

IDEAL HOME
loves

Grey front doors

A soft but smart colour for period properties – the Popes used Farrow & Ball's Mole's Breath

'There's a treasure trove behind these doors!'

Holly and Matt Pope swapped a tiny flat for a derelict dairy farm that needed a complete overhaul, but gave them the space they needed for their unusual collections

Restore with love

'We'd been living above our shop in a tiny flat we could barely fit the buggy into,' says Holly. 'Since we first met, we've enjoyed going to car-boot sales and flea markets together, so we looked for a place with outbuildings for storage and the space to show off our prized possessions! When we bought it, this place was just four walls with planning permission. We've rebuilt it in keeping with the original structure and did it all ourselves – it was a real labour of love.'

Welcome to my home



THE PROPERTY
A two-bed detached dairy farm in Llywel, Brecon.

VALUE
Bought in 2013; now worth around £525,000.

Holly Pope lives here with her husband Matt and their children, Beau, five and Betsy, three. Holly co-owns a homeware company and Matt is a retail designer

'Everything we have, we found ourselves – it's so wonderful to have such a personalised space'

Take a quick tour...



Matt Pope had always wanted to build his own home, so when he and his wife Holly came across a derelict dairy farm with all the space they needed, he was able to realise that dream. The amount of work involved was daunting, but definitely had its rewards.

'Other than the initial groundwork, Matt and I did all the renovations ourselves,' says Holly. 'When we started, Matt was freelance, so when he wasn't working, he was doing the house. Once he had stripped back the rotten frame of the dairy, we were left with little more than walls. We were very specific about wanting things to look authentic, as though they had always been there. It's easy to cut budgets when doing a building as large as this, and use cheaper materials, but Matt felt we owed it to the building to make it into a home that would stand up to the weather in the Welsh hills.'

The couple were lucky enough to find features worth restoring, and what they didn't find, they lovingly re-created. 'The original Crittall windows were still in the barn, so we re-glazed those,' says Holly. 'In the courtyard, original cobbles were found under 4in of concrete when we cut through it to lay drainage. The more Matt lifted, the more he found! It was an absolute labour of love reinstating them, but very rewarding. Seeing them, with all their wear from years of cattle walking on them, was worth every hour spent uncovering them.' The cobbles weren't the only original materials the couple found. 'We also found large stone slabs inside the farmhouse and reused those as doorsteps,' says Holly. 'And all the exterior doors were constructed in the original style from hardwood.'

Inside, the couple wanted the main living space to feel as authentic as possible, with its beams exposed and walls all simply painted white. 'As the house has evolved it has always been a question of adapting, either our ideas to fit in with the constraints of the building, or the items we have bought to fit it,' says Holly. 'Luckily, Matt has the practical skills to allow us to do that. For example, we bought a few broken old taps and Matt used the working parts to create a new one.'

'We so enjoyed searching for and buying vintage treasures together, we turned our shared passion into a business, Pope and Glory (popeandglory.com),' says Holly. 'We love everything about our home and it has all been really thought about and creatively put together. Now, it's so wonderful to have our own distinctly personalised space, for the kids to run about in, for Matt to go off and make things, and to store and show off all our vintage treasures in their full glory.'

"I like how vintage things have a history and a story behind them"

Use a clever colour palette

'After being so restricted by the size of our previous flat, we wanted to show off our vintage collections properly,' says Holly, 'so we kept to a mainly neutral backdrop – white in the main living room. Our collections are eclectic, so we've used sorbet colours, like the pink of the sofa, to pull the look together.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Fancy Nancy sofa, £2,000, Sofa Workshop. Sit sign, £385, Pope and Glory. Chair, £175, Crowman Antiques

SASSY SIGN
Oversized artwork helps to define a corner arrangement of furniture



IDEAL HOME
loves

Farmhouse tables
Big, heavy and informal – perfect for family living and an alternative to an island unit

“It starts out looking like a collection of mismatched old junk and you question if it will ever look good!”

