



CULTIVATE THE CONTRAST

Caroline and John Goves's Suffolk barn conversion pays homage to its agricultural roots with a bold black-steel silhouette. But step inside and materials take on a softer, more natural character, creating a warm-hearted home

PHOTOGRAPHY RACHEL WHITING WORDS JO LEEVERS STYLING BEN KENDRICK





SOARING SPACES

The ground floor now consists of a large open-plan area where a double-sided fireplace acts as a focal point and a subtle divider between two seating areas, and four quieter bedrooms and two workspaces. The dining, seating and cooking areas all feel connected, with a chimney that extends into the lofty mezzanine level, drawing the eye upwards to appreciate the airy, spacious feel. An olive tree started life outdoors where it acquired a blackbird's nest one year

LAY OF THE LAND

Black sinusoidal steel cladding stays faithful to the building's unfussy, agricultural roots as a humble pre-war barn to house livestock, with sliding doors opening onto a courtyard. An unusual stepped design in concrete at the front of the building reflects the use of the same material indoors





OPEN AND AIRY

A staircase in wood and steel forged locally leads up to the sizeable mezzanine floor, where Caroline has a workspace. "I used a lye treatment on the wooden treads and risers for a pale, Scandinavian-style finish," she says. One wall is painted black, which makes a dramatic backdrop for artwork such as the piece by a family friend



MONOCHROME SET

White kitchen cabinets made by a local company, Anglia Factors, are softened by the addition of wooden worktops and plenty of texture-rich chopping boards, handmade ceramics and old agricultural implements. "I didn't want the space to look too clinical," Caroline says



DOWN ON THE FARM

In the courtyard, which was once a farmyard, agricultural feed troughs serve as planters. A yellow front door – its colour matched to the rapeseed fields that surround the house – shines out against the black steel cladding. “We can always see the door in the dark,” Caroline jokes. *Architecture and interiors by Project Orange (projectorange.com)*

