

**SITTING ROOM**

This was once a garage before Kate transformed it into a lovely living space. Duresta Lowdnes sofas, £2,400 each, John Lewis. Silver Decorative Oval Princess, £147, Amy Nicholas Interior Design, is a similar mirror. For a comparable side table, try Provencale, £325, Laura Ashley



rural setting but it's also a short distance from the motorway network and Manchester airport, which is great for me as I love to travel.'

To maximise the property's potential, Kate decided to make a few structural alterations. Although the

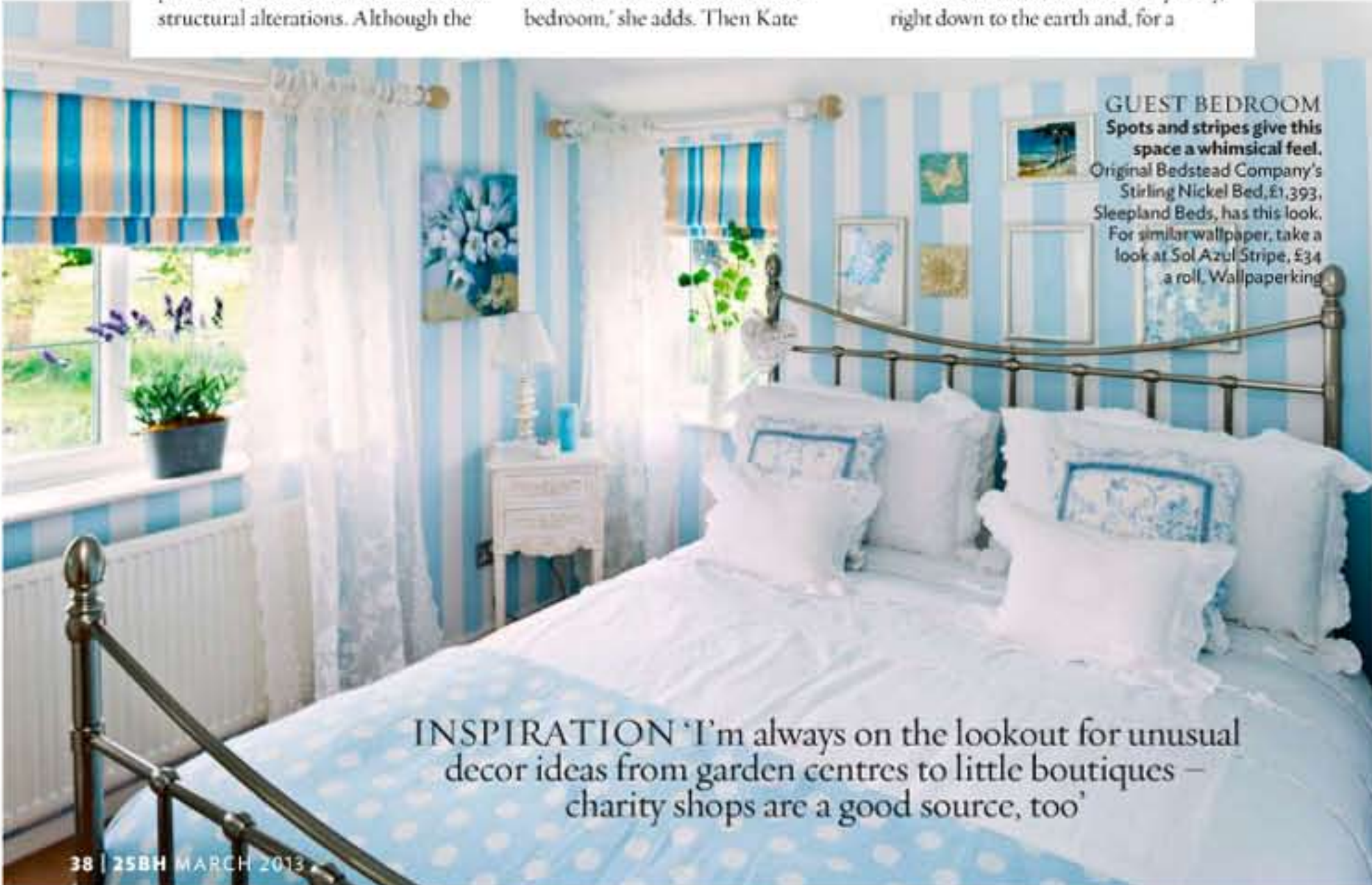
house was small, it still contained four bedrooms, one of which Kate turned into a spacious bathroom. 'It seemed a sensible use of space, as the cottage didn't have an interior bathroom. Besides, I had no use for a fourth bedroom,' she adds. Then Kate

converted the garage attached to the side of the house into another reception room to increase the ground-floor living space, before turning her attention to the kitchen.

'We removed the floor completely, right down to the earth and, for a

**GUEST BEDROOM**

Spots and stripes give this space a whimsical feel. Original Bedstead Company's Stirling Nickel Bed, £1,393. Sleepland Beds, has this look. For similar wallpaper, take a look at Sol Azul Stripe, £34 a roll, Wallpaperking



**INSPIRATION** 'I'm always on the lookout for unusual decor ideas from garden centres to little boutiques – charity shops are a good source, too'



**MASTER BEDROOM**

Kate's love of feminine chic is clear to see here. Classical White Rattan bed, £2,145; Classical White Emily chair, £305, both Sweetpea and Willow. French Chateau White Painted Carved Kidney dressing table, £449, The Furniture Market, is a close match

while, I had to walk across it on planks, like a bridge, as a recent wet spell had turned it into a quagmire,' Kate recalls. 'But the inconvenience was worth it and now my kitchen is just how I wanted it.'

Kate's talent for remodelling houses has led on to a role in her daughter's

interior design business, and developing a property portfolio of her own. 'Although I have no formal training, I've always been able to visualise what a scheme can look like,' she says.

Her cottage, however, remains a work in progress. 'It may look finished,

but I'm always thinking of ways to improve it,' Kate says. 'I'm considering adding a home office and another arched window into the porch to bring further light into the kitchen. There's still room for plenty of tweaks and I wouldn't have it any other way.'

**BATHROOM**

The unused fourth bedroom made way for this luxurious haven. Heritage Dorchester, £364, Bathroom Village, is an identical double ended bath. Amazon sells a similar towel rail for £28

