

# ON THE WATERFRONT

Kate and Nick Plummer's home on a Gloucestershire conservation estate is designed to be the ultimate in calm

Gentle, airy, soft tones and spectacular floor-to-ceiling windows offering endless views of the scenery outside characterise Kate and Nick

Plummer's home in Gloucestershire.

The couple read about the new housing development on a wildlife conservation estate four years ago, and were immediately inspired by the modern architecture and fabulous lake views.

"As we decided to buy the property before it was finished, we had some say in the design of the house," says Kate. "We were able to work closely with the developers to create a second floor,

adding a fifth bedroom and en suite bathroom above the living space.

"Our favourite aspect of the house is the open-plan layout," she adds. "It's light, airy and very sociable, with plenty of space for everyone to spread out. But even when I'm cooking in the kitchen, I can still be part of the conversation."

She admits that when they furnished the house, they had to be very restrained to make sure it didn't feel cluttered.

"We were tempted to buy more than we needed, but we had to be firm to keep the feel of the house really calm."

They opted for a neutral colour scheme throughout, a modern kitchen and simply >>



## OPEN-PLAN LIVING

"In big, open spaces, it's a good idea to position furnishings carefully to create different sections," says Kate. "We have three distinctive zones: the kitchen, which is at the front of the house; the living room at the back, which leads out onto a balcony; and a dining room in-between, linking the two areas. The master bedroom overlooks the living space through a window – so even when you're upstairs, you have a lovely sense of space."



styled bathrooms. "The downstairs bedrooms were also treated to the same clean and simple scheme, with a traditional fresh white New England feel, while we went for a more contemporary style upstairs in the gallery bedroom.

"The furniture we've chosen has been well designed and built to last, and we've enhanced the look by adding splashes of earthy colours and chunky textures."

Kate adds: "So many of our friends love coming to spend the weekend here. They're able to switch off from their hectic lifestyles and take time out to just sit back and relax. The wildlife and landscape seem to help everyone unwind." >>



