

# Homebuilding & RENOVATING

How to create your dream home

Britain's Best Selling Self-build Magazine

## Build Your Own Home Step-by-Step Guide Starts Inside

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Your Indispensable Technical Guide

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## Visions become reality



SLIDING DOORS

SKY LIGHTS

INTEGRAL BLINDS

STRUCTURAL GLAZING

CURTAIN WALLING

WINDOWS

BIFOLD DOORS

WINTER GARDENS

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### A Glazed Addition

The new glazed extension to this period barn conversion in the Cotswolds offers the owners additional space with an open plan kitchen diner – not to mention a great spot to enjoy the views of the garden.



### AN EXTENDED COTSWOLD BOLTHOLE

Rachel Sumaria and her husband were living in a small cottage in the Cotswolds – after returning from a 10-year stay in Kenya – when they fell in love with this beautiful 17th-century converted barn in nearby Hawling, Gloucestershire. “The building had been converted in the 1980s and rented out, so everything was painted white and it was a bit unloved – there was no garden either,” begins Rachel.

Wanting to inject character into the building, the couple introduced natural materials and colour. Some 10 years after purchasing the property, however, they decided to extend. “We wanted to knock through the wall between the dining room and kitchen to create more space and add a modern extension. As the architect was drawing up the plans I was a bit worried it would look like an old person’s sunroom, but with the full-height glass it works really well,” says Rachel. “To the other side of the kitchen, we converted the existing garage into a laundry, boot room and larder. The larder is my favourite part of the house, and means we don’t need any wall units in the kitchen.”

Despite the building sitting within the curtilage of a listed manor house and being within an area of outstanding natural beauty, gaining planning consent proved to be surprisingly straightforward. The couple chose to employ the same builder

who had previously carried out the conversion work in the 1980s, and while there were no disasters during the work, it was no mean feat trying to knock down the impressive 3ft-thick stone walls to make way for the new opening. The only heart-stopping moment Rachel recalls throughout the project was when the 800kg concrete kitchen island was being installed.

The new 9m-long extension now sits off the open plan kitchen and provides space for a long dining table, with stunning views of the landscaped grounds through the full-height glazing. “We had a chimney built at the end of the extension to help break up the glass wall,” says Rachel. “However, with the underfloor heating and Aga, we found we didn’t need a fire with any additional heat so we chose to not open the chimney up – it now acts as a feature.”

“In hindsight, if I could do it again I’d install underfloor heating throughout the whole house because having it in the kitchen dining space has really transformed the way we use the house. This new space is so lovely that we rarely use the other reception rooms. My advice to people doing projects such as this is to really consider how you’ll be using every bit of space in the house so you’re not left with any redundant rooms,” concludes Rachel. “Zamani” is available for holiday rental through Unique Home Stays: [uniquehomestays.com](http://uniquehomestays.com).