creators I discovered on Instagram. A turning point for me was painting the front door yellow – it felt like we had put our stamp on the house for all the world to see and it set the tone for the rest of our home. There's no doubt that waking up to a room full of colour puts you in a good mood. We love our house; it's a very happy home.

MY DOPAMINE DÉCOR CELEBRATES THE power of colour

Seeing past the work that was needed, **Charlotte Coleman** had a vision for her countryside home. Six years later, her clever use of colour has transformed the space

Living room

'The walls in here needed lots of patching up before painting, as the old plaster was crumbling. We decided it was better cost-wise to treat and mend the existing walls, rather than getting it all replastered. I wanted a soft pink colour to make it feel bright during the day and cosy in the evening and this shade, Alhambra Stone by Craig & Rose, is really pretty. I love pink and green together, so I painted the door in Sung Blue by Craig & Rose. Next, we tiled the fireplace surround and hearth – it was the first time we had tried tiling, so it took longer than expected but I love the finished look. To tie in with the rest of the house, we replaced the carpet with wood-effect flooring, something we had never done before. Cutting the boards to fit along our wonky walls took a lot of planning and head scratching, but we got there in the end. The daisy rug is from George Home.'

'It was easy to see past all the faults. I knew I could make it a wonderful home.'



↑ 'I got the sideboard from a British Heart Foundation charity shop for £25 when we first moved in. I've upcycled it three times since then. I'm a bit obsessed with stripes so painting this in white and Rust-Oleum Violet Macaroon furniture paint was fun'



↑ After painting the fire surround a sunny yellow, Charlotte styled the mantelpiece with vases of dried flowers and candles in her favourite pastel shades



'The yellow sofa is from Snug and the green one is from Dunelm,' says Charlotte. 'I bought the tasselled ceiling light on Etsy'



Once upon a time the kitchen units were white, but now this room encompasses all three of Charlotte's key shades – green, yellow and pink. There's always the chance it'll evolve again. 'I've already painted the kitchen twice. I don't think my house will ever be finished,' says Charlotte



'I painted these recycled bottles and jam jars with tester pots of wall paint. The Hydrangeas are from our garden, I dry some every year'

make this
rainbow bottles p30



Charlotte keeps tableware on display in her upcycled dresser, bringing another pop of colour to the kitchen

Kitchen

'There was a DIY makeshift kitchen when we moved in, so that was the first thing that had to go. To keep costs down, we designed it all ourselves and bought the cabinets from DIY Kitchens, while we sourced the worktops separately. I really wanted colours that would complement the warm tones of the wood, so I painted the cupboards in pastel shades from Little Greene. For a seamless look, I painted the fridge using Rust-Oleum all-surface pink paint. Believe it or not, painting a fridge is quite easy to do! Just make sure you prep it properly first and use the right roller. I painted it over two-and-a-half years ago, and it still looks as good as the day I did it. To keep the worktops looking their best, we lightly sand and oil them once a year.'



'I really wanted to have a large island with plenty of space to bake. The spiralled end is repurposed from a staircase'

STEAL MY STYLE

Get Charlotte's whimsical home style with these buys



← Gingham Check cotton cushion, £10, George Home



→ Columbia Road poster, from £9.95, Desenio



← Scalloped stoneware side plate, £6, John Lewis & Partners



Wanting to introduce some pattern to the space, Charlotte went for this striped couch from SofaSofa

shop dopamine décor p28



Walls painted in Ashes of Roses by Little Greene are complemented by blush-coloured curtains and a salmon pink sofa from Swyft



Charlotte has maximised the space in the dining room with floor-to-ceiling arched shelving, painted in pale pink. It's the perfect place to show off favourite vases, books and knick-knacks



Dining/living room

'This space is the heart of the house and where we eat, play games and do homework. We added some built-in arched shelves to cover up an old door that led into the old part of the house. It had been filled with breeze blocks and looked really ugly. Just off the dining area is the living space - we tried to make the large room feel cosy by zoning the area. We have different rugs and lighting in each section. I don't like anything to match, so I picked different styles and colours for the sofas. It makes it more interesting if everything is unique. When we moved in, the floorboards were very dark, so we hired a heavy-duty sander to sand the floor and then stained it in a warmer, lighter colour to brighten the whole space up.'

This room is where the family spend most of their time. Decorated in Charlotte's signature style, with comfy furniture, bold artwork and plenty of houseplants, it's a big, bright space with different zones for eating and relaxing, so everyone can be in here together while doing different things

Master bedroom

The bedroom is a riot of dreamy hues and pretty prints that complement the heirloom four-poster bed. The bed frame is one of the most precious items in our home – it's been in my family for years,' says Charlotte. Using paint from YesColours, Charlotte added peachy-pink walls and lilac-striped floorboards after tearing up the old carpet. Originally intended to be blue stripes, Charlotte says that the lilac was a game changer. 'Painting the floorboards was a huge project, it took ages to prep and paint the stripes. Now it's finished, I can say all the hard work was worth it. I love them! I painted the walls and ceiling the same colour to make the floor stand out as the main feature.'



