

Inspiration STATION

Bold and dramatic, Emma and Tariq Goddard's spectacular new family home stands in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with far-reaching views across the Wiltshire Downs.

In brief

Project New build
Location Wiltshire
Cost Already owned
Spent £500,000
Worth £750,000+





STORY: **DEBBIE JEFFERY** PHOTOGRAPHY: **STUART COX**

Building a highly contemporary house in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was always going to prove a challenge for Tariq and Emma Goddard, but the couple had a strong motive for wanting to put down roots in the heart of the Wiltshire countryside. “I grew up on a working farm and wanted the same kind of childhood for our own boys,” explains Emma.

“We were very fortunate when my dad offered us an old pebble-dashed 1940s bungalow, standing in around an acre of land on his farm, and despite having no building experience we decided to try and replace it with a new house – something which had been my dream for a long time.”

Emma works in marketing and Tariq is an award-winning author and publisher, whose novel *Nature and Necessity* is set in an English country house and was written while the couple were living in the old farmhouse next to their plot.

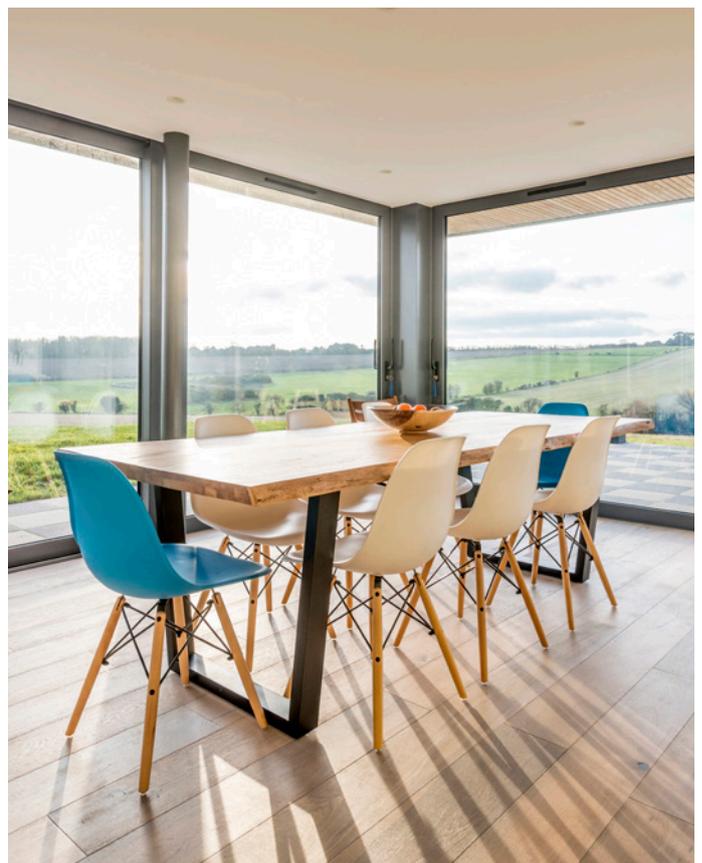
“It’s a lovely old house but it wasn’t ours, so to design a modern family home was our aim,” says Emma, who took charge of the project. “We’re not practical in any way, but we both love contemporary architecture and began searching online for a local architect to help us.”

After contacting several designers Emma and Tariq chose to work with Western Design Architects, an award-winning Dorset-based practice with a reputation for producing exciting, creative and inspired design while remaining sympathetic to local context.

“I’d been thinking about the project for a long time and gave them quite a detailed brief,

EXTERIOR

The stylish new home replaces a drab bungalow of no architectural merit in an AONB in Wiltshire. The garden around the house has been laid to lawn and planted with wild flower seeds which will create a natural meadow. As the house has no loft space a large storage shed was built in the garden.



