DERELICT SHELL
The barn, which is located on farmland, dates back to the 18th century, when it was used as a working horse stable

BEFORE

AFTER

Dream
TRANSFORMATION

A barn reborn

Architect Richard Witcher explains how a former farm building became a characterful family home

PHOTOGRAPHS **WITCHER CRAWFORD ARCHITECTS**

This barn, on farmland near Salisbury, was a derelict shell. The cob walls had seriously eroded over many years of disuse and the corrugated tin roof was full of holes. Our brief was to repair the external envelope of the barn then reinstate its original look, including the thatched roof.

The resulting property was to provide the owner with a two-bedroom home with an open-plan living area that could also be added to in the future. The first stage of the project was connecting the building to utilities and drainage systems.

The existing barn was altered to become the bedroom wing. It now accommodates the master bedroom and a shower room at first floor level, and the second bedroom on the ground floor. An oak staircase links the two.

An additional window was cut into the original cob wall of the master bedroom to bring light into the first floor. The window was designed with shutters that resemble hayloft doors.

A single-storey extension was added in the area of a collapsed former store. This makes up the new living wing and accommodates the entrance hall, a family bathroom, and an open-plan space incorporating the kitchen, dining and living areas under a vaulted ceiling with oak trusses. Large sliding doors allow this area to be fully opened up to the new garden terrace.

Externally, lime render, brick and flint, and small elements of Western Red Cedar timber cladding have been used. The extension roof has slate tiles and the barn is thatched. **Architects** Witcher Crawford, 01962 813344, witchercrawford.co.uk **Number of bedrooms** Two **Build cost** £265,000 **RH**