

FAIRFORD, LECHLADE
AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

Ripples

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Rooms with a view at the Lakes by yoo

When you first see one of the holiday homes at the Lakes by yoo, you could be mistaken for thinking it is a rather plain, wooden structure, but each lodge has its own bespoke interior-designed identity. Award-winning designer, Blanca Sanchez, was commissioned by the owner of one of these lodges to design the interior and turn it into a temple dedicated to family living.

Blanca and her team from Halo Design Interiors spent a lot of time with the client discussing the personalities of her four children aged between two and eight and the client's requirements for the five-bedroom, six-bathroom lakeside house. The owner wanted her two boys and two girls to be part of the whole communal space and to even have inter-connecting doors between the boys' bedrooms.

Blanca insists that each bedroom is a reflection of the children's personalities and not their hobbies. She wanted to create an imaginative fantasy space that is also adventurous and innovative. Light and the landscape is drawn into the rectangular building via floor to ceiling windows and the stunning lake views can be seen from an assortment of designer swings and climbing places to encourage unrestrained freedom.

Above the children's bedrooms on the top floor is the main bedroom suite comprising a mixture of Ibiza chic with natural textures. Pearlescent lights blend naturally with the wood effect wallpaper and imitation silk/suede and metal studs on the bed-head. The stark whiteness of the room is simple, elegant and timeless with touches of international glamour showing the designer's experiment with ideas

combined with suggestions from the homeowner, who was more involved in this space than any other.

There is very little colour in the bathrooms to distract you, but the splashes of colour there are shout vibrancy, luxury and excitement, contrasting bright white with neon orange and link to their corresponding bedrooms.

Downstairs, there is more use of natural products and internal hints at the beautiful lake and wooded vista outside. The faux porcelain floor made to look like wide planks of wood stretches the whole length of the ground floor and the dining

table top is distressed oak on a Perspex base to give a sense of space and create the effect that the table top is floating.

Next to the off-white and silver open-plan family living, dining, kitchen area is the colourful and cosy snug which, although small, has a huge sofa filling the room like an over-sized bed where the whole family can sprawl and be comfortable while watching TV. Once again, Blanca has mixed bland with colourful with a stimulating, pink wallpaper and occasional tables or stools made out of tree stumps painted in vibrant colours and lacquered for durability.

Most people enjoy finding out what is behind closed doors

and this friendly, open, light-filled home does not disappoint. There is no lack of atmosphere and every designer detail oozes exquisite craftsmanship. Designed to be a home for a family, each room wraps its nurturing fabric around each of its occupants.

Story: Chris Roberts. Photos: Richard Gooding. Styling: Niche PR

