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SITTING ROOM

Striking art work by Richard Hoey brings personality to the main living space of Nick Addyman and Lucy Rathbone's farmhouse. 'I spotted this piece in a gallery on London's King's Road,' says interior designer Tor Vivian. 'The chimney breast is the perfect spot for it.' Interior design: Tor Interiors, torinteriors.com. Catella rug, from £1,170sq m, Emily Todhunter at The Rug Company, therugcompany.com.



ALPINE HOME

BREATH *of* FRESH AIR

Set high in the mountainous landscape of Haute-Savoie, this traditional 19th-century farmhouse has been stylishly reinvigorated thanks to its owners' passion for pattern, colour and characterful art and antiques

WORDS JENNIFER GOULDING PHOTOGRAPHS PAUL RAESIDE



DINING AREA

The large elaborate mirror was the starting point for this scheme, with its opulence balanced by the clean lines of the red leather dining chairs.

For a similar mirror, try La Maison Chic, la-maison-chic.co.uk. Carver chairs in Serengeti in Black Zebra, £25.25sq ft, [Altfield, altfield.com](http://Altfield.altfield.com). Faux magnolia and viburnum berry posies, £57 each; Lakshmi cotton napkins in Cranberry, £42 for four, all [Oka, oka.com](http://Oka.oka.com).

ENTRANCE HALL

Warming notes of the colour red appear in various forms throughout the farmhouse.

'It looks so good and is immediately comforting against the wood,' says Tor.

For a similar plant, try Flowering clover faux plant in Pink, £195, [Oka, oka.com](http://Oka.oka.com). Antique mirror, Puckhaber, puckhaberdecorativeantiques.com.



Nick Addyman's first holiday abroad, a family skiing trip to Megève in the French Alps, in 1981, was such a success it led to numerous repeat visits, and ultimately inspired Nick to buy a small flat in the resort.

Later, Nick married jazz singer Lucy Rathbone, with whom he has two daughters and, true to family tradition, the skiing holidays continued. However, his beloved flat quickly became too small for them all, and he and Lucy decided to buy a house instead. We spoke to Lucy to find out more.

Why buy in Combloux rather than Megève? We were very excited about looking in Megève but there

was nothing large enough available, so we extended our search to Combloux, a resort in its own right, just three miles away. It is smaller and quieter than Megève, but it is very sweet and just as nice, and is known as 'La perle du Mont Blanc' because it has such incredible views of the mountain.

What did you like about the house you found? It is an old farmhouse and has a really generous main living area and five bedrooms, each with adjoining shower rooms. There is also a garden, which we wanted for the children. The views of the mountain are spectacular, and although it feels quite isolated it is just a five-minute walk to the shop to buy our croissants in the morning. We also liked the fact that it is a

proper, nineteenth-century Haute-Savoie farmhouse rather than a purpose-built chalet.

Did it need a lot of work? The farmhouse had been renovated by a property developer. All that remained for me to do was to hang the curtains, put in some extra lighting and to furnish and decorate it. It was the perfect project.

What kind of look did you want to create? Many chalets these days are very modern and sleek, which was not what I wanted; nor do I like the gingham look. I wanted something more quirky, with plenty of colour, pattern, texture, and a few antiques. It had to be a real home with lots of character.

How did you find interior designer Tor Vivian? Tor and I have been friends for many years. When Nick and I bought our first house together, she helped us with the refurbishment. Since then, she has worked on all our home projects, including the restoration of our estate in East Sussex. She is wonderful at getting things done and I am very decisive, so we make a good team.

Is the house only used for your skiing holidays? We come here in winter, of course, but it is a wonderful place to be during the summer months. The air is so invigorating. I love going on walks and stopping at mountain restaurants; in fact, I think I almost prefer it to skiing.



SITTING ROOM

'It is really important to spend as much as you can afford on sofas,' says Lucy. 'Trying to save money is a false economy. This is especially true of a home where you need somewhere very comfortable to rest after a day's skiing.'

Signature sofa, from £4,657 (excluding fabric).
George Smith, georgesmith.com.

KITCHEN

The compact but efficient kitchen, with a small bar at the front, is set to one side beneath the roof of the main living area. Tor put in new lighting and a utensil rack to supplement the traditional pine cabinetry and a hardwearing but smart-looking hammered black granite worktop and splashback. Classic Cluny 1000 range cooker in Black, from £3,980, Lacanche, lacanche.com.



SNUG

To give new life to the shelving unit (above), which was inherited from the previous owner, it was lined with a cowhide-effect wallpaper. Natives in Veracruz wallpaper, £148 a roll, Elitis at Abbott + Boyd, abbotandboyd.co.uk.

HALL

Lucy and Tor used strong colour and a carefully considered collection of furniture and accessories (above right) to personalise the traditional farmhouse interiors. Ottoman in Musa in Agate, £106m, Black Edition, blackedition.com.

MAIN BATHROOM

Although the existing bathrooms were new and in good order, 'we added freestanding wooden vanity units with simple basins (right) for a slightly more traditional look', says Tor. Castellon Plus round basins, £164.50 each, Bauhaus at Drench, drench.co.uk.





MAIN BEDROOM
An elegant bureau, with a view of the first-floor terrace, provides Nick with a pleasant spot to work when at the chalet. To make the room feel cosy yet tranquil, Lucy has chosen wool curtains, plenty of faux fur and a luxurious rug with an extra thick wave-patterned pile (right). Clerk's-style mahogany desk with green leather insert, £3,129 Jonathan Charles Fine Furniture, jonathancharlesfurniture.com. Mienterra rug, £365sq m. Stepevi, stepevi.com. Rectangular brown leather trunks with antique leather trim, £950 a pair, Brownrigg Interiors and Decorative Furniture, brownrigg-interiors.co.uk.

DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM
Touches such as the pom-pom trim on the curtains give this cheerful scheme (below right) a playful feel without making it childish. Headboards in Atmosphere in Cardinal, £125m, Larsen at Colefax and Fowler, colefax.com.