'The bedside table is part of a pair from eBay that I upcycled with Rust-Oleum furniture paint. The darker lines are Violet Macaroon and for the lighter colour I mixed it with white'



'Our bedroom is a calm but happy room. It puts me in a good mood every morning, especially when there's breakfast in bed!'



'The bedspread is from Secret Linen Store. We have an emperor-size bed and it's hard to get a duvet to fit but they have a lot of choice'

Bathroom

'The bathroom had carpet when we first moved in, so the first step was to get rid of that. We found a beautiful old cast-iron bath at a reclamation yard and, with a bit of TLC, it now looks amazing. I found the vintage vanity unit in a charity shop for £5 and thought it would be perfect for the bathroom, while the marble counter-top sink was a £30 bargain on eBay and the vintage mirror finished the look. We put in underfloor heating as our house is freezing in the winter and it's a luxury that was definitely worth the splurge. To finish the scheme, I chose Nudie Rudie wallpaper from Ohme Decor for some playful pattern.'



'We painted the interior of the bath with special bath enamel paint before painting the outside pink. I made a flower cloud to hang above it – a few years later and it's still as good as new'

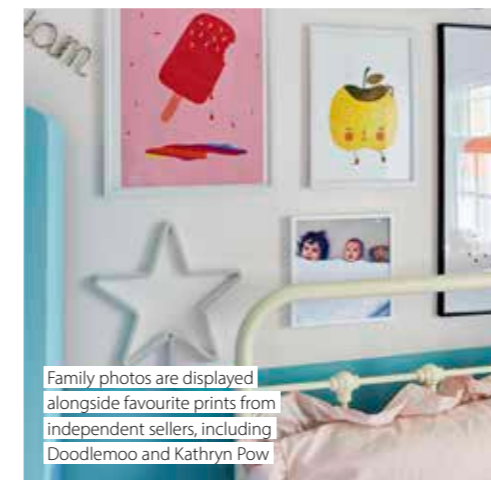


'I regularly swap my pictures around to refresh a room,' says Charlotte. A colourful new gallery wall in the bathroom is currently making her smile

How to paint ceiling stripes

Take the focal point to new heights with this stylish technique

- Choose the colours for your stripes. Bold hues like Charlotte's will command attention, whereas soft tones will have a more subtle effect. Take inspiration from other items in the room, like the carpet or a piece of furniture.
- Decide on the direction the stripes will go in. Prepare the ceiling by cleaning and wiping down. Now, paint the lighter colour across the entire area. Make sure you have something safe to stand on that will elevate you enough to reach – a long-handled roller usually works best for this coat. Wait at least a day or two for the paint to dry thoroughly.
- Measure the ceiling and work out the width you would like your stripes – remember, these will need to be spaced evenly across the area. One way to do this is to measure the distance between the ceiling and the coving. Next, decide the total number of stripes you want. Take that number and subtract one to get the total number of tape lines you need to have on your wall.
- Next, tape your stripes – it helps if two people hold the tape end to end, holding it taught as you stick it on. Make sure the tape is well adhered. Once you're happy with the positioning, cut in the edges then begin to roller the stripes with your second colour. Wait to dry between coats.
- Once dry, carefully remove the tape to reveal the final effect. If the tape pulls any of your base colour off, touch up by hand using a fine artist's paintbrush.



Family photos are displayed alongside favourite prints from independent sellers, including Doodlemoor and Kathryn Pow

Children's bedroom

'My children had a lot of input in their room, and I think it shows. They asked for plenty of colour and all their favourite things to feature. I saved this wardrobe from going in a skip – it was part of a larger set, but the other pieces weren't salvageable. I painted the outside blue with scalloped detail and the inside bright yellow. For a bit of fun, I painted an arch over the door, but the kids decided that wasn't enough yellow, so I added stripes to the ceiling. The yellow took three coats! The children chose some prints from around the house, and I added a few new ones. They love showing this space to their friends!'



Charlotte gave this old wardrobe a much-needed makeover with Rust-Oleum furniture paint, adding scallops and a cheerful two-tone finish that coordinates with both the painted half wall and the striped ceiling

William's room, which he now shares with sister Cecelia, is packed with bright accents. 'There's no doubt that William is my child,' says Charlotte. 'When we were planning this room, his only criteria was to make it really colourful'

What I learned

- Work out what to save and splurge on. I really wanted gold taps for my free-standing bath but at the time we couldn't afford the gold stand to match, so I went for silver. I have always regretted it and wish we had waited.
- Know your own mind. Everyone has an opinion, but the only ones that matter are those of the people who live in the house.
- Take your time choosing layouts, colours, fixtures and fittings. We rushed the bathroom as we wanted it done quickly, but I wish I'd spent more time planning it out.