



3 of the best
COUNTRY STYLE TABLES



Woven wonder
Wood not your thing? This one has a Lloyd-Loom-style frame and glass top
Lloyd-Loom-style table, Sweetpea & Willow



Shabby chic
A stripped-wood top and distressed painted legs give an antique look
Bramley dining table, Laura Ashley



Gather round
Have breakfast for two or dinner for 10 with this extendable design
Neptune Sheldrake table, John Lewis

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LOOK
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garden terrace,' says Nick. 'It's hidden from view, with just the garage door visible in a retaining wall, and we can walk out onto the roof to have our breakfast!'

For the extension, which has trebled the size of the house, the couple approached a local company. 'We wanted everything about the renovation to be as eco-friendly as possible, which was one of the reasons we chose Westwind Oak,' Bernice says. 'They designed and built the frame of the extension using freshly cut green oak from a sustainable source.' Watching as their oak frame was erected by crane in a single day proved to be the highlight of the entire project, which many neighbours from the village turned out to witness. 'It's beautiful,' says Bernice. 'Once oak ages and hardens, it's almost impossible to work with, but as the wood dries and shrinks, it warps and splits to give the building real character.'

The mainly open-plan extension is in total contrast to the original cottage, with its small rooms. There are four bedrooms and two bathrooms in this older part of the house, freeing up the extension as living space. 'We positioned the kitchen and main living areas upstairs to take full advantage of the views and the oak frame, and it's wonderful to look down through the atrium to the ground floor below,' says Nick.

Heating and hot water in this eco-friendly house are powered by solar thermal panels and a ground >>

Dining area

The doorway in the dining area of the extension leads to the old part of the house. The stonework was left bare to add character and show the heritage of the original stone cottage

Table and chairs, from a selection, Hotwells Pine

Entrance hall

Part of the ground floor of the extension has the big open-plan entrance, which also acts as an atrium for growing plants (see above right). To continue their eco drive, Bernice and Nick put in underfloor heating powered by a ground source heat pump

Slate tiles, from £47.44 per sq m, Topps Tiles

