



John Weir, Architect: "Hidden away from public view is Paul and Josephine's first home together, Secret cottage in the Leicestershire village of Quorn."

Josephine: "The overall look that we wanted to create was very open plan and spacious with lots of natural light."
Paul: "Although it's a hundred and sixty years old, on the inside it's very clean cut and contemporary."



Paul O'Leary: "In our kitchen, we've made quite a few changes. We knocked out a wall that divided the kitchen from the hall. This is our bin, it's just so convenient; throwing tea-bags straight in the bin without having to walk across the room with a dripping tea-bag. Around the corner there's a pantry area. One of the more contemporary things in the kitchen is this splashback which Jo printed. It mimics a splashback but it's so much easier to clean."

We have some original pieces of furniture which we've restored, everything else we have designed and made for the house. If you've got old and new furniture then you have to accept that there are slightly different styles going on here; but I like that, it adds to the kitchen. I wouldn't dream of having wall to wall worksurfaces."



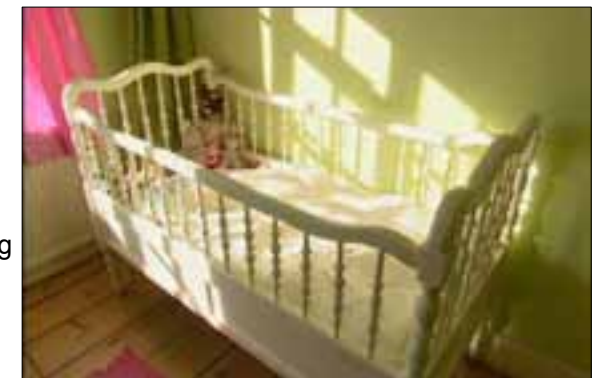
Paul: "Quite often, while you're experimenting, something happens that you weren't expecting and turns out to be really fresh and Jo calls this a happy accident."

Josephine: "I had a lot of fun when I was decorating the bathroom. The play of light on the walls really changed every colour on every wall and it took me three attempts before I got the right colour in there."



Josephine: "Here we are in what was our spare room which we've now converted into a nursery. I thought it would be fun to make it quite bright in here and fresh; and I've tried to introduce lots of points of interest. I've done some stencilling on the walls. Here's a changing table that we've made specially; with all the clothes inside, ready for her. I've hung some fairy lights above it."

I carefully positioned the chair and the table just in front of the window because I'm sure I'm going to spend a lot of time nursing in here. The view out of the window is so lovely, we'll be able to see the church where Paul and I got married."





Paul: "Downstairs we've got these two rooms where everything goes on."
Josephine: "The look of the lounge is very open plan and spacious. Having such a huge space means that, although we might be busy doing separate things, we're still in the same room, we're still together, that's what we like. When you look around this house it's quite a calm environment, it's a sanctuary really, a retreat."

Sarah Beoney: "What a simple, charming and creative home."
Daniel Hopwood, interior designer: "It's just a fantastic starter home and it's not aspirational; it's just full of hope for the future. It was refreshing to see that film."
Sarah Beoney: "This lovely nursery they've prepared."
Daniel Hopwood: "Oh devine!"
Sarah Beoney: "They've obviously dreamt of having this baby and they've prepared the nursery, they've got everything ready."
John Weir: "This is almost like rural loft living."
Daniel Hopwood: "What was really super was the way they've knocked the wall through between the hallway and the kitchen, instead of knocking the wall through between the hallway and the living room. It really said a lot about how they're going to use this home as a family home, because the kitchen is really where the heart is these days. I love their bed; it's like a canvas deck chair, but stretched. There's some lovely detailing on it; I wonder if he's made that."



John Weir: "When you think this is there first home."
Sarah Beoney: "It's a jolly good effort."
John Weir: "I'd have liked it as a first home that's for sure."
Sarah Beoney: "I'd like it now!"



Sarah Beoney (scoring): "Now finally for the secret cottage in Leicestershire. I'm going to start this off because I love this house and they've done a lot themselves..."