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SEASIDE-STYLE VICTORIAN VILLA

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June 2015

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COVER STORY



Coastal accessories in maritime hues create a calming ambience in this chic sitting room (see page 52).



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II

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NEW-BUILD

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UNIQUE

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WELCOME

When I come to write this message I usually have a quick look at the homes destined for issue to get a sense of the mood. Although every home is different and we strive for variety, sometimes you can see a theme appearing, whether it be for bifold doors or for fitted furniture. Sometimes it can be the accessories that catch the eye – for instance, this month cushions seem to be jumping out at me everywhere. Every home has cushions somewhere, but this month in quite a few of the houses, they're standing out as a key decorating item. I always think that buying cushions for the home is akin to having another pair of shoes, you can never have too many of them. Obviously you can select cushions to work with a particular scheme but if you have a more neutral scheme you can really play with pattern and colour. Turn to page 30 and take a look at the Kapulainan home, where they've used cushions cleverly as with their neutral scheme they could swap them around to great effect. Never needing much of an excuse I'll be buying some new cushions inspired by this month's issues.

Deborah

DEBORAH BARKER, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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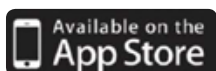
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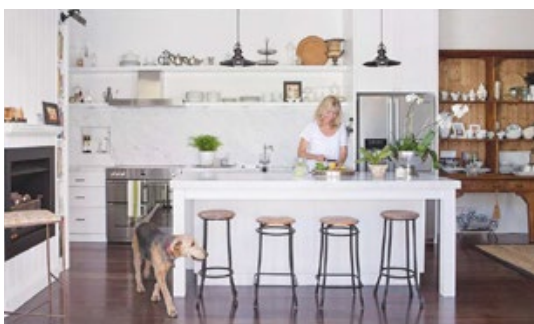
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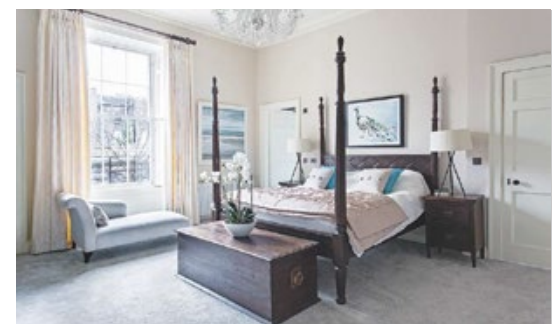
WHITE AND WONDERFUL

How a 1980s property in Perth was completely reworked to suit the needs of the family



COASTAL UPDATE

A palette of neutrals, greys and blues echoes the idyllic views of this seaside new-build



EAST MEETS WEST

This Georgian townhouse in Scotland has been decorated in a rustic style with an Asian twist

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JUNE

TRENDS | WHAT'S NEW | MUST-HAVE BUYS



SEASIDE ESCAPE

This month, we're awash with cool coastal style. Invite a relaxed ocean vibe into your home with our selection of furniture and accessories that inspire and surprise

1 SAIL AWAY

Sailing boat, £79, Multiyork

2 DEEP BLUE STORAGE

Blue metal trunk, £45, Habitat

3 HARBOUR LIGHT

Becket table lamp, £29, Very

4 SEASIDE STYLE

Blue-and-white storage basket, £6.99, H&M Home

5 DAY TO NIGHT

Avignon bamboo lantern, £70, The White Company

6 SHIP SHAPE

Anchor mug, £5, House of Fraser

7 DECK CHAIR

Miss Behaving armchair with Sanderson Sail Away upholstery, £925, Sofa Workshop

8 TAKE A LOOK

Binocular ornament, £8, George Home

9 ON THE WING

Linea seagull cushion, £25, House of Fraser



SUMMER LOVING

Head outside for lazy days and alfresco fun with our round-up of garden accessories and give your outdoor area a new lease of life

1 TURN UP THE HEAT

Orchid green patio heater, £180, WorldStores

2 LITTLE SPRINKLE

Planter, £40, House of Fraser

3 COLOUR RUSH

Tropical Bellagio melamine

bowl, £3, Marks & Spencer

4 IN THE SHADE

Genoa parasol, £79, Fishpools

5 BRIGHT IDEA

Solar topiary line lights, £20, Next

6 LUNCH BOX

Blue striped picnic hamper,

£33, BrandAlley

7 SUNNY STORAGE

Brighton garden shed, £250, Cuckooland

8 CLASSIC CARRIER

Pine cone design serving tray, £200, Oscar de la Renta

9 HOT SEAT

Noya Sunbed in painted rattan, £315, Out There Interiors

10 HOT WAX

White Lilac & Rhubarb charity candle, £42, (full proceeds go to charity gardens), Jo Malone



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Lackington sofa in Violet shown with the Islington lamp table.

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Q&A

Our resident interiors expert Rachel Leedham is on hand to answer all your decorating queries

COLOURFUL GARDEN FURNITURE

I loved the bright chairs Anne-Marie Taylor has used on her terrace (p32, February 2015). Do you know who sells these?
ALEXIS RY, BY EMAIL

The designs you spotted are from the Luxembourg collection by French brand Fermob. They are a reinterpretation of the classic chairs and armchairs that were created in 1923 for the Jardin du Luxembourg in Paris. Barbed (020 8878 1994, barbed.co.uk) sells the full Luxembourg range, which includes chairs and tables in a number of styles made from lightweight tubular aluminium and available in a choice of 24 different colours. These dining chairs (right), H88 x W52 x D57cm, cost £172 each. Another colourful, lightweight option is the Air-chair by Jasper Morrison for Magis, which comes in eight different colours, H77.5 x W51 x D49cm, £94, from Made in Design (020 7692 4001, madeindesign.co.uk).



