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WHERE TO BUY

FURNITURE C2 table in Platinum laminate, £4,533, Bulthaup, mayfair.bulthaup.com.
Camembert chairs in stained solid beech, laminated birch and Maroc leather, from £1,277 each, Howe, howelondon.com.
Cupboard in Railings estate eggshell, £60 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.
ACCESSORIES Drop pendants in anodised copper finish, £705.60 each, Mike Stoane Lighting, mikestoanelighting.com. **Limited-edition Marble Cone lamp** with linen shade, from £3,120, Rose Uniacke, roseuniacke.com.
Small Talk print, £55, One Must Dash, onemustdash.com. **Aluminus frame**, £35, Habitat, habitat.co.uk.
ARCHITECT Niall McLaughlin Architects, niallmclaughlin.com.



SIMPLY STYLISH

A monochrome palette proves a fitting partner to natural materials in this pared-back scheme



DESIGNER
 Sally Conran,
sallyconran.com

Can you describe the space?

This is a large, contemporary house in the country outside Winchester, designed for my clients by Niall McLaughlin Architects. The ground floor is mostly open plan, and the room shown here is the informal dining space leading off a triple-height kitchen, which lies to the left of this image; there is a more formal dining space, which can be seen in the background. On the right are huge floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the grounds. The sliding door conceals a hub – a small workspace fitted with bookshelves above.

What was the brief for this project?

The clients were very keen to mix old and new, incorporating antiques they already owned into the rooms. They also wanted their home to be relaxed and practical as they have three teenage children, as well as a dog and two cats. The surrounding countryside is so stunning that the interior needed to be quite simple, so as not to vie with the views.

How did the house's architecture inform the scheme?

The architects used a very limited number of materials – textured flint for the façade and untreated oak and Portland stone for the interiors. It was important that any wooden furniture we introduced was in a cooler colour to balance the warm tones of the oak flooring and beams. We selected chairs in solid beech and laminated birch that have been stained a chocolate hue. They are upholstered in a beautiful ink coloured leather and this shade is picked up in the colour of the sideboard. The scheme is essentially monochromatic, which is a good counterpoint to the honey tones of the oak and enhances the serene feel of the space.

Can you tell us more about the pieces you have selected?

The table was sized to fit the room and is very clean-lined and minimal with a laminate finish that responds to the clients' request for a practical, robust surface. The sideboard was a pine cupboard that had been with the owner since her student years. It was refurbished and painted a dark blue-black, which instantly transformed it into a much smarter piece. What is lovely, though, is that it has sentimental value to the owners.

What about the lighting?

The pendant lights, chosen by the architects, have an anodised copper finish; this adds another warm tone to the room, which we echoed with the copper bowl on the sideboard. The table lamp was a limited-edition piece in a deeply veined brown marble that complements the chocolate tone of the chairs. Its sculptural, cone-shaped base and simple natural linen shade work well with the modernity of this space.

A judicious mix of oak, beech and dark leather is carefully balanced to create an informal scheme that is modern and understated.

WORDS: RACHEL LEEDHAM PHOTOGRAPH: JON DAY