

THE PASSION PROJECT

Bridget and Andrew Hall took their love for the Lake District to a whole new level when they bought and renovated a dilapidated farmhouse near Ullswater

KITCHEN The couple drew inspiration from the countryside to create the Scandi-style interior, based on simple lines and natural light. This space is in the old barn, which stands at ninety degrees to the farmhouse, capturing the views from this end of the property. **Units:** Kitchen Haus. **Staircase:** Inspiring Projects Involving Glass (IPIG)

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Goa Farmhouse nestles within a remote valley in the Lake District, but Bridget and Andrew saw that as both an opportunity and a challenge. An opportunity to create a unique home just a short walk from the shores of Ullswater; a challenge, as the farmhouse is at the end of a narrow road, ending in a steep pass with six hairpin bends.

'We never thought it would be easy, but there were times when we seriously questioned the wisdom of buying a dilapidated property in such a remote area,' says Andrew.

Their five-year labour of love has paid dividends, however. With painstaking care and inspiring vision, they have rescued a semi derelict and overgrown 400-year-old farmhouse and given it an exciting new future.

'Many people said it would have been easier to have knocked it down and started again, but the house has an extraordinary history, which we wanted to preserve,' says Andrew. The first record of a building on the site dates back to 1589 in a survey of the local area and, over the next 400 years and with a series of extensions and additions, it evolved from a humble pig shelter to a 32-acre farm.

'Bridget's family originate from the Lake District and mine from the North East so we both spent many childhood holidays in the region. Now living in Hertfordshire, we really wanted a place to escape to where we love to walk and for which we have a huge affinity,' says Andrew.

'We started by taking off the cement render and, in doing so, ended up dismantling most of the gable end wall because the lintel holding it up was rotten,' he continues. 'The drystone walls were 2.5 foot thick but many large cracks had appeared, so we had to take down a significant proportion of the walls before rebuilding and restoring the farmhouse to its current condition.'

Although architect Andrew and interior designer Bridget created their own design, they employed a

locally based architect and builder to deliver the project. Making monthly visits, they would discuss progress 'in unfinished rooms open to the skies with bare earth floors,' says Andrew. 'Fortunately, it was not listed, so we were able to bring in plenty of light using large windows, glass doors and carefully positioned rooflights.'

The renovation included installation of a ground source heat pump and most of the materials were reused or sourced locally, including the roof which had to be retiled with reclaimed Westmorland slates. 'Access was very challenging,' says Andrew. 'At one point we were calculating the volume of concrete needed for the foundations and the builder said it would take six lorry loads instead of two, otherwise the concrete would have spilled out of the back of the lorries on the steep hairpin bends on the access road!'

When it came to the interior, Bridget collaborated with London-based Studio Indigo to create a style that unites the house, using a soft palette, natural textiles, organic texture and Scandi-style furniture.

'We designed the house as a holiday home, but we have to be practical. We only manage to stay here a small proportion of each year. It's not good for the property to stay empty for so long, so we let it too,' says Bridget.

The Halls still have plenty to do, including landscaping the garden. 'It's an on-going project,' she says. 'But when we're here, we can completely relax. It's sheer bliss.'