PORTHOLE BATH

When I saw an image of a freestanding bath with two portholes in the side, I thought it would be perfect for my children's bathroom. Have you ever come across a design like this?
MEL KERRIGAN, BERKSHIRE

This idea would also work brilliantly in a coastal home. I think you are referring to the aptly named Porthole bath by The Water Monopoly (020 7624 2636, thewatermonopoly.com). It's an original French

double-ended bath with authentic portholes on one side. The bath can be painted in any colour and sizes vary as the baths are all antique – the one pictured here measures H71 x W165 x D74cm, £4,680.

STORAGE TRUNK

I've been looking for a storage chest like the one in Alison Roberts' conservatory (p130, March 2015) for more than a year, could you find out where she purchased it?
PAULINE LITTLE, BY EMAIL

A trunk makes for a versatile coffee table, providing ample storage for bulky items such as magazines. Alison picked hers up in an antiques shop, but have a look at the Maya trunk (shown) from Swoon Editions (020 3137 2464, swooneditions.com). Made from mango wood, it features a subtly distressed finish, H40 x W120.5 x D60.5cm, £299. A Chinese trunk is another option: Orchid Furniture (020 7384 2443, orchidfurniture.co.uk) offers a constantly changing collection of vintage designs, from £795 for H43 x W93 x D56cm.





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UPHOLSTERED HEADBOARD

**I'm sending you a picture of a headboard that would be perfect for
my new flat, and I wonder if you could help me to source this design.
LORENA BLATTNER, BY EMAIL**

The image you have sent me is very similar to a design called Monza from Just Headboards (08449 800780, justheadboards.co.uk). It comes in a choice of more than 35 fabrics – pictured here is Gem in Granite. The headboard measures H71cm and costs from £189 for a standard double, W135cm. Robert Langford (0845 009 0203, robertlangford.co.uk) can make a headboard of your choice, and quotes a ballpark figure of £795 to fit a standard double, plus 3.5m of fabric.



BUTTERFLY FABRIC

I would love to find a butterfly print fabric for my kitchen blind, but so far I have only come across ones that are quite childish. Can you suggest any sophisticated prints in neutral colours?
JO TREVORS, BY EMAIL

Rapture & Wright (01608 652442, raptureandwright.co.uk) has a striking hand-printed linen called Birds & Butterflies (left and below centre) that comes in six colourways, £84m. Another hand-printed design is Butterfly Dance (below right), a linen union by Vanessa Arbuthnott (01285 831437, vanessaarbuthnott.co.uk), which comes in three colourways, £45m. For a monochromatic effect, Sanderson (0844 543 9500, sanderson-uk.com) has a pretty linen union print called Cocos (below left) that's inspired by a cabinet of curiosities, £52m.

FLUTED
PENDANT
LIGHT

The crinkled pendant lights Heidi Maude has used in her dining room are lovely (p136, December 2014), could you find out where she bought them?
HEATHER JAMES, BRIGHTON



These lights are perfect for introducing a touch of Gallic country charm. Heidi picked them up at an antiques fair in France, but the Crinkle suspended pendant lamp by The French House (01803 551896, thefrenchhouse.net)

is very similar. It features a cream ceramic shade, Dia29cm, and twisted grey fabric flex, £79. The Rounded House (01832 274687, theroundedhouse.com) sells this chic fluted ceramic pendant light, too, Dia26.5cm, £55.

GET IN TOUCH

EMAIL RACHEL LEEDHAM at 25_beautiful_homes@timeinc.com or write to her at 25 Beautiful Homes, Time Inc. (UK) Ltd, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU

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The bathroom may be one of the smallest rooms in the house, but that doesn't mean it can't have standout style. You'll find all the decor and renovation inspiration you need at housetohome.co.uk/bathroom, along with tips to help your project run smoothly.



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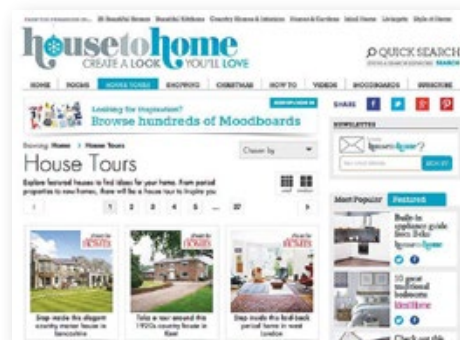
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THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

Other people's homes are a valuable source of design inspiration, and we've scoured the UK and beyond to find properties packed with looks to steal. Visit housetohome.co.uk/house-tours and prepare to be wowed.

ALFRESCO LIVING

The temperature is starting to rise, so it's time to head outside and spruce up your garden and outdoor areas, which may be looking a little bit neglected. Browse through the ideas at housetohome.co.uk/garden and create the perfect place to relax and unwind alfresco.



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Deborah

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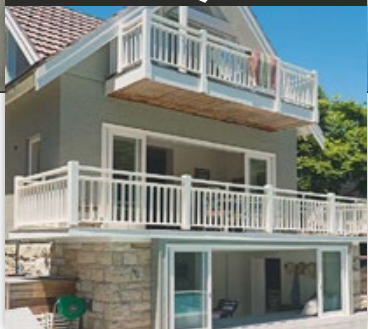
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COAST TO COAST

Suzannah Williams moved from rugged Cornwall to vibrant Sydney and discovered a beautiful beach life

FEATURE NERIDA PIGGIN | PHOTOGRAPHY SIMON KENNY

UNIQUE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY 1920s

sandstone and brick villa

LOCATION Sydney

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, living/dining room, kitchen, veranda/study, conservatory, four bedrooms, three bathrooms

PURCHASED 2002

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We had an apartment in the centre of Sydney,' says Suzannah.

Cornwall and Sydney may be half a world apart but Suzannah Williams has been lucky enough to have called both home. Leaving the Cornish coastal home where she grew up wasn't an easy decision, but Suzannah was lured away to work in London, which in turn, led to an even more exciting upheaval.

'I never wanted to leave Cornwall,' she says, 'But when I moved to London and met my husband-to-be James, everything changed.' When the couple's children, Luke and Ella were small, he was offered a job in Sydney, Australia. 'It was too good an opportunity to turn down,' says Suzannah. 'So we went, planning to stay only two years.'

