



"I AM DUTCH, AND ROGER IS HALF DUTCH. WE LIKE LIGHT AND SPACE IN A HOUSE. WE DESIGNED THIS IN RELATION TO THE LIGHT AND THE SUN."

**ABOVE AND CENTRE** The enormous kitchen/family room is the full depth of the house.

**TOP** The open tread oak staircase has deep treads.

**RIGHT** The family room has french doors which open onto the garden.

**FAR RIGHT** The fireplace in the living room was built using sandstone and ironstone from the old house.

They found a local man who had set up a business building timber framed houses. "He did some plans for us and was in the process of submitting them for approval to the planners but then he went out of business," said Roger. "That put us back a year or so," adds Madeleen.

While converting their new large house into a home for themselves, a flat for the parents and a section to rent out they worked with builder Tony Woodcraft. He had a Lithuanian working with him and told them about a company called Taurage who built wooden houses using Baltic oak.

"Tony was interested enough to travel to Lithuania. He found there were two factories working together that could produce pretty well any kind of wooden building you wanted. He said that he thought we might as well

get something out of Europe and these are bargains," says Madeleen.

Basing their ideas on the design produced by the previous company, Madeleen and Roger designed their ideal house and also a cottage in case the parents should decide to come back to live.

The new design has a large kitchen cum family room which runs the full depth of the house, a dining room, sitting room, small study and a cloakroom with shower on the ground floor and four double bedrooms, one en suite and a family bathroom on the first floor. Many of the rooms are double or even triple aspect.

"I am Dutch," says Madeleen, "and Roger is half Dutch. We like light and space in a house. We designed this in relation to the light and the sun."



"I have looked into the ancient Indian system of building called *Stapatya Veda*," explains Roger. "This maintains that the aspect of the house has benefits for the inhabitants. The front door should face east and the fire should be on the south side of the building. So we designed that in."

Madeleen and Roger took their design to architect →