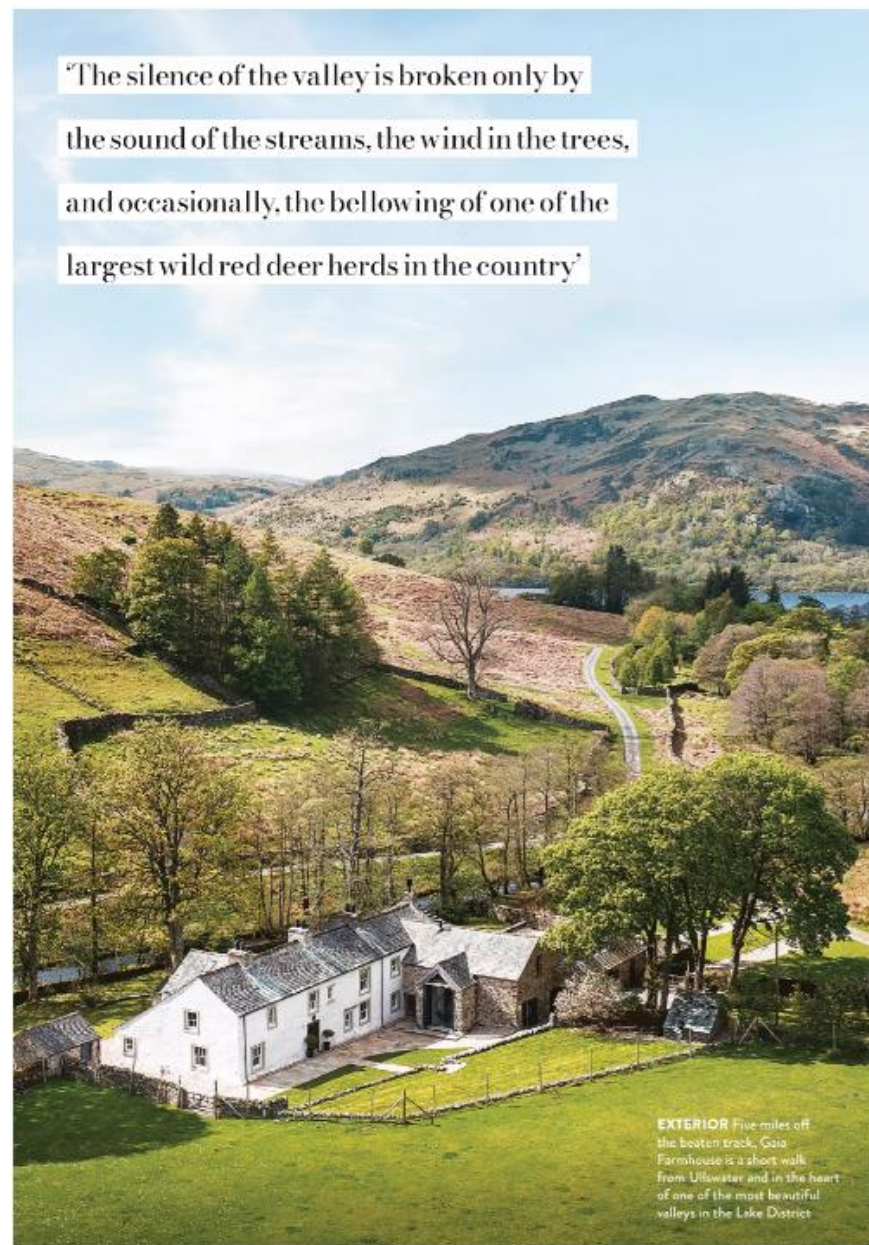
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AT HOME WITH

OWNERS Bridget was a classical dancer and is now pursuing a passion for interior design. Andrew is an architect. They have two daughters, Anna and Sophie, and a cockapoo, Ollie.

HOUSE A five-bedroom Lakeland farmhouse, extended and reshaped over 400 years. The Halls bought it in 2014.

'The silence of the valley is broken only by the sound of the streams, the wind in the trees, and occasionally, the bellowing of one of the largest wild red deer herds in the country'



EXTERIOR Five miles off the beaten track, Goa Farmhouse is a short walk from Ullswater and in the heart of one of the most beautiful valleys in the Lake District



KITCHEN Walls throughout the house are covered with diathonite, a lime, cork and clay plaster, creating a texture typical of the original building. Here, a simple Scandinavian-style shelf creates a sense of balance

KITCHEN The original roof trusses are the most striking features, particularly in this open-plan area. Caravaggio pendant lights, Fritz Hansen. Woodburning stove, Morso. Sofa, Laura Ashley



'It's a Cumbrian longhouse and it could have ended up as a series of rooms off a corridor. We worked hard to avoid that and created vistas and views throughout the farmhouse'

LIVING ROOM. A modern off-centre fireplace creates a striking feature in this cosy space. Stone fireplace, Liva. Hardwood floor, Sivan Flooring. Carl Hansen CH25 lounge chairs, Skandium. Sofa, Heal's. Handmade rug, Kvadrat.



MAIN BEDROOM A tiny original window draws light into this part of the couple's bedroom. The rocking chair was a birthday gift to *Andrew*. **Chair**, Katie Walker. **Throw**, Biggest Blanket Company



MAIN BEDROOM The stone wall of the former barn creates a natural, tactile backdrop to the open-plan bathroom area, with original beams spanning the space. **Bathroom fittings**, CP Hart. **Tiles**, Salvatori

BRIDGET & ANDREW'S COUNTRY LIFE

SIMPLE PLEASURES... 'We love stepping outside to relish the silence and ever-changing light before walking up into the beautiful fells that surround the farmhouse, often without meeting any fellow walkers for the entire day.'

FAVOURITE VIEW... 'Our favourite walk takes us along the tranquil Boredale valley and up the bridleway to Boredale Hause from where the views across to Helvellyn, Brothers Water, Ullswater and Deepdale are spectacular.'

SHOP AT... 'Cranstons (cranstons.net) for delicious local Cumbrian produce or Dalemain House (dalemain.com) for their famous marmalade.'

GO FOR A MEAL AT... 'Askham Hall (askhamhall.co.uk), a Michelin star restaurant hidden within an ancient peel tower in the Lowther Estate near Penrith, offering an acclaimed tasting menu created by chef Richard Swale.'

BEDROOM All the rooms are decorated in a timeless palette inspired by the surrounding countryside, 'to keep the spirit of the place'. **Blind fabric,** Fermoie. **Lamps,** Cox & Cox. **Throw,** The White Company

FEATURE HEATHER DIXON
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