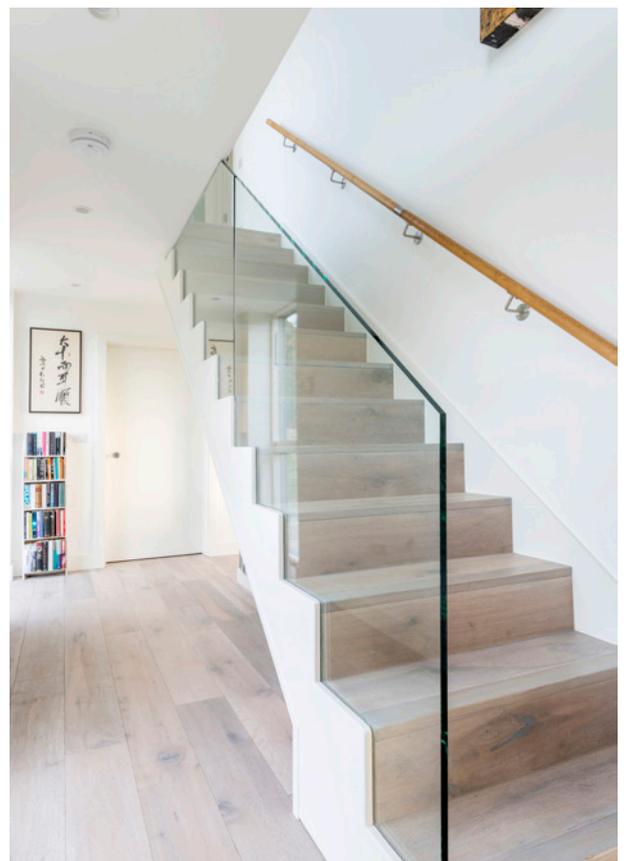


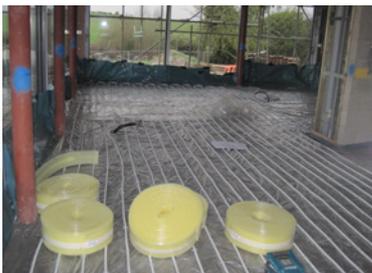
including how we wanted the layout to work for us," explains Emma, who enjoyed gathering her ideas together on Pinterest. "We asked for the main living space to be open plan with glass doors, and we needed a back entrance and boot room as life on a farm can be muddy."

The bold, two-storey design incorporates large expanses of glazing to maximise panoramic views across the countryside and allow light to flood the interior. The simple, rectangular floorplan was based around these views, with open-plan living spaces on the ground floor orientated to face south and west.

STAIRS

A cast concrete and glass staircase rises up through the spacious hallway to a landing which serves as a white space for displaying artwork.



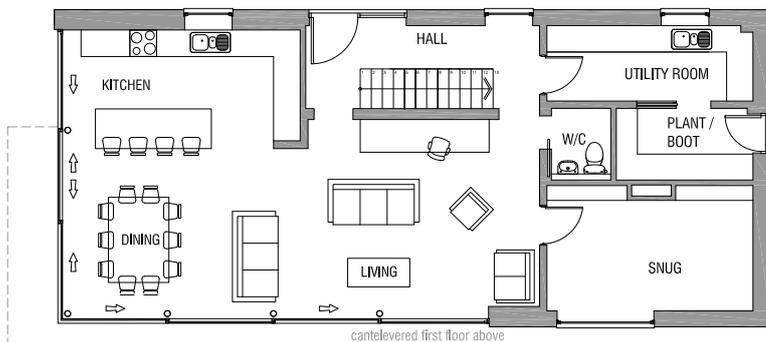
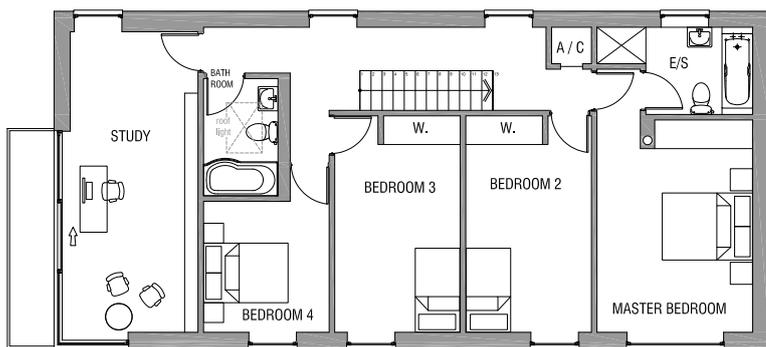


THE BUILD

The existing bungalow was demolished before construction began on the new build. The project took nine months to complete, finishing ahead of schedule.

