



Simply Modern

Readers Home Upper Mill

DRAMATIC CHANGE For Dianne Kirkcaldy, moving house was the motivation for a dramatic change of style – from 'country cottagey' to contemporary chic.

When Dianne Kirkcaldy first moved into her small Victorian home, she brought the antique furniture and design ideas that had served her so well in her last home with her. In fact, it was only after she had completely re-created the 'country cottagey' look she had loved in the farmhouse she had lived in before in her new home that she realised it just wasn't working for her anymore. Dianne told me: "When I moved, I just transferred my old style to the new house and it looked awful. I knew that I needed a total change of direction, but I didn't know where to start.

"In the end, I was reading *Concept For Living*, looking at all the beautiful, contemporary homes and trying to get a bit of inspiration when I read an interview with Lorraine Howell, an interior designer who >>>



DE-CLUTTER Dianne Knew that she was ready to de-clutter her home, and wanted to start again with a clean slate.

was based just round the corner from me. "I decided to give her a call, and she agreed to come round and take a look at the place. At first I was worried that Lorraine wouldn't want to take on the project because my house is quite small, and I didn't have a vast budget, but we sat down and discussed what I wanted from my home, and how much money I wanted to spend, and Lorraine was really helpful.

"She encouraged me to think about which of the elements of the design were most important to me, so that they could be prioritised in terms of budget, and also made me think about the more practical elements of the design.

"For example, I have a dog, who sometimes jumps up onto the sofa, but we wanted a really light, neutral colour scheme for the sofa, so Lorraine managed to find me >>>





GRANITE The kitchen was updated with the addition of sleek granite worktops and lots of stainless steel.

a scrubbable fabric that would stand up to that kind of wear and tear." However, before Lorraine could start introducing the new light and modern design scheme into the home, Dianne had to make a difficult decision about all the antique furniture that was currently dominating the house.

Dianne explained: "I knew that I was ready to de-clutter my home, and I wanted to start again with a clean slate, so in the end I found someone who wanted to buy my old furniture, and sold it all to them." With the old furniture sold, Dianne told Lorraine that she was ready to set about radically transforming her home into a more modern, minimal space.

Lorraine told me: "When I first spoke to Dianne, she told me that she had all of this traditional furniture and Laura Ashley stuff that she just didn't want anymore. "She wanted a complete change, and once the original furniture had gone, she >>>

