

# • Mirror image

A two-storey extension in rural Wiltshire is the original building's contemporary twin

Words *Beth Murton* Photography *Simon Maxwell*

**G**aining permission to add a contemporary two-storey extension to a traditional stone cottage in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is no mean feat, but that's exactly what CaSA Architects achieved when Andrew and Lucy Thompson approached the practice to redesign their early nineteenth-century home in the Wiltshire countryside.

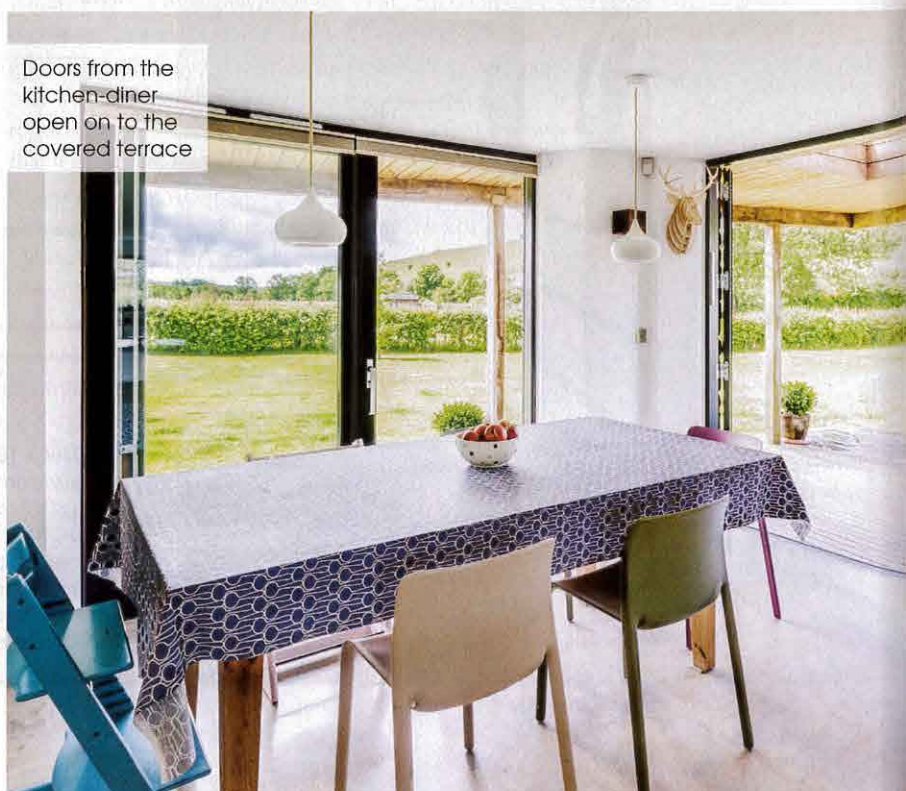
The couple gave the architects a fairly open brief, detailing the number of bedrooms they wanted as well as their desire for an open-plan family space and a covered outdoor terrace. The layout also needed to capitalise on the dramatic location of the house, with carefully placed windows to capture the most beautiful views.

'Building in an AONB can be very restrictive, so it was essential to have the planners and local community on board with this project from the outset,' explains Adam Dennes of CaSA Architects. 'Initially, the local community was fairly sceptical about the proposed design, due to its size and contemporary style. To help allay any fears, we completed a landscape impact assessment, which involved photographing the site from a number of nearby locations and then generating 3D imagery to show how the property would sit in its surroundings. It helped immensely as it gave people something visual that they could relate to.'

The pre-planning consultations paid off and the substantial design was approved on the first application. Positioned slightly to one side of the cottage owing to the location of the boundary line, the two-storey extension is a mirror image of the original building, replicating its simple form and gable structure. A narrow, fully glazed spine – housing the double-height entrance, hall and staircase – separates the old and new spaces. Outside, an oak canopy for the covered terrace wraps around two sides of the extension, allowing the couple to enjoy outdoor living whatever the weather.

To ensure the new addition is sensitive to its surroundings, local blue lias stone has been used for the lower half of the extension, providing a further visual link to the adjoining cottage. The upper level features cedar cladding that, like the zinc roofing, will weather to a mixed palette of soft greys, helping the house to recede into the landscape.