FLOORPLAN

The 208-sqm house has an open-plan living/dining/kitchen on the ground floor, a separate snug/playroom, a utility, WC, and plant and boot rooms. Upstairs there are four bedrooms, a bathroom, a master en suite and study.



In detail

PROJECT

Architect Western Design Architects: westerndesignarchitects.com
Builder Matrod Frampton: matrod-frampton.co.uk

STRUCTURE

- Windows** Velfac: velfac.co.uk
- Brunel Blue bricks** Ibstock Brick: ibstock.com
- Brick and blockwork supply** Bradfords Building Supplies: bradfords.co.uk
- Aluminium doors** Bournemouth Glass and Glazing: bggco.com
- Larch cladding** Bennetts Timber: bennettstimmer.co.uk
- Roof membrane** Sarnafil: gbr.sarnafil.sika.com
- Roofing** Volsen Ltd: volsen.co.uk
- Steel framing** JP Fabrications: jpfabrications.co.uk
- Sewage treatment plant** Marsh Industries: marshindustries.co.uk
- Roof light in family bathroom** Roofglaze Ltd: roofglaze.co.uk

FIXTURES AND FITTINGS

- Worktops** Landford Stone: landfordstone.co.uk
- Ecodan air source heat pump and PV panels** PowerNaturally Ltd: powernaturally.co.uk
- Underfloor heating** Wunda Group: wundafloorheating.co.uk
- Kitchen, paving** Bradfords Building Supplies: bradfords.co.uk
- Sanitaryware** Bathroom Elegance, Poole: kitchenelegance.co.uk
- Tiles** Salisbury Tile Store: salisburytilestore.net
- Flooring** Flooring 365: flooring365.co.uk
- Bookcases and wardrobes** Weber Creative Interiors: webercreativeinteriors.co.uk
- En suite bathroom wall sculpture** Coade Stone: coade.co.uk



SNUG

A cosy snug, located off the main open-plan living space, makes an ideal playroom for the two boys.

“We designed a separate snug which our boys could use as a playroom, away from the main living space,” says Tariq. “Our utility is quite large, and we also needed a plant room. Coming from an inefficient old farmhouse, which is really expensive to run, we wanted a well-insulated, energy-efficient home with underfloor heating, photovoltaic panels on the roof and an air source heat pump.”

On the first floor each bedroom has an elevated perspective of the south-facing views. Tariq works from home for much of the time, so his study was also an important consideration and this spacious room is positioned on the first floor, with glass walls opening onto a balcony looking out across the downs.

“At just over 200 sqm it’s not a huge house, but the open-plan layout and glass make it feel far larger,” says Tariq. “The size of the footprint was limited by the planners, but cantilevering the first floor gave us more space upstairs, as well as shading the glass. In hindsight we could probably have pushed this storey out even more to make larger bedrooms, as it works so well.”

After receiving feedback on their planning pre-application the couple incorporated some minor aesthetic changes into the full planning application. A material palette of larch cladding, grey bricks and powder-coated aluminium windows and doors give the building a clean crisp aesthetic.

Emma attended the parish council meeting and found them to be very supportive, although there were concerns from the local representatives of the AONB. Light pollution from the glass was raised early on as a potential issue, and various reports were commissioned to submit with the planning application.