SCAFFOLD PLANKS
Cheaper than reclaimed boards, Holly gave hers a wash of diluted chalk paint and varnished them

Make an eclectic mix match

Matt built the kitchen units himself from freestanding Fifties cupboards found at flea markets and fairs, and doors salvaged from a local farmhouse. ‘Once you paint it all the same colour, it suddenly begins to work,’ says Holly.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

For similar units, try the 600mm cupboards, from £100, Jali. Units painted in French Grey Pale Intelligent Gloss, £29 for 1ltr, Little Greene. Similar metro tiles, £18.50 per sq m, Topps Tiles. Refurbished Aga, from £3,000, Abbey Cookers. Gold letters, £12.75, Posh Graffiti



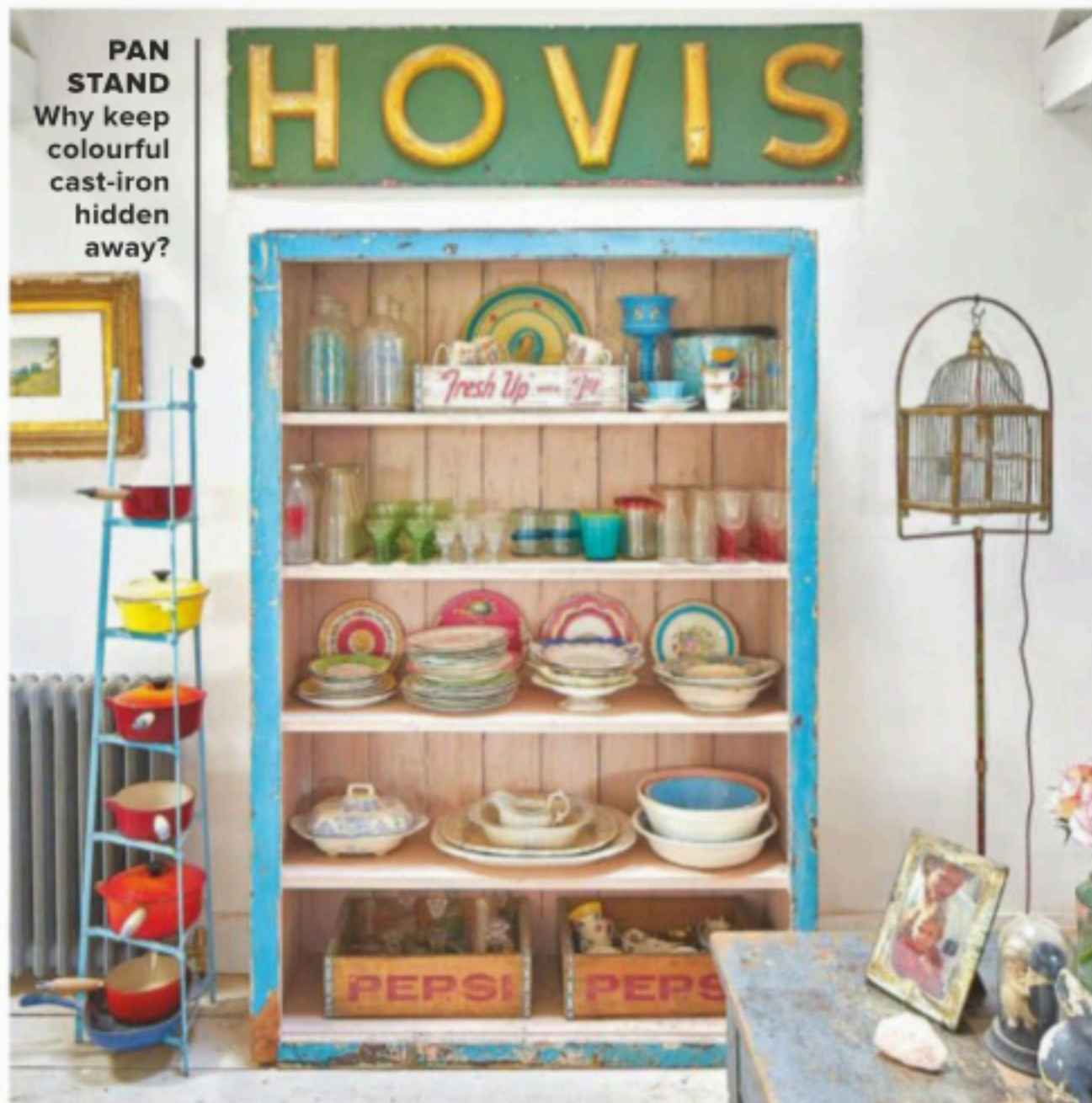
“Buying vintage treasures together became a shared passion”

POT PARADE
Graduating items by size is a simple stylist's trick



DON'T MISS THE DETAILS...