When they first arrived the family lived in a serviced apartment in the heart of the city while they looked for a



VERANDA
 'We enjoy meals under the palm tree,' says Suzannah. The Longstock teak folding chair is a match, £100 each, John Lewis. The block-printed cotton table cloth in ash grey small paisley is similar, from £45, Camilla Costello





ENTRANCE
These two lamps create a dramatic corner in the hall. Lakai handpainted table lamps, £155 each, Oka. The Camille linen table is similar, £129, Maisons du Monde



SITTING ROOM
Cane furniture and a coir rug create texture in this space. The Ektorp three-seater sofa is similar, £275, Ikea. CC Flamingo Lounge and CC Pelican Pub prints, £27 each, from the Coastal Collection, Anderson Design Group



DINING/ SITTING ROOM
Keeping the walls and sofas plain allows the artwork to stand out. The Aylesbury coffee table would work here, £700, Laura Ashley



family home near a beach. Eventually, after a two-year search, they found a three-storey 1920s sandstone and brick house with a swimming pool and garden, in a sought-after suburb near the city. There was a park, good schools, gardens bursting with song from kookaburras and, of course, a beach.

'I fell in love with the whole setting,' says Suzannah, who was immediately attracted to the property's high ceilings, large sash windows and original wood floors throughout. But the place was run down, with renovations that had been left unfinished. Luckily, as the house was structurally sound, the couple had only to take down a wall between the kitchen and sitting room to create an open-plan area for family living.

Their home was renovated and redesigned on three levels, starting on the lower ground floor, home to the pool, kitchen and conservatory-style sitting room, used mainly by

INSPIRATION
'I always get ideas from the Cornish coastline – we embrace the soft colors of the sea and changing skies that filter the rooms with natural light'

KITCHEN
A small striped sofa echoes the neutral palette and provides a spot for guests. For floor tiles like these, try the Tumbled Unfilled Travertine design, £33.96sq m, Topps Tiles. The Joey bar stool in chalk white is a good match, £69 each, Swoon Editions

MASTER BEDROOM

This open-plan design creates a relaxed space where Suzannah and James can unwind.

The Honeysuckle Duck Egg quilted bedspread is comparable, £120, Laura Ashley. Try the Melange green paisley pillow for cushions like these, £39 each, Zazzle

Luke, now 17, and Ella, 15. The ground floor now contains a cosy sitting room and an open-plan dining area, which flows into a sunroom. On the third floor are two bedrooms, with two further bedrooms and bathrooms under the rafters – in the master bedroom, a bath sits behind a floating wall on the other side of the bed. Shuttered windows provide views of bush land and the harbour beyond, and doors lead onto a veranda.

Suzannah has decorated her home with an eclectic mix of items she has found in Australia and pieces from Cornwall that she inherited and had shipped over. She has kept everything light and casual, suiting the family's lifestyle on the harbour. 'At night when I lie in bed and hear the possums run across the roof, and in the morning when I'm woken by the kookaburras laughing at me, I feel a long way from Padstow Bay,' she says. 'That is, until a gentle sea breeze flows through the room, and then I feel as though I'm home.' 25

LAST WORD *'There are so many things to enjoy with this house. And although it is far from where I grew up, I feel very at home surrounded by family paintings and furniture that I've inherited'*



GUEST BEDROOM

The nautical theme is continued here with oars used as decorative features. Find antique rowing oars from £100 per set, Colonial Soldier. Pennant stripe linen cushion covers are similar, £39 each, Oka. The Marseille side table is a match, £350, Laura Ashley



BATHROOM

Velux windows keep this area under the eaves full of light. The Khadi & Co blue and white striped bath towel has a similar look, £55, The Conran Shop





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GLASS HOUSE



Katja Kapulainen's historic house pays homage to Scandinavian design

FEATURE BEVERLEY BYRNE | PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE

SITTING ROOM
Fully retractable doors break down the division between here and the garden beyond. Martin sofas, from £1,880 each, Espacio. Arco standard lamp, £1,565, David Village Lighting. The Air Low standard table is a match, £657, Living Space. Peacock rug by Matthew Williamson, from £1,235sq m, The Rug Company



INSPIRING

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Former coach house, dating back to 1896

LOCATION London

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, open-plan kitchen-diner, wine cellar, study, utility room, cloakroom, cinema room, studio, playroom, five bedrooms (three en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2011

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a Victorian terraced house in London,' says Katja.

