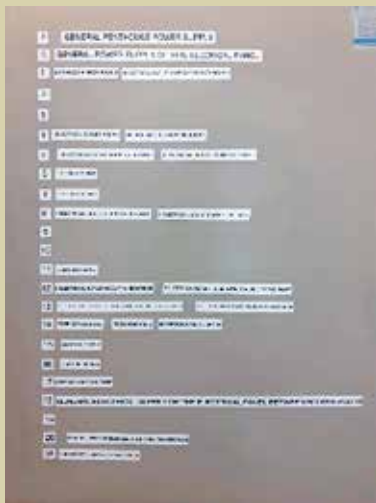


Behind the Scenes

Anyone who has renovated will know that it takes a lot of time to get to the finishing touches that everyone sees.

We have had the pleasure of working with a great electrician, Stephane, and he has completely tidied up, rewired or created new 9 power boards. Before he worked his magic we had no idea when a light went out, or a plug point didn't work, which power board it was connected to and which switch on what board related to it. Now we have safe, labelled, modernised power boards. Such a pleasure to open the door and not be scared by what we saw. Thank you, Stephane. You have certainly left a lasting reminder of you here.



destiny

noun

/ˈdɛstəni/

plural *destinies*

the way your life will develop in the future



The Staircase

I am not ashamed to admit this is a job we were avoiding! I was trying to convince myself and others it would be fine to do it later. I just couldn't face the challenge and the mess when I felt so close to completing the ground floor. But once again, Marylin with her drive and determination just started sanding

one day. It was amazing once we started how it was a collective ambition to complete it as all-girl team! Lucie, Marylin and I. It took 4 days from sanding, cleaning, painting two coats and oiling the handrail. I have to say I have never had to bend into so many positions for any other job, we were coming from the top, the side and underneath to get every angle and detail covered. The end result was just amazing. I can't imagine it not being done now. The

stairwell wouldn't have been finished off and I know it would have haunted me that it was not done. Everyone who climbs these stairs still say how lovely they are. Of course, the builders and painters had little chuckles at us every day as they went up and down the stairs but I think that was chuckles of relief they were not doing it! They are perfectly lit up when the sun streams in through the terrace door and the shadows make me smile every day.



Farewells

June saw the bulk of the team leave and this was a strange feeling.

We still felt the to do list was so long and we were facing that list on our own. Tom the carpenter and Jan for painting stayed on for a few more weeks. Plumbing and Electrics came and went and will be coming

back for some months, yet to the rest of the team this was goodbye.

Such a mixture of sad to see them go, as we have been living together as a family for so long, glad this meant we had achieved the most

complex part of phase one and totally scared about going it alone.....

But we are all connected and I am sure we will get to work together again.



First Apartment Ready to Move Into!

Our first-floor apartment (Gardenview Apartment) with one bedroom attached to a studio apartment provides two queen-size beds, two shower rooms with one as ensuite in the private bedroom, lounge area, dining and fully equipped kitchen.



This is our largest apartment and the push to finish was an adrenalin rush for sure. On the last day we had five people all doing something different. It was a bit mad, but we all wanted it finished so we could celebrate! This

was a very special day after so long to tick that last task and say finished. We still had floor covering down on the ground floor to protect the floors so despite the finished status of this area it was not dressed.

Here, finally, we had a furnished and dressed guest-worthy space and it felt so good. The reduced team now celebrated with us our first fully completed apartment.



Sanding the Floors - Feels So Good!

When we first saw the Ground Floor studio room it was not a studio but just a bedroom, with red carpet squares and a damaged floor and dated bathroom.

We just knew, however, that the vision for this room was so much better and we hung onto that belief. This poor room was the dumping ground for so many things and was even the bathtub painting room at one stage. It was such a wonderful experience to finally remove the floor coverings and start sanding the boards. The floor has some patches of slightly different wood where we needed to make repairs and the end result was better than we hoped for. We built a

half wall, so the bed is going on one side and a sofa bed on the other. This simple little wall created the perfect divider from kitchen/dining/lounge to bedroom. With USB charging ports and wall mounted bedside lights it is functional as well as beautiful.

The Penthouse Suite was one large room with an amazing view. We had a lot of debate about if this should be just one very large bedroom as part of a very large Penthouse apartment

or make it a Penthouse Suite and the right decision was to create a suite. This meant building walls and configuring the room without losing the 180 degree views. With clever design we have pulled it off and the original floor was able to be sanded and sealed back to its beautiful former self. We can now really see the vision coming together for this very special suite. We can't wait to furnish it and have guests stay and enjoy being at the top of the chateau.



A Huge Task Brings Huge Results

The ground floor studio was fast becoming everyone's favourite room with the bathroom hidden behind this beautiful full length and width cupboard.

The cupboard was a feature we wanted not just to keep, but give a special effect. I was inspired while sitting in the famous tearoom in Versailles seeing the detailed panels painted different shades to the flat panels. The idea seemed simple enough, however the guys were all trying to talk me out of it! Pulling off this effect means a lot of taping and the risk with old uneven surfaces is a lot of bleeding of the paint under the tape.



Jan took it upon himself to do the best job he could, and the result is amazing. Everyone's favourite room now is also the most admired for the attention to detail and clever design. Placing the kitchenette in the other end of the cupboard and using old wine boxes to display glasses and plates was the idea of Tom our carpenter. These beautiful boxes were stacked in the hallway, filled with books, and had not seen oil or a cleaning cloth in a long time. They were perfect and fitted with no modification.

This innovative storage and the kitchen bench in matching colours is the perfect blend for the living and dining area of the studio. I remember living in studios when I was younger and in one I could turn the kettle on from bed! Despite the size I really loved living in this compact way. I think for a getaway this studio has everything you need, and it is extremely cute with three windows looking to the garden and one to the river. It makes me smile every time I take someone new in there.



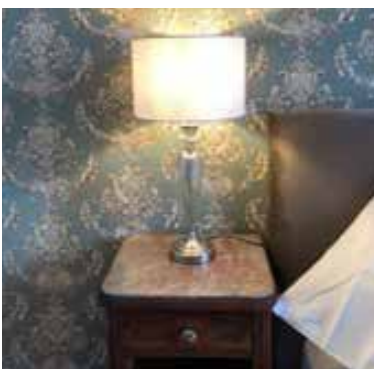
First Garden View Suite Ready

I was so excited when I found this wallpaper, and now to get to this stage where the room is ready is such a relief and a joy.

This paper gets a comment from everyone that walks in this room as it is so striking. I love this room with the fireplace, high ceilings and a separate dressing room, very civilised. We were also incredibly lucky to have our first guests, great friends from Swit-

zerland who drove over to be our test clients. Of course, the place still looks like a construction site on the first floor, but every day they came home it was transforming. So nice to have them here and to see the reaction as they entered and saw what we had got

up to while they were out. We are forever grateful to them for their support in being here. So many friends have not been able to come this year, but we so enjoyed these guys being here.



So, the sun is getting warmer and the to do list is getting crossed off every day with finishing tasks. We are so looking forward to welcoming our first guests, and hopefully have them tell us they love the place as much as we do.