Clockwise from top left: Vintage crockery is piled into old crates for a not-too-precious display in the kitchen; freestanding pieces like this dresser add character set against the couple's simple grey fitted units; vintage tins hide clutter; scaffolding planks have been cut to different lengths and used as shelves all around the kitchen for storage and display.



PAN STAND
Why keep colourful cast-iron hidden away?

Keep the basics simple

Matt and Holly started with a standard, Shaker-style grey kitchen, customised it with plank worktops and a reclaimed butler's sink, then added loads of personality with vintage kitchenware, cookbooks and old signs. 'Matt was a graphic designer in the packaging industry and loves advertising signs,' says Holly.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

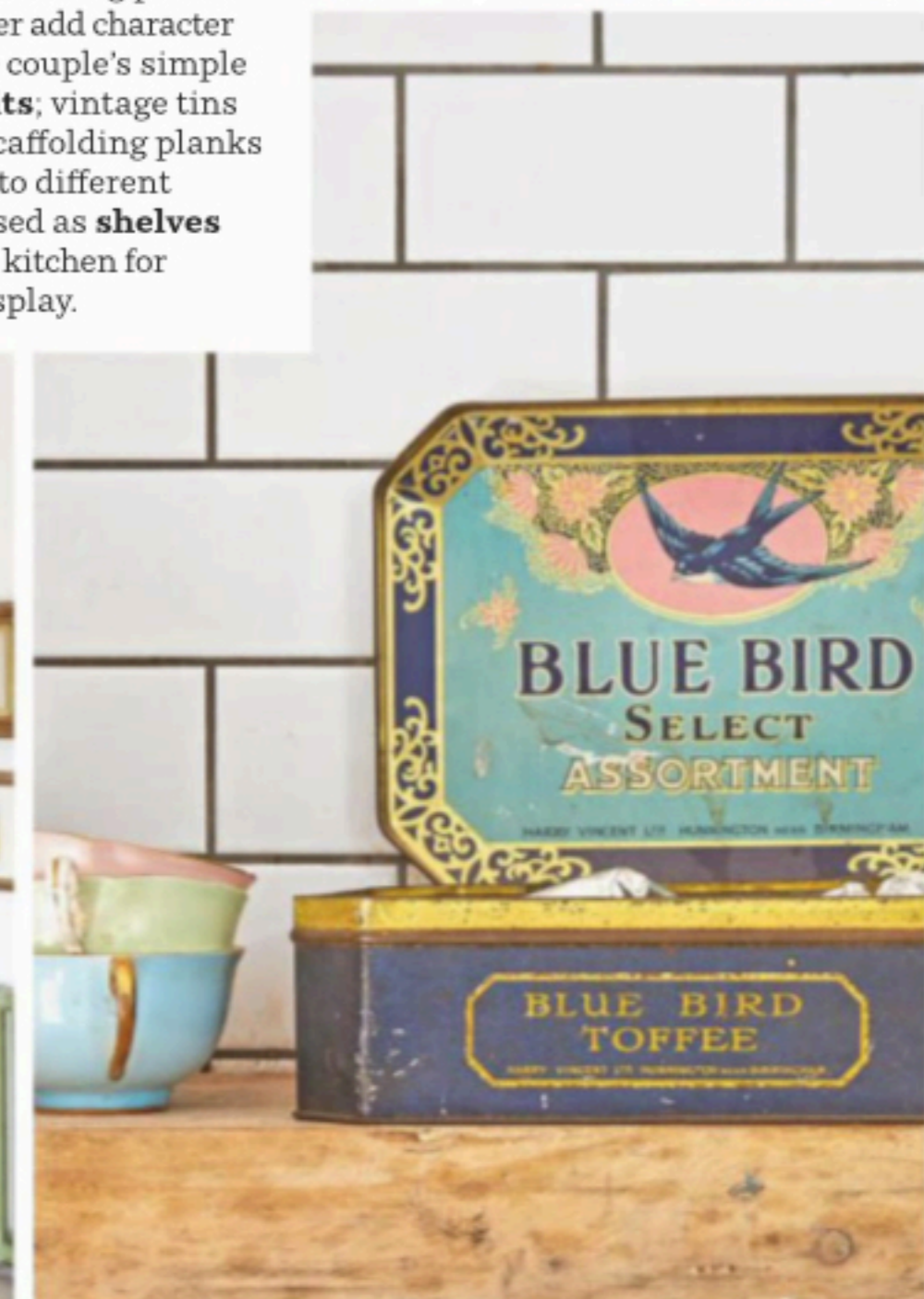
Similar double bowl butler kitchen sink, £179.95, eBay