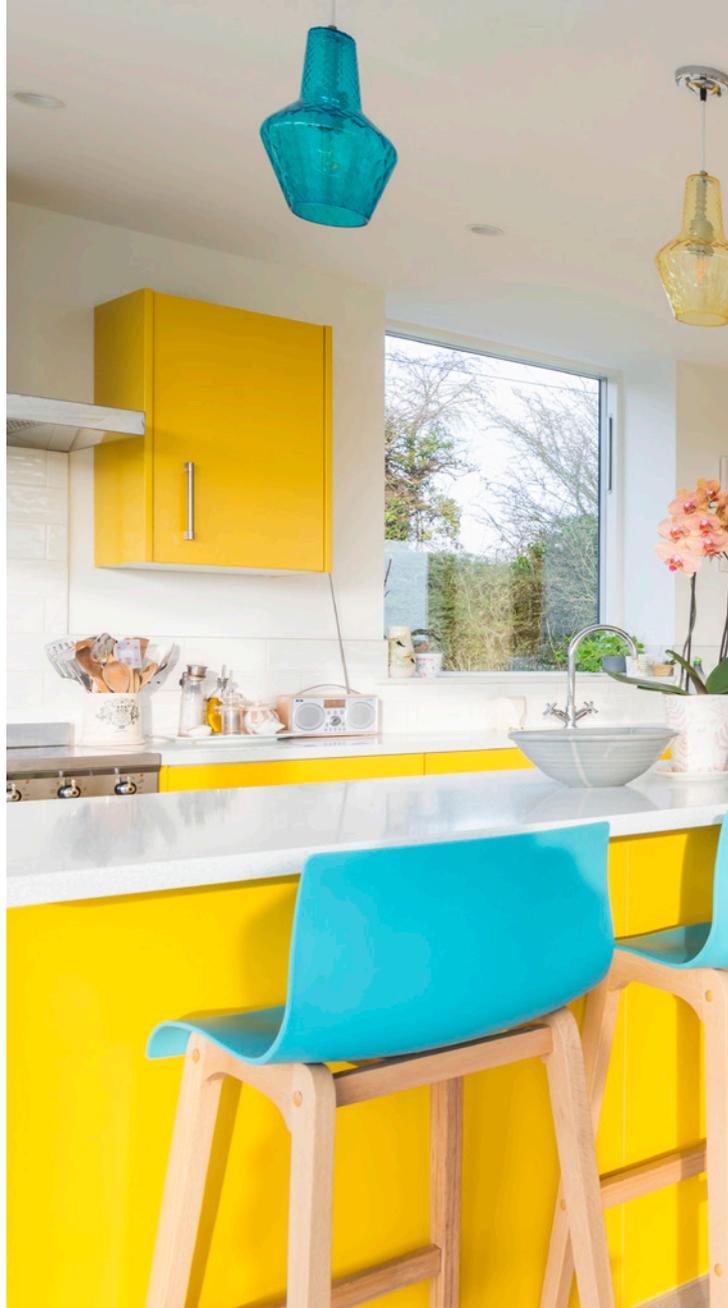
“We believed that there was no agricultural tie on the old bungalow, but at the last minute discovered that this was untrue and needed to put everything on hold while the tie was lifted, which was frustrating and quite expensive,” says Tariq.

An agricultural tie, or Agricultural Occupancy Condition (AOC), is a planning condition or obligation placed upon the planning permission for a house built in the open countryside where development would not normally be permitted. The tie restricts occupancy to those employed in certain jobs, such as agriculture and forestry, and can reduce the resale value of a property.

“Our architects introduced us to a really excellent building company called Matrod Frampton and we worked on a negotiated contract, with everything open book so we could see exactly what each element cost,” says Emma.

KITCHEN

A striking yellow kitchen with quartz worktops is the centrepiece of the open-plan kitchen/dining/living space, where full-height glazed doors take in the view.





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“Working with them has been an entirely pleasurable experience – from the accuracy of their initial quote through to the relatively short snagging list – and they even finished the house early, which is unheard of.”

Mains services were already in place for the existing bungalow on the site, which was demolished. A secret basement without an entrance was discovered beneath the bungalow, which needed to be infilled.