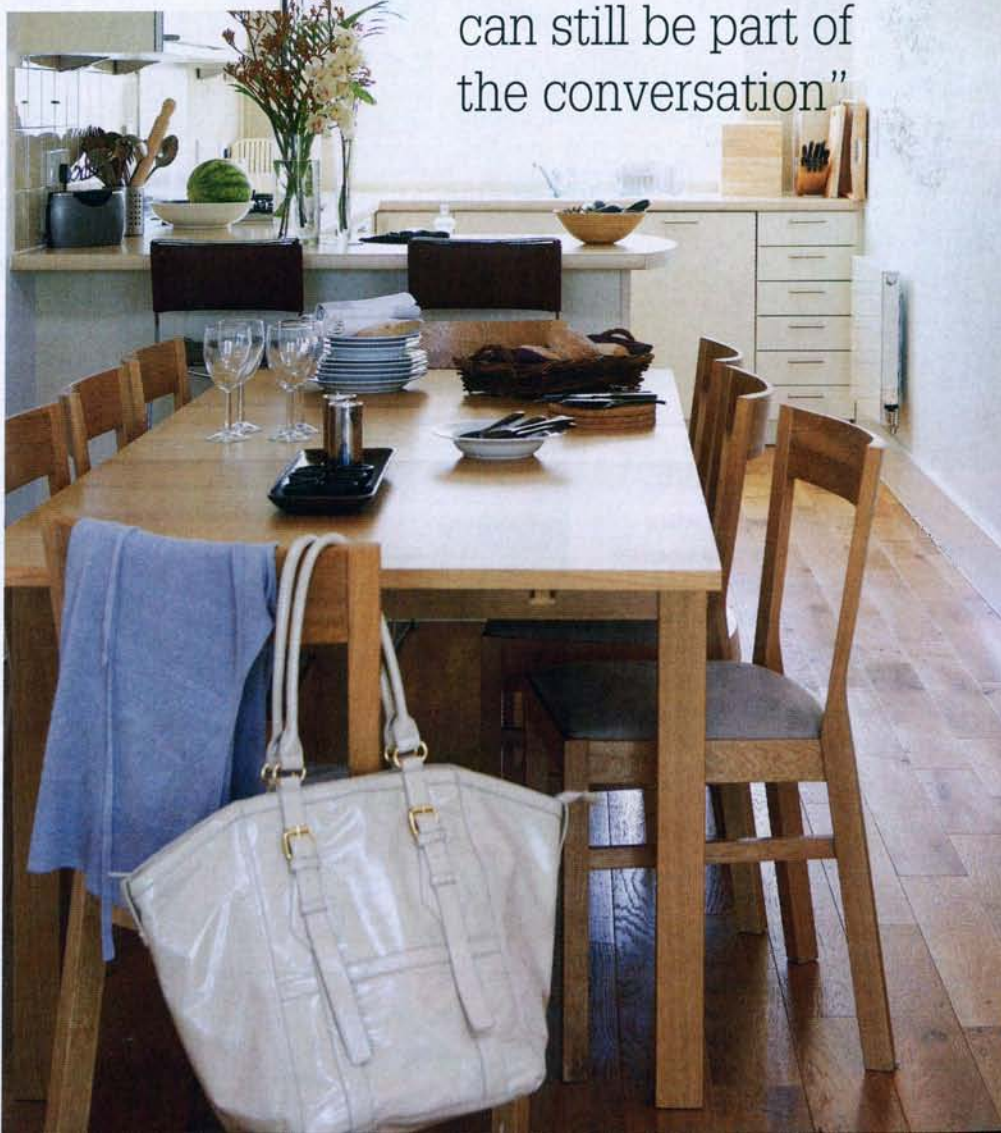
### MY SLEEK KITCHEN

Kate and Nick's streamlined kitchen has units and appliances that have been chosen for their clean lines and simplicity. To add interest, they opted for a variety of textures: cream gloss and frosted-glass cupboards from Systemat Kitchens, and luxurious leather bar stools from Dwell.co.uk to finish off the look. "I'm delighted with the result, and really enjoy cooking for friends and family when they come to stay with us."



### DESIGNED FOR ENTERTAINING

The dining area is just a few steps away from the kitchen and large enough to fit an extra-long table, which is positioned to look out to the lake. The couple chose a modern wooden table for the space, with matching chairs from Ikea, which tie in with the warm colour of the floor. Because it's a good size and can easily seat up to around eight to ten people, it's great for entertaining. "Choosing an informal-looking dining table like this means we can use it when we're having a casual lunch or dress it up for a more formal dinner party," says Kate.



"The open-plan layout is so sociable – even when I'm cooking in the kitchen, I can still be part of the conversation"

## NEW ENGLAND STYLE

"All the ground-floor bedrooms open out onto the lake, which our guests love as it's such a novelty," Kate explains. "We chose a New England-style theme in these rooms as it seems to fit perfectly with the design of the house. To break up the light spaces and white furniture, we added soft furnishings with patterns and textures. It's amazing how cushions and throws can make a room feel more inviting, and prevent it from looking cold and bare." House of Fraser has a great range of cushions and throws in all colours.

## OUR SPECIAL PLACE

The first thing Kate and Nick do when they come home is go out on the balcony. "The scene changes from day to day and season to season, so we never tire of the view," she says. "This is one of the main reasons for buying a house on a conservation estate. Standing outside on the balcony, you can make the most of what's on offer, whatever the weather." Looking at the property from across the lake, you can see how the houses are now starting to blend into their environment. "As more trees and plants become established, the landscape gets even better," says Kate. **w&h**

"Floor-to-ceiling windows give us the most fabulous views across the lake. You can simply sit back and watch the world go by"

## GROWING YOUR OWN

None of the properties have gardens, so when the Plummers found out the estate had allotments, they applied for one. "It's been a great way to get to know people and we've become very friendly with other allotment holders," says Kate. "If we've got too much of anything, be it peas, asparagus or strawberries, we'll share it with them, and they do the same for us."

