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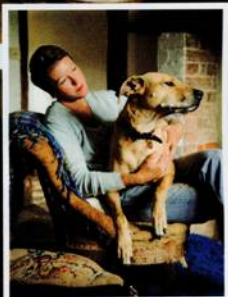


Like one of her beautiful bouquets, Nikki Tibbles' home is a mix of traditional rustic charm and a modern explosion of colour...



THIS PICTURE The furniture is a mix of antique and modern, which works well with the brick-flagged floor. Nikki has had the tulip table for years. **OPPOSITE** The sitting room is furnished with a large sofa, rugs, cushions and pouffes in warm colours and a cornucopia of patterns





ABOVE LEFT: From the outside, the house, which was untouched for 50 years, looks very traditional. CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Inside the house, quirky ceramics, vintage pictures, blankets and embroidery are mixed with surprisingly contemporary as well as classic chairs, tables and cupboards. Reuben the dog is definitely part of the furniture, too!

Like the flowers she supplies to her A-list clients, Nikki Tibbles' West Sussex house glows with the colours of the rainbow. Not that you'd guess from its exterior. The country bolt-hole sits quietly at the end of a two-mile track and has no mains electricity, heating or telephone – but that's just the way Nikki likes it.

"When I moved in six years ago, the house hadn't been occupied for ages. I've done no structural work to the property whatsoever. I love it just the way it is, and wouldn't change a thing," says Nikki. "I have tried to create a rural home that complements the gorgeous countryside. I love the view from my cosy home and seeing nothing but green trees."

"Inside the house, however, I've created a colourful haven. I'm passionate about brightening up spaces with big splashes of colour, so I've added beautiful bold pieces all around my home. It's an eclectic mix, as I love putting modern furniture with vintage accessories. The hall is full of quirky pieces, such as my bright Missoni rugs and throws and cushions. For the sitting room, I chose a huge sofa, comfy bean bags and cosy armchairs to make it feel really homely. The Knole-style sofa was re-covered by the interior design firm Carden Cunietti – they were working on our Wild at Heart flagship store in



Upstairs, plain floorboards contrast with old-style linen, fluffy blankets and rugs, and striking cushions



In the bathroom, some of Nikki's glass and ceramic jugs in blues and turquoise shades, filled with airy flowers, form an impromptu screen across the window



Xian Fresh Stripe rug, £199, Fusion Living (fusionliving.co.uk)

Eero Saarinen Tulip Table with marble top, £869, Infirm (infurn.com)



Endon Camden Pl Lamp, £142.00, Lighting (kestlight.co.uk)

Get the LOOK

Mix streamlined furniture and lamps with intricately patterned accessories



Evita side plate, £10, Anthropologie (anthropologie.eu)



Gold-painted vintage-style frame, £8, Heaf's (heaf.co.uk)



Missoni Home Markusy cushion, £166, Amara (amara.com)



Tobias chair, £65, Ikea



Garden Villa pitcher, £58, Anthropologie (anthropologie.eu)

FEATURE: CAROLYN BAILEY; PHOTOGRAPHY: GARY INTERIOR DESIGN; GET THE LOOK COMPILED BY: CLARE BURSILL

[CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE] Pimlico, London. The striped blanket on the sofa is by Sonia Rykiel and the pouffes by Arcade, both from Wild at Heart.

Nikki's kitchen houses an enormous larder, an Aga oven and a food-lover's collection of cooking utensils. 'I love nothing more than whiling away afternoons cooking for friends and family, and making jams and chutneys. The damson jam, runner bean chutney, tomato chutney and blackberry jam are all made from produce picked from my garden,' she says.

'If possible, I head to the house every weekend. I love being able to take some time out, away from the hustle and bustle of the city, getting back to basics and walking my four rescue dogs on the South Downs. I always spend long weekends, Easter and Christmas in the country. It's a great house to entertain in - I have big Sunday lunches in the Winter, and long lazy Summer evenings with a barbecue.

'The only thing I've worked on is my big, beautiful garden. When I moved in, there was nothing in it. I've planted apple, pear and cherry trees, honeysuckle, wisteria, herbs, lupins, poppies, hollyhock, hydrangea and olive trees. I've also created my first vegetable patch, with broad beans, potatoes, spinach, chard and beetroot.

'The house is such a great contrast to my hectic working life in London. I love every minute I spend here.' □