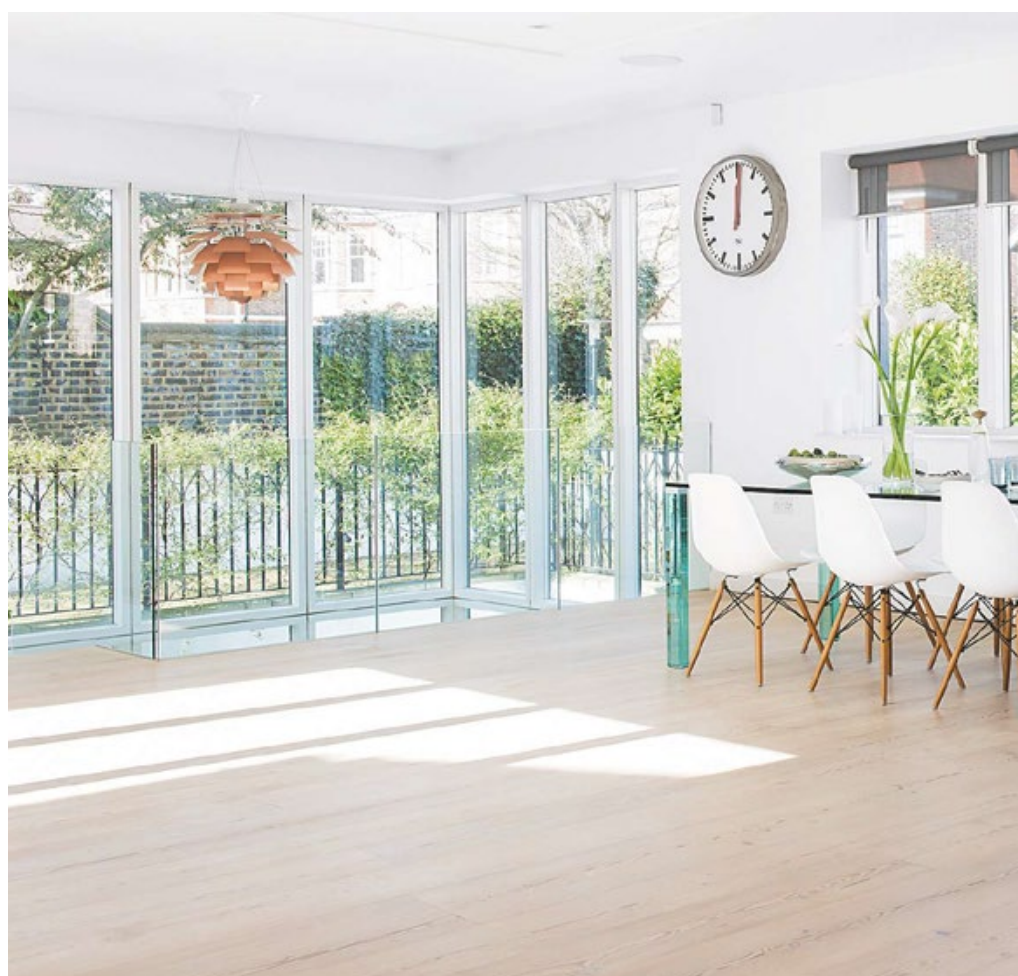




KITCHEN-DINER
 Katja chose an acrylic table to refract and reflect natural light throughout the first floor area. The Frost Glass extending 4-8-seater dining table is a match, £700, John Lewis. Eames DSW dining chairs, £333 each, The Conran Shop. Washed Luna Larch flooring, from £140sq m, Element 7



KITCHEN
 Red accents spice up the social heart of the home. E27 pendant lights by Mattias Ståhlborn for Muuto, £52, Skandium. The Koziol Rio pitcher is similar, £11.50, Red Candy





'As one of the few remaining coach houses in this area, our historic home would have witnessed many changes,' says Katja Kapulainen. 'When my husband Steve and I first viewed the property, I could imagine the horses clattering through the original brick pillars.'

The previous owner had, while preserving much of the building's original character, brought it into the 21st century. The footprint had been extended, and modern construction materials such as glass had been used. 'It had been finished to a high standard,' says Finnish-born Katja, 'and I knew I could turn the dated interior into a modern family home.' In collaboration with builders who had worked on the previous owner's innovative redesign, the couple set

about tweaking the interior. Katja, Steve and their sons, Callum, 11, and Olly, 10, lived through the renovations, dust and rubble by camping in any space not under construction at the time.

'We began by stripping away all flooring and replacing carpets with light, wide larch planks,' recalls Katja. 'It was a long process, as the specially engineered timber had to breathe and acclimatise in the environment prior to laying. When the floors were finally down, we changed all the bathroom units, fixtures and fittings, created a wet room in the master bedroom en suite and a basement cinema room, plus repainted the interior white throughout.'

'I'm inspired by classic Scandinavian design and prefer interiors to be serene, streamlined and clutter free,' continues Katja. 'This

DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE
'Over the years, my aesthetic has become more pared back, with quality design classics that hold their value and remain ageless'



STUDY AREA

In an open-plan setting, the suspended staircase, a sculpture in its own right, offers valuable additional room space for Katja's office. Martin sofa, from £2,485, Espacio. Tropically themed cushions, £40, Oliver Hayden. The Alex white drawer unit is similar, from £60, Ikea. Furtif desk, from £2,000, Roche Bobois

was how I grew up and it's especially practical when you have young children. For me, less is always more, as the simplicity allows the scheme, furniture and decorative pieces to stand out.'

Katja, an interior designer and stylist who runs her own company, The Door to Design, took her time finding quality classics and specifically commissioned pieces such as the large bookcase in the sitting room, which was made to her own specification. White walls are the perfect backdrop for modern, sometimes quirky works of art, sculpture and Katja's other great passion, photography. This simple yet distinctively dramatic style delivers cohesion throughout the house. The bedrooms are

designed to feel calm and relaxing with artfully chosen lighting, sumptuous cushions and a few eye-catching items.

The most striking architectural feature of the house is the double-storey glass atrium, the setting for the open-plan sitting room, kitchen and dining area. 'In Finland, home life revolves around family meals, the key to everyone's wellbeing,' says Katja. 'I love to cook and this stunning, bright area is perfect for welcoming friends and family to share a bite to eat and a glass of wine. It may have taken us a few years to design the perfect home filled with light and treasured pieces, but now, we've finally achieved our vision and created a little bit of Finland, right here in southwest London.' 25

GUEST BEDROOM

A neutral palette of slate greys and silver perfectly complements the tones and hues of Katja's favourite pieces of artwork.
White Queen print, price on application, Kirsty Mitchell. Acapulco chair, £288, Made In Design. Shimmer grey bedspread is a match, from £50, John Lewis



MASTER BEDROOM

A contemporary painting is a striking focal point.
Stainless steel Chilton bed, £550, Feather & Black. Chromatic Grab 2 painting by Tyler Shields, price on request, Imitate Modern



CALLUM'S BEDROOM

A judicious use of colour gives this room a sense of fun.
Harlequin Space Dust rug, from £77, Debenhams. Series 7 chair, £330, Heal's



BATHROOM

Neutral tiles create a chic look.
Sink cabinet, price on application, The Door to Design. Bayonne provence limestone tiles, £79sq m, Mandarin Stone, are similar





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UNIQUE

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Modern beach house

LOCATION

The Hamptons, New York

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, study, utility, sun room, media room, playroom, five bedrooms (all en suite), separate studio apartment

BUILT 2004

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a house in New York, which we still own,' says Jennifer.

