

aving been friends with the farm's owners,
Rob and Alice, for many years, interior
designer Polly Ashman was delighted
to be asked to help with the design in a
project to convert their old stable block into six
self-contained units (thefarmatavebury.co.uk).

THE BRIEF

My friends and I had dreamed of converting the stables into self-contained units for many years. We had spent a long time planning how they would look — each with an individual style. The conversion was part of a step for Rob and Alice to diversify their farming business in a sustainable way. The project was a real team effort and my brief for the interior design was to have fun, go bold on colour and work with the character of the stable block and surrounding farm.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Everything in the bedroom had to be found from scratch. We chose a lot of good-quality vintage furniture and accessories. All the furnishings and fabrics had to be hard-wearing and able to stand up to plenty of wear and tear. The clients really let me have free rein in here, and I was very keen to create a bold look, something with a real wow factor that people would love, even if they weren't brave enough to have it in their own home.

FINISHING TOUCHES

There is so much colour and vibrancy around the farm in the landscapes, gardens and animals, and our aim was to reflect this in the interiors. We were really happy to find the artwork of the beautiful bird as it works especially well in this scheme.

LESSONS LEARNT

My clients needed a bit of convincing that the vibrant colour scheme would be a success but all the brave colour and fabric choices were, in the end, their favourite part of the design. I do think that it pays to think out of the box, so go bold and be brave – you won't regret it!

ALL IN THE DETAIL

Painting the lower wall in a deep green was a modern alternative to panelling.

Headboard in Chubby Check by Kit Kemp, £210m, Christopher Farr Cloth. Lower wall in Calke Green estate emulsion, £52 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Orange gathered lampshades, from £57 each, Pooky.

Similar round bamboo side table, £54.99, Sklum.

Bolster cushions in Cupid, price on request, Chelsea Textiles. Heron artwork, £265,

Barker and Stonehouse