The extension took around 10 months to build. The couple then saved up to tackle the renovation of the →







The rear extension replicates the shape and form of the original cottage

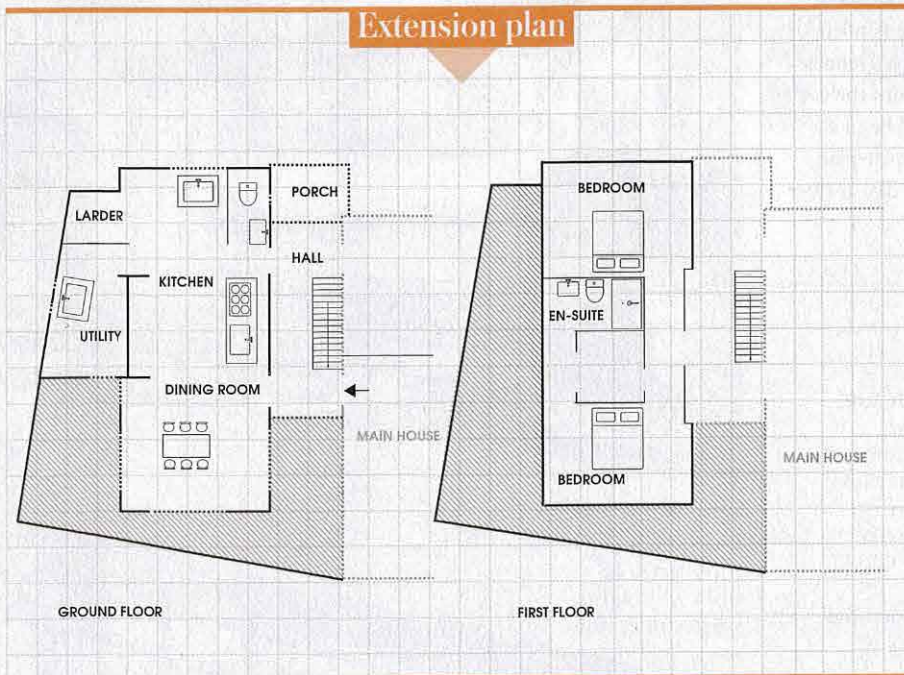
### Project profile

**Names** Andrew and Lucy Thompson  
**Location** Wiltshire  
**Property** Nineteenth-century cottage  
**Type of extension** Two-storey rear extension  
**Extension size** 160sqm  
**Size of house** 270sqm  
**Reason for extending** To create an open-plan living space on the ground floor, plus a first-floor master suite and guest bedroom  
**Build cost** £200,000 (excluding VAT and fees)



A glazed entrance volume links the old and new parts of the house

### Extension plan



### Smart feature



### Sympathetic design

The bespoke staircase needed to work visually with the new and old parts of the house. Combining contemporary style with traditional materials, it is made from oak with white-painted risers. A similar design would cost £5,000 to £7,000 from Oakwrights (01225 430 630; oakwrightsbath.co.uk)



*'Whatever the time of day, there's a place they can escape to'*



In the original cottage, the living room is designed as a cosy bolthole

original cottage, so the entire project took around three years to complete. 'For Andrew and Lucy, the extended property is now an incredibly flexible home,' says Dennes. 'If it's lashing down with rain they can retreat into the cosier rooms of the original cottage, or if they want to be in a light-filled family area they can head into the open-plan, contemporary extension. Whatever the time of day or their mood, there's a place they can escape to.' GD

### Key suppliers

**PROJECT TEAM** Architect CaSA Architects (01225 851 871; casa-architects.co.uk) **STRUCTURE**  
**Glazing to extension** Rationel (01869 248 181; rationel.co.uk) **Bespoke doors, windows and staircase**  
Oakwrights (01225 430 630; oakwrightsbath.co.uk)  
**Roof lights** Glazing Vision (01379 658 300; glazing vision.co.uk); Velux (01592 778 225; velux.co.uk)  
**Zinc roof** Rheinzink (01276 686 725; rheinzink.co.uk)  
**Cladding** Timbersource (01373 469 905; timbersource.co.uk) **FIXTURES & FITTINGS** Concrete  
**flooring** Lazenby (01935 700 306; lazenby.co.uk)



The first-floor office area has a stunning view