LIVING THE DREAM

After finding an idyllic plot of land, Jennifer and David Franklin couldn't wait to begin building their dream home

FEATURE PENNY BOTTING | PHOTOGRAPHY TRIA GIOVAN/GAP INTERIORS

SUN ROOM

'This area was painted white to retain the feeling of spaciousness,' says Jennifer. Extending gloss table, £549, Dwell, is similar. Tolix A56 armchair in raw steel is a match, £225 each, John Lewis. The ceramic fruit bowl in intense orange, £35, Naturally Med, would suit this scheme



HALL
To complement the location, the walls have been painted in nautical-style stripes. Try the ceramic vase, £20; and the plaid cushion, £20, both Zara Home, for similar



KITCHEN
‘This has become the place where everyone congregates,’ says Jennifer. For similar units try the Shaker range, price on application, Magnet. Croft Collection Kinsley glass dangle cluster ceiling light, £180, John Lewis, is a good match. Rustic gunmetal turner swivel stool, £89, Cult Furniture, would work here

After renting beach houses in the Hamptons for years, Jennifer and David Franklin finally took the plunge and bought a plot of land on which they could build their own property. ‘The area is magical,’ says Jennifer. ‘It’s surrounded by dunes and a private reserve, which is very rare. As soon as we saw it, we knew we could build our dream home for us and our children, Ava and Finn, here.’

Fortunately, the sale went through smoothly. ‘It was actually pretty easy, but because of the sensitivity of the area and the need to protect the natural habitat, there were lots of planning issues,’ says Jennifer. ‘But that’s why we love it here – we want to preserve it, too.’ The couple knew exactly what they wanted when it came to designing their perfect beach house. ‘We were after an inside-outside feeling where the boundaries

are blurred, with lots of air, space and ocean views. We also wanted coastal touches without being clichéd,’ Jennifer explains.

‘Usually, ocean-front homes are upside down, with the bedrooms on the ground floor and the living areas upstairs to get the best of the scenery, but we felt the other way round was better for us,’ she continues. ‘The views of the dunes and sea grasses are just as beautiful as the ocean and when we’re upstairs, it’s like looking at a painting from every window. We love going out on the decks to watch the sun set around the childrens’ bedtimes.’

Once the couple had agreed on the format, they discussed several floorplans with their architect. ‘We moved things around, and finally agreed that the kitchen, playroom, sun room and pool room should all be together,’ says Jennifer. ‘We also decided on limestone flooring in these rooms to withstand the amounts of sand and water that would

SITTING ROOM

'I love this light-filled, open-plan space because it's so inviting,' says Jennifer.

For a similar sofa, try the Long Island design, from £1,480, Sofa.com. Varese leaf cushion, £60, Designer's Guild, is a good option. Sylvester bench, £595, Graham and Green, will create a similar look to this one



DECORATING TIP *'Follow your instincts and don't be pressured into buying something someone else likes – you'll end up replacing it'*

DINING ROOM

Jennifer came across this striking custom-made chandelier in a magazine and ordered one immediately. Shoal bone china chandelier, price on application, Scabetti. The Franklite Spirit eight-light crystal pendant, from £482, Ocean Lighting, is similar. Rustic Isabella dining table, £1,575, Oka, is comparable. Jonte chair, £275 each, Barker & Stonehouse



DINING ROOM

'Mix one-of-a-kind pieces with junk shop or high street-finds for an eclectic look,' says Jennifer.

Atherstone round dining table, £399, Harveys, and the Ingolf chairs, £35 each, Ikea, would suit this look. The Pink Phalaenopsis Orchid centrepiece, would fit in well with this scheme, £149, Bloom

DESIGN ADVICE *'Always remember that you have to live in your home, so make it somewhere you and your family can just "be" and enjoy'*



