

Tuscany *in the Wolds...*

Risby Manor is a beautiful Lincolnshire manor house brought right up to date by its current owners. The property, near Market Rasen, was gloomy and in a poor state of decoration before owner Gerry Peckett worked with her daughter Sophie to bring the beautiful property back to life. The result is a modern and comfortable family home which manages to retain the original building's period charm...

Words: *Rob Davis*. Images: *Andrew Wheeler*.





Tuscany in the Wolds: that's what the owner of this month's property thought Risby Manor would provide upon purchasing the house around 12 years ago.

"We were first attracted by the views," says Gerry Peckett. "We're situated at the top of an escarpment and can see all the way to Lincoln, it's a very beautiful Lincolnshire panorama. The views reminded me of Tuscany, with the huge expanse of countryside that unfolds beyond the windows."

The Grade II listed house was extended in the Georgian era, and once again when Gerry came to own it. The family spent two years renovating it, replacing cornices and ceiling roses, and knocking down walls to create, for instance, a large drawing room in place of two separate reception rooms.

Gerry was very lucky to be able to call upon the services of her daughter, Sophie Peckett - based both in the village and in London - who works as an interior designer, creating

"We've opened up the rooms to emphasise the property's neoclassical architecture..."



some of the most beautiful and characterful properties we've seen for a while.

Sophie also added no fewer than seven fireplaces, installed underfloor heating and added an extension, which would house a new kitchen and living room, serving to counterbalance the traditional look and feel of the house with a large, versatile and very practical open plan living space.

"Over the past few years we've opened up the rooms to take advantage of the surroundings, and emphasised the neoclassical architecture," says Gerry.

Outside, Sophie added an Italianate portico, smothered the entrance hall in travertine and used a pilastered fireplace to welcome visitors into the house. Meanwhile, in the drawing room, Cole & Son's *Procuratie e Scimmie* wallpaper supplements Fornasetti wallpaper used elsewhere in the house, and a Christian



Top: The Chiselwood Kitchen features bright 'Sloe' cabinetry over contrasting tones of wood.

Above: The drawing room has elaborate window dressings and wallpaper by Cole & Son.

Opposite: The entrance hall has travertine flooring and an Italianate fireplace.





Liaigre sofa create an elegant but understated feel with mirrored alcoves, lavish window dressings and antique chandeliers.

The kitchen is a more lighthearted space with Lincoln's Chiselwood providing bespoke cabinetry, contrasting tones of woods painted in a rich sloc-coloured shade and plenty of hi-tech appliances from names like Miele and Fisher & Paykel incorporated.

Lighting is something that Sophie has paid particular attention to. That's hardly surprising since she was a lighting designer after graduating from London's Inchbald School of Design, then set up her own business.

Upstairs, bedrooms boast contemporary boutique hotel style, with son Henry's room featuring Cole & Con's Palm Leaves paper whilst Soft Jardin bespoke blinds utilised a fabric created by Christian Lacroix. Gerry's bedroom has an en suite featuring

Villeroy & Boch fittings and Cole & Son cherry blossom wallpaper, whilst a walnut four poster bed has been given a new life with the employment of Farrow & Ball's Clunch shade, creating a pop of colour and modernity in the traditional room.

All through the property, Sophie's trademarks of large whimsical patterns, bold flashes of colour and quirky lighting & furniture all help to create, from a traditional building, this contemporary family home that's both fun and stylish.

"Sophie is definitely the professional here." says Gerry. "I'm very proud of her. But to her credit she's encouraged me to be involved in the look and feel of the place and we've worked very well together."

"Her ideas are edgy, but work very well, and they've created a really wonderful place to live."

Above: The property's main reception room was originally two rooms, combined to create a large grand space with chandeliers, fireplaces at each end and whimsical Procuratie e Scimmie wallpaper from Cole & Son.

Find Out More: Sophie Peckett specialises in the interior design of properties and has studios in Lincolnshire and London. Call 020 799 35368 or 07515 944 593 for more information.

