



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JULIEN HARDY

## A PINCH OF SALT

ON THIS PROJECT **JULIEN HARDY**'S CLIENT GAVE HIM THE FREEDOM TO MAKE WHAT HE LIKED - SO HE DECIDED TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN

On this project, I was given *carte blanche*, which is a bit scary. So I went for maximum pleasure and decided to treat myself to some joint fun. I don't even know what to call them - the three-piece half-lap, maybe, and the twin tenon and mortise-and-a-half. Descriptive, but nothing more.

The three-piece half-lap is pretty straightforward: it's a partial half-lap in which you dig a second one. Though simple, it's an exercise in precision. The thing can quickly become gappy. I thought of pegging it, but decided to go without for visual cleanliness. I mixed tools: the tablesaw for the walls and

a router plane to clean up the bottom. I marked the joint with a knife to be precise.

The twin tenon and mortise-and-a-half is just a tangent taken from the classic. For stability, you can add a shallow stopped groove on the back of the apron or mortised piece so that the tenoned part cannot move, but that's just for fun and a few square millimetres of extra glue surface, which I would recommend for any floating top of footing that will take a lot of side pressure as the piece is used. I love what it does visually, repeated on an apron. And it's always fun to add your own pinch of salt to a classic joint.