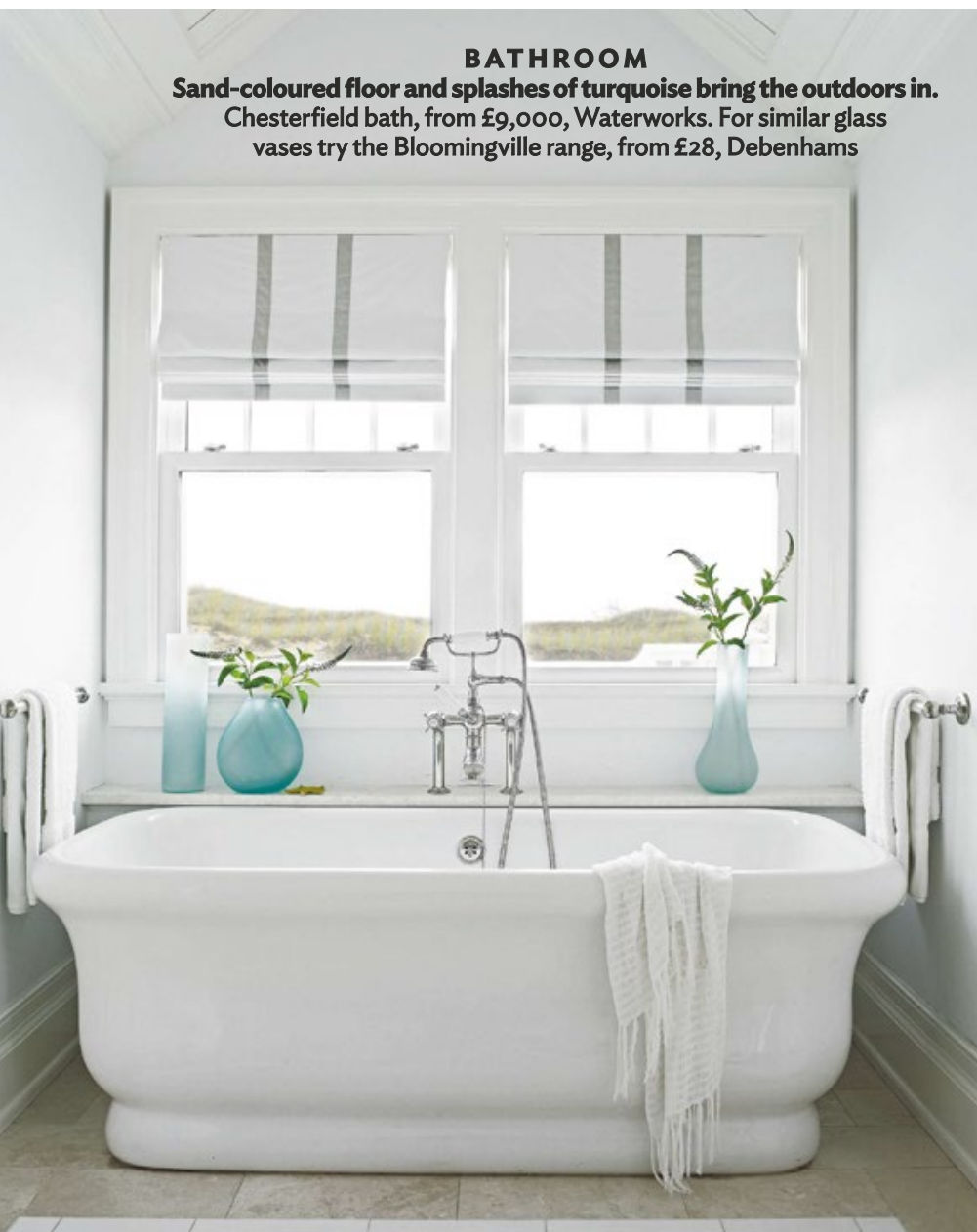
STAIRCASE

Limestone flooring is a hardwearing, all-weather option, making it ideal for rooms that get a lot of use. Eglo Milagro light, £64.80, Ocean Lighting, is comparable. Bayonne Provence Limestone tiles, £79sq m, Mandarin Stone, are a match



FINN'S ROOM

This scheme proves that, if you stick to a colour palette, you can mix and match spots, stripes and block colours. Joseph polo bunk bed, from £299, Sweetdreammakers, is similar. Flag bunting, £35.95, Notonthehighstreet.com, would work well



BATHROOM

Sand-coloured floor and splashes of turquoise bring the outdoors in. Chesterfield bath, from £9,000, Waterworks. For similar glass vases try the Bloomingville range, from £28, Debenhams



GUEST BEDROOM

Nautical-themed furnishings complement the style of the property. Try the Brimnes range, from £50, Ikea, for bed units that would suit this scheme. Rainforest fabric, £44m, Sanderson, is a match for the bedding



MASTER BEDROOM

The high ceilings make this room feel spacious and full of light.

Origo headboard, £1,225, Oka, is comparable.

Cushions from a selection, from £10; colour-bound sisal rug, from £45, all Pottery Barn. Taru fabric in Cobalt, £110m, Designers Guild, is a good match for the curtains

inevitably be brought in. This also means the children can come and go and have snacks without worrying about making any marks.'

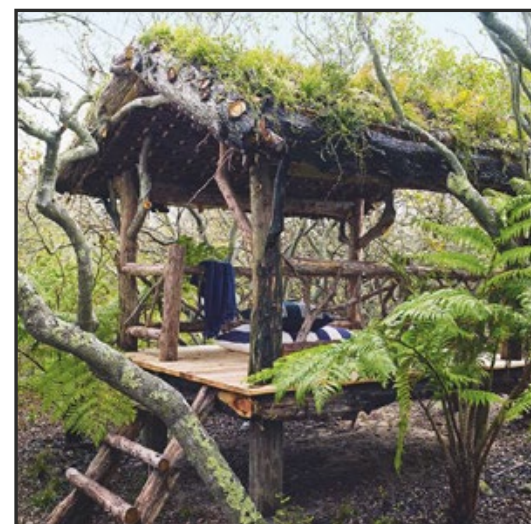
A nice surprise was the height of the property. 'The elevations allowed us to build a pool and a basement with full ceiling height, which is virtually unheard of right on the beach,' says Jennifer. 'It gave us more room to work with and meant we could move the nanny's suite to the basement, create a play room, wine storage and a large laundry area.'

When it came to the interior, Jennifer had lots of ideas. 'I'm really passionate about design and have spent years looking through interior magazines and on Pinterest,' she says. 'Some of my closest friends also work in the industry so they were able to help me, but I had a pretty good idea of what I was after. I decided on mainly blues and whites with pops of orange and yellow. I also like texture, so we added driftwood side tables,

a hi-gloss dining table, distressed barn floors and soft-flowing curtains that move in the breeze. I'm not a fan of wallpaper, but I love stripes, so I had these painted in some of the rooms and hallways.'

Jennifer and David's beach house is very different from their New York City home, which has a modern style with a dark palette of greys, browns, white and metal. 'It's more polished and sharp,' explains Jennifer. 'So we wanted a real contrast here – the beach house is more fun with its bright colours.'

When the couple designed the house, their priority was to create somewhere for family and friends to stay, and they've done just that. 'Everyone congregates here as often as possible. In summer, I call the place "camp" and love filling it with my children and their friends,' says Jennifer. 'I never tire of the place, and there's nothing I would change about it – it's a magical escape.' 25



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BRIGHT OUTLOOK

In their classic seaside villa, Dorothy and George Franks have brought the outside in with colourful artwork and unique artefacts

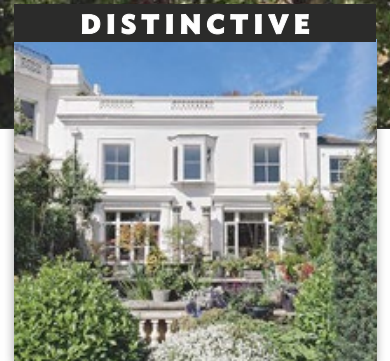
FEATURE SALLY MATON | PHOTOGRAPHY BRUCE HEMMING

GARDEN

'We inherited a fabulously-designed garden, which I'm very passionate about,' says Dorothy, 'there's a formal design underneath, but I let it grow beyond that for a softer look.'

