

Warming up



Meet the designer

Christine May has been designing luxurious interiors in both residential and commercial markets for the past 20 years, and is a member of the British Institute of Interior Design. She has a flair for combining fabrics and colour palates and creating innovative solutions to sometimes difficult challenges.
Christine May: www.christinemayinteriors.co.uk

With an innovative use of lighting, texture and subtle shades, interior designer **Christine May** has brought light, warmth and atmosphere into an unloved dining area.

Despite being light, spacious and facing a large garden, this kitchen/diner was cold, and painfully lacking colour, warmth and atmosphere. Christine May's challenge was to make it warmer and more stylish,

so Christine looked at lighting first, suggesting low level pendants over the Bulthaup dining table to brighten up the dark room which adjoins the kitchen, with additional ceiling spotlights and Astro wall lights within the kitchen area.

The up and down wall lights illuminate the Bulthaup worktop as well as throwing light up to the ceiling, meaning they're functional as well as decorative. To create warmth in the kitchen, window shutters were added as well as personal photographs.

A pale shade of Farrow & Ball wall paint called Pale Powder was chosen by homeowner Ann-Marie Phillips for its neutral tones, despite Christine's suggestion of a darker shade. Sadly this is a decision now regretted.

A hard-wearing sisal rug was added underneath the dining table, which helps with the acoustics of the vaulted dining area. The Hans Wegner 'wishbone' dining chairs no longer drag on the slate floor making unpleasant and damaging



scraping noises. All the dining area windows were replaced with triple-glazed replacement doors and windows to improve their energy efficiency and reduce draughts, and underfloor heating has been installed throughout to allow for a radiator-free space and a warm floor underfoot.

The dining room beams were already painted white, and so to reflect as much light as possible, the vaulted ceiling was painted to match the beams.

Ann-Marie says: "Now the kitchen and dining areas are much warmer and stylish and it very much fits in with the rest of the family house. The dining area itself is used every day now for both the family and informal entertaining".

Christine says she was pleased to introduce more light and colour and make a subtle but noticeable change to how the spaces work and are used. "It feels like one room now as opposed to an extension on a beautiful kitchen."

Suppliers

Kitchen, dining table and bar stool Bulthaup: www.bulthaup.com

Wishbone chairs Hans Wegner: www.danishdesign.com

Foscarini pendant lights Mac & Mac: www.macandmacinteriors.co.uk

Sisal rug Crucial Trading: www.crucialrugstore.co.uk

Shutters The Shutter Shop: www.shuttershop.co.uk