The new house was constructed in blockwork, with steel framing to support the extensive glazing and open-plan spaces. The roof is finished with a single-membrane, and walls have been clad externally in brick and elegant narrow strips of Siberian larch.

“We did think about a planted roof, but we’re on top of a hill with no near neighbours so it wouldn’t be seen,” says Emma. “Having floor-to-ceiling windows was possible because the house is so secluded, as they don’t compromise our privacy. The children are always playing on the floor, where normally they wouldn’t have a view as they’d be below window-sill level.”



Emma used her Pinterest board to illustrate features she wanted to include in the new house, including the staircase which was made to her design from cast concrete with a glass balustrade. “You can run up and down without much noise and it’s really stable compared to wooden stairs,” she says.

One of the most striking features of the house is the vivid yellow kitchen, which was the starting point for the interior design. “I knew I wanted a really bright yellow

PAINT

The kitchen units were originally plain white, but were painted vivid yellow for £750.



LIVING AREA

The open-plan living space is ideal for entertaining and includes a study area for Emma. Large expanses of glazed doors provide easy access to the outside terrace and garden.

kitchen, but to buy one would have cost an extra £10,000, so instead we bought a standard white kitchen from a builders' merchant and had it spray painted," she explains.

Tariq chose orange for his study walls, which are lined with bookcases, and colour has been introduced elsewhere in the house with paint, tiles and artwork. The hallway and landing are used as a gallery display space, and Emma enjoyed choosing bright mosaics for the bathroom, with hexagonal marble-effect tiles for the tranquil master en suite. Outside, she created a chequerboard design on the terrace by mixing light and dark non-slip paving.

"We did go over budget and needed to make some cost cuts towards the end, so it was important to come up with inexpensive finishes which still had impact," says Emma, who ordered items such as carpets and curtains to arrive for the planned completion date.

The builders managed to get the house watertight before the winter, taking advantage of the warm summer of 2018, with the project taking just nine months to complete.

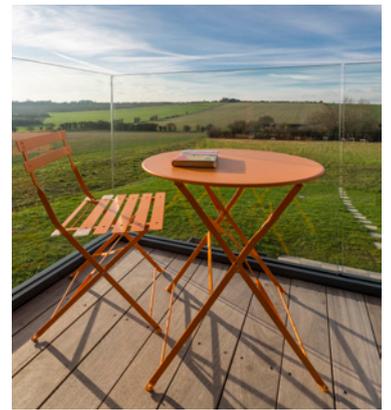
"I assumed that the build would overrun, but the opposite happened," says Emma. Finishing ahead of schedule meant that there was a gap of several weeks before the final soft furnishings were delivered, and the couple and their sons, Spike, now six, and Titus, four, could move into their new home.

"Glass is the most important element of the design, as it allows us to feel part of the landscape and to enjoy the light and shadows," says Tariq. "Being surrounded by open countryside is incredibly relaxing and building this house has given us an amazing family home, as well as an inspiring space to work."



STUDY

Tariq's glass-walled study overlooks rolling farmland, with plenty of space for bespoke bookcases. A seamless glass balustrade on the balcony ensures uninterrupted views.



LANDING

White walls on the landing are used to showcase artwork.



BEDROOMS

Decorated in shades of green, the master bedroom is furnished with traditional pieces and country views can be enjoyed through a large window. Books, carpet and cheerful green paintwork were chosen for the boys' bedroom.

FAMILY BATHROOM

The family bathroom is flooded with natural light through a roof light, supplied by Roofglaze.



The final word

What was the high point?

We loved the initial stage of pulling all the ideas together and the interior design at the end of the project, as they are the visual things you really notice.

...and the low point?

We were worried that we'd have to leave the farm and move somewhere else when we discovered the agricultural tie.

Your best buy?

Our kitchen was the best buy, as the spray painting only cost £750 and totally transformed a standard white kitchen into a real showpiece.



...and the biggest extravagance?

We've kept everything quite simple and don't have high-tech gadgets, so the biggest spend was probably all the glass.

Any tips?

If you can afford a really good builder then it's worth it, as often they will save you money in the long term.