Rattan Orseno outdoor table set, £3,750, Oka, is comparable

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian villa

LOCATION Kent

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen/diner, five bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms, studio, roof terrace

PURCHASED 2010

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We had a place in London before moving here,' says Dorothy.

ROOFTOP ROOM

'The glass extension has transformed this once dark area,' says Dorothy. Muuto table, £1,395, Occa-Home, is similar. Terrace designed by Karl Elliott, Clague LLP (01227 762060, clague.co.uk) and Matt Peacock, Frameless Glass Rooms (01304 830537, framelessglassrooms.com)



SITTING ROOM

Dorothy's artwork lines the walls throughout the house, lending a personal touch to the home. Foscari ceiling pendant, from £413, Ambiente Direct. Tokyo large corner group sofa, £4,440, John Lewis, is comparable





KITCHEN
Handpainted cabinetry gives this room a traditional feel. Units, price on application, Neptune. Gris easy fit pendant, £10 each, Homebase, are similar

Dorothy and George Franks admit they feel very lucky to have bought the house they live in. 'This type of property doesn't come up very often in this area – they're always sold before going on the market,' says Dorothy. 'But as we knew the owner, we were able to put in an offer straight away. Within two days it was accepted and the deal was done.'

The house was part of an estate built in the 1840s for a ship owner and master mariner. As with many other grand Victorian properties, it went into decline in the 20th century and was sold to a camping holiday company in 1934 and used as a clubhouse before becoming a nightclub in the 1980s. Around 15 years ago, it was split into four and sold off, and although the couple's part had been renovated, it was still dated, with dark walls, a black kitchen and old-fashioned paint effects.

The couple and Dorothy's two grown-up sons, Finn and Kerr, moved in during a gale in February 2010. 'George was away,' explains Dorothy, 'and when the removal people left, the house seemed so large and empty, which made me feel uncertain about our decision. But as I walked through to the back and saw the garden and sea, I knew it was the right choice. It was only when I went to sleep that I realised I'd have to do five times as much housework than ever before!'

Dorothy, who describes herself as a 'casual painter and keen gardener' couldn't wait to put her own mark on the decor of the

FAVOURITE ITEM 'I love the model of a sheep in the sitting room. It's 90 years old and came from a butcher's shop window display in Carmarthen'



DINING AREA
Mid-Century classic chairs were chosen for their simple look. Wishbone CH 24 chair by Hans Wegner, £564; Eames DAR chair, £304, both Twentytwentyone. Cushions, from £70, Designers Guild



house. The first task was to remodel the kitchen-diner, which was one large room. Dorothy was eager to keep this area open plan, but cleverly delineated the space with salvaged carved screens and an island unit. During a major refit by the former owner, the two original windows to the garden had been replaced with French windows. However, Dorothy felt the proportions weren't quite right, so larger floor-to-ceiling glazed doors were fitted. An oak-wood floor was laid and then the whole room was painted in pale grey – a look that was then repeated through the rest of the house.

Having moved from a fairly modest house nearby, the couple initially had very little furniture. Dorothy started hunting round local shops as well as the Saturday market, where she became friendly with the stallholders. 'When we moved in we had hardly anything, it was just us, our dog Wolfie, a bed and a sofa,' she recalls. 'I loved unearthing unusual finds and also travelled to Rye and Hastings to buy furniture and textiles. I picked up some quirky garden statuary, which I like to display inside.'

The top floor was also treated to a refresh. Originally it featured a series of small dark rooms and a large terrace. 'We wanted to open up the space to accommodate a guest bedroom and make more of the sea view,' says Dorothy. Now, a striking glass room links the guest bedroom, an entertainment area with a cinema and the roof terrace garden. 'It means we have an almost 360-degree view,' she explains. 'I love to sit up there and watch the birds drinking in the fountain below. This home has become very dear to our hearts.' 25



HALL
 'The rustic tiles were laid by the previous owner,' says Dorothy. 'To soften the look, I stained the chest of drawers bright pink.' Rojo Alicante tiles, £71.59sq m, Heart of Stone, are a match. Try Out There Interiors for a similar chest of drawers, from £500



EN SUITE
 Stylish curtains and splashes of gold create an air of understated luxury. Cowdray mirror, £245; Anna chandelier, £355; both The Chandelier & Mirror Company. Bath, £1,301, Albion, is comparable



MASTER BEDROOM

'When the building was a nightclub, this was a bar. You can still see the outline on the floorboards,' says Dorothy. Bedlinen fabric in Royal Velvet in Orchid, £65m, St James's Fabrics at Designers Guild. Provencal linen upholstered bed, £1,740, The French Bedroom Company, is similar

FAVOURITE SHOP 'I love Butlers Emporium in Hastings and Deal Market. I try to support local businesses and tradesmen whenever I can'



GUEST BEDROOM

Colourful artwork, bold furnishings and patterned fabrics enliven this cool grey scheme. Chenevard silk turquoise throw, £375, Designers Guild. The Provencal Lit Lit white rattan bed, £1,295, The French Bedroom Company, is a good match

INSIGHT

Adding a modern conservatory

Sleek glass rooms, like Dorothy and George's, can add a striking dimension to your home



Thanks to advances in glass technology, frameless extensions are now a viable option as a link from a living space to the garden and even on a roof terrace, blurring the boundaries between inside and out.