Turn storage into styled displays

This vintage shelf unit marks the divide between the kitchen and the adjoining seating area. It's a handy place to keep large pieces of tableware that would fill kitchen units, but also an opportunity for the couple to showcase their colourful collections.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Birdcage light, £180; Hovis sign, £350; china, from £8 for a cup and saucer; all Pope and Glory





Holly had this chest solvent-dipped to remove the paint and added crystal knobs for a rough-luxe finish



TAILOR'S DUMMY
A great way to show off favourite accessories

Go big on pattern

Plain grey walls means the main bedroom can handle the oversized rose prints on the rug and bedspread. Holly's kept the colours consistent and accessorised with plain velvet cushions for a co-ordinated and luxurious look.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Walls painted in Cornforth White Estate Emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



OLD CRATES
Hide a ton of toys

Take a practical approach to old pieces

Vintage furniture's ideal for kids' rooms - it's solidly built and if it's already battered and weathered, a few more knocks and scratches won't show. 'We found the wardrobe in Beau and Betsy's room in a barn. We liked its original flaky paint, but it continually shed, so we simply painted it with Ronseal varnish, which made it useable,' says Holly.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Fruit crates, £25 each; metal signs, from £150; all Pope and Glory. Similar double wardrobe, £625, The Dormy House

FEATURE DILLY ORME. VANESSA RICHMOND STYLING DILLY ORME PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID PARRITER PLANS AGENCY SERVICE

Repurpose original features

The double doors to the bathroom are actually windows the couple found in Paris. Matt re-glazed them and adapted them to fit as doors. Lace panels hung on the inside provide privacy.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Similar roll-top bath, The Millbrook double ended cast-iron bath, £875, The Cast Iron Bath Company. Gilt frame, £175, Pope and Glory



WHAT WE LEARNED

“We've found there is a lot to be said for looking outside the box, taking everyday mundane objects such as scaffolding boards and repurposing them in your home to make shelves and flooring. Not only does it have a beautiful result unique to you, but it also doesn't cost the earth”



VINTAGE FRAME
Artwork in itself, no picture required - and it highlights the lovely brick wall

OLD RUG
Makes a luxurious and colourful bath mat



Make it work for you

HOLLY'S STYLE: ECLECTIC VINTAGE

Pastel pop furniture, bohemian textiles and crystal chandeliers make for a glam twist on shabby chic

MY GO-TO STORES...

- **THE END** A small, hidden gem in Hay on Wye; completely unique
- **THE CROWMAN** In Devizes; one of the truly great antiques shops
- **THE OLD ALBION** Very friendly, amazing taste; in Bridport
- **DOMESTIC SCIENCE** Loads of floors and a lovely café - it's in Tetbury

White and wood offer the perfect backdrop for sassy finishing touches



CRYSTAL CLEAR

Raphael five light chandelier, £282, Där Lighting



FANCY FARMHOUSE

Distressed Turquoise dining chair, £385, Notonthehighstreet.com



TIME FOR TEA

PIP Studio Spring to Life large pink teapot, £40, Daisy Park

SWEET SEAT

Fancy Nancy medium sofa, from £1,865, Sofa Workshop



BISTRO STYLE

Set of six large Classic Café glasses, £5.95, Dotcomgiftshop

FAUX FLORALS

Jane Packer faux pink roses in glass vase, £20, Sainsbury's



TASSEL DETAIL

Pink pillow, £12.99, HomeSense

STYLIST'S NOTE

“Keep collectables grouped together for a cohesive look that doesn't appear too cluttered”

STEPHANIE DURRANT, CONTENT EDITOR

FEATURE STEPHANIE DURRANT PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID PARMITER