

## PROJECT DETAILS

**DESIGNER**  
Sean Symington  
(seansymington.com)

**PROPERTY**  
A five-bedroom  
Tudor farmhouse

**WORK**  
Part of the whole  
house interior  
design project

**LOCATION**  
Suffolk

## PRINTS CHARMING

Pretty patterns and colours are the stars of this characterful living space in a restored farmhouse

WORDS JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS WAKEFIELD

Interior designer Sean Symington was contacted by a couple who were restoring a farmhouse. 'Harriet liked my approach to colour and pattern,' he says. 'She didn't want the house to look too new, especially the sitting room as it's in the oldest part.'

**1 STARTING OUT**

The blank canvas space had newly plastered walls but it also had character and charm in the oak beams and original rustic fireplace. 'Harriet could see themselves relaxing in here with a glass of wine and chatting to family and friends,' says Sean. 'I however, as a "walk-through" room to the rest of the house, we were mindful colours needed to be cohesive.'

**2 KEEPING IT PERSONAL**

Harriet's goal was for the room to feel lived-in as though it had evolved over time. Sean showed her images to hone down the colours and styles she liked – raspberry pinks and greens came to the surface. 'We avoided matching fabrics and added personal touches, like Harriet's embroidered map of her home town, which helped bring the relaxed aesthetic together,' he says.

**3 FINDING INSPIRATION**

Decorated in a soft plaster pink, Sean picked a hero print – Schumacher's La Menagerie in cream, gold, raspberry and green – as the core inspiration. 'We hit the colours in multiple ways and in varying degrees,' he explains. Prints scale up in the damask botanical sofa and dial down on the geometric ottoman, while the fireplace fender seating is distinctly contemporary. 'We turned traditional on its head with the playful chevron print and raspberry bobbin legs for a fun colour pop.'

**4 FINISHING OFF**

Sean bought antique side tables and oil paintings and stored them until the couple came to visit and he could complete the whole house installation, which took three days. The sitting room was one of the first to be finished. 'Harriet sat down that evening and said she instantly felt at home,' says Sean. 'We were delighted.'

**TIMELESS STYLE**

'We gave the newly restored sitting room a loved and familiar feel by layering fabric prints to suggest the aesthetic had come together over time,' says Sean.

**Sofa** in Pomegranate in Sea Holly, Lewis & Wood. **Fender** in Kalamkari Chevron in Walnut and Sage, Soane Britain. **Fender legs** in Pompadour; **walls** in Jonquil, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint. **Ottoman** in Quantock 011; **sofa** in Green velvet N-025; **Nut Brown Wicker lampshades**, all Fermoie. **Chairs** in Diamond Ethnic Pink, Penny Morrison. **Cushions** in La Menagerie in Cream by Schumacher, and Devon Ruby by Schuyler Samperton Textiles