MINIMALIST APPROACH

A well-designed contemporary glass room should blend seamlessly with your existing living space to form an integral part of your home, as well as increase access to the garden or roof terrace. Frameless glass façades have been used commercially for many years and are becoming popular in residential projects due to the natural light and minimal obstruction of views that they provide. These modern structures suit period homes, such as Dorothy and George Franks's because they have little visual impact, allowing the building to be visible through the glass. If you're keen to create a similar look, seek the help of a specialist who can produce initial drawings, and bear in mind that planning is subject to your local authority guidelines and whether your home is listed or in a conservation area.

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE...



● 'The current trend is for open-plan spaces that create flexible family living. More often for modern conservatories, this means an extension of the sitting room and includes the kitchen as the hub of the home.'

● **The real joy of a conservatory is the link it provides to the garden. When choosing the site, consider how it can maximise your views and even**

create new perspectives. Also think about how you will use the space and any architectural features to be taken into account.

● Frames, doors, windows and skylights all come in different styles, and there's a large array of paint colours and stains available to create a beautiful structure that adds value to your home.

● **Electric underfloor heating is a great modern solution. It maintains a consistent ambient temperature and, without radiators on the walls, keeps your space as versatile as possible.'**

DAVID SALISBURY, CONSERVATORY AND ORANGERY SPECIALIST

ANOTHER LEVEL

When it comes to siting and constructing a modern glass room, the sky's the limit. Dorothy and George's is built onto a roof terrace, allowing far-reaching views of the surrounding area. Bear in mind that structural calculations for the existing building are necessary if you are adding glass structures to the first or second floor, taking into account the weight of the extension as well as external stresses, such as wind load. Glass technology has made

huge leaps forward in the last few years in the way that coatings are applied between layers to reflect or absorb solar heat, making glass rooms more comfortable whatever the season. Privacy glass is also available, transforming from opaque to clear at the flick of a switch. Self-cleaning glass is another option, featuring a dual-action coating, which causes sunlight to breakdown organic dirt and be simply washed away by the rain.

EXPERT EYE

'Frameless glass rooms suit virtually all types of property, but lend themselves particularly well to very modern or period homes. They are unobtrusive and will therefore give you extra space without detracting from the original building or its features'

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1 SITTING ROOM
A cosy, light-filled corner is the ideal space for a writing desk. The Marylebone desk would work in this spot, £159, Swoon Editions. Spearmint intelligent eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene, is similar to the door colour



BEACH HOUSE CHIC

Once a rundown cottage, Lindsay Schultz's home now epitomises coastal couture

FEATURE KATHY HURST
PHOTOGRAPHY ROBIN STUBBERT/GAP INTERIORS



2 HALL
White walls and a natural stone floor make a bright and welcoming first impression. Noisette riven slate, from £24sq m, Mandarin Stone, is a good match. The Safavieh Colleen table lamp in light blue, £120, Wayfair, is comparable to this one



DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Detached cottage, built in the 1960s

LOCATION

Ontario, Canada

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, loft

PURCHASED 2009

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in Toronto but wanted to move to the coast,' says Lindsay.

**SITTING ROOM**

This space is the perfect place to sit back and take in the sea views.

Karlstad two-seater sofa in Isunda Grey, £410, Ikea.

Churchill armchair, from £480, Sofa.com, is similar



KITCHEN

The units are painted in greys and blues – an echo of the property's coastal location. 'We also added a porthole window as it's a nice nautical reference,' says Lindsay. Farrow & Balls' Cook's Blue estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, is similar to the colour of the island. Pine floorboards, £20.99sq m, Wickes, would suit this look. Bogart ceiling light, £140, John Lewis, is a match

DESIGN TIP
'Choose decor and accessories that you love. Remember, you don't have to follow trends – look for a classic style that will be timeless'

1 KITCHEN

As an interior designer, Lindsay wanted to include practical aspects, so she painted a panel with chalk-board paint. 'It's great for shopping lists and messages,' she says. Visit kitchensandcabinetry.ca for more information about her kitchen company

2 BATHROOM

With durable stone tiles and a double vanity unit, this is a functional space for a young family. Joanna Corney's beach prints, from £18, Notonthehighstreet.com, are similar. The Dalton glass pendant with rope detail, £40, Next, would work here

Within seconds of walking into a ramshackle cottage with beautiful views of Ontario's Georgian Bay, Lindsay Schultz knew she had found the perfect family home. 'On Sundays, my husband Aaron and I used to drive around our favourite streets,' says Lindsay. 'One day we saw a rundown building that was having an open-house event, so we thought we'd take a look. I knew straight away I wanted to live there.'

While the location was ideal, the property was in poor repair – walls were fashioned from raw plywood, the interior was damp, the garden was overgrown, and the structure was subsiding. 'It had been on the market for a couple of years as the scale of the work scared a

lot of people off,' explains Lindsay. 'But after seeing its potential, I knew we could create quite a spectacular home.'

Together, the couple gutted the house, with Aaron taking on the majority of the building work himself. The foundations were reinforced, new joists were installed, and a rabbit warren of internal walls and low-level ceilings were removed. 'We stripped it back to a mere shell to create an open-plan space with lofty, vaulted ceilings,' says Lindsay. 'It meant that we were able to reconfigure the layout to suit our needs and make every square inch our own.'

Lindsay, whose background is in design, was well placed when it came to doing up the interior. Whitewashed panelled walls, pine



I



LOFT

A bed tucked under the sloping roof is useful for guests. 'The boys love having sleepovers here,' says Lindsay. Coastal stripe navy percale double duvet, £62, Secret Linen Store, is comparable. The Milo outdoor uplighter, £40, John Lewis, is an alternative wall light



2



BOYS' BEDROOM

'Our son Cash was born shortly after we moved in, so we had to make the space work for two children,' says Lindsay. 'Aaron made the bunk bed himself. It's suspended from the ceiling by fisherman's rope.' Gulliver cot, £55, Ikea. Bunk bed and panelling painted in All White estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. For a similar rug try the Hampen design, £30, Ikea



DESIGN TIP
‘Opt for a neutral backdrop that can be personalised with your furnishings. Accessories and artwork can easily be changed with the season, or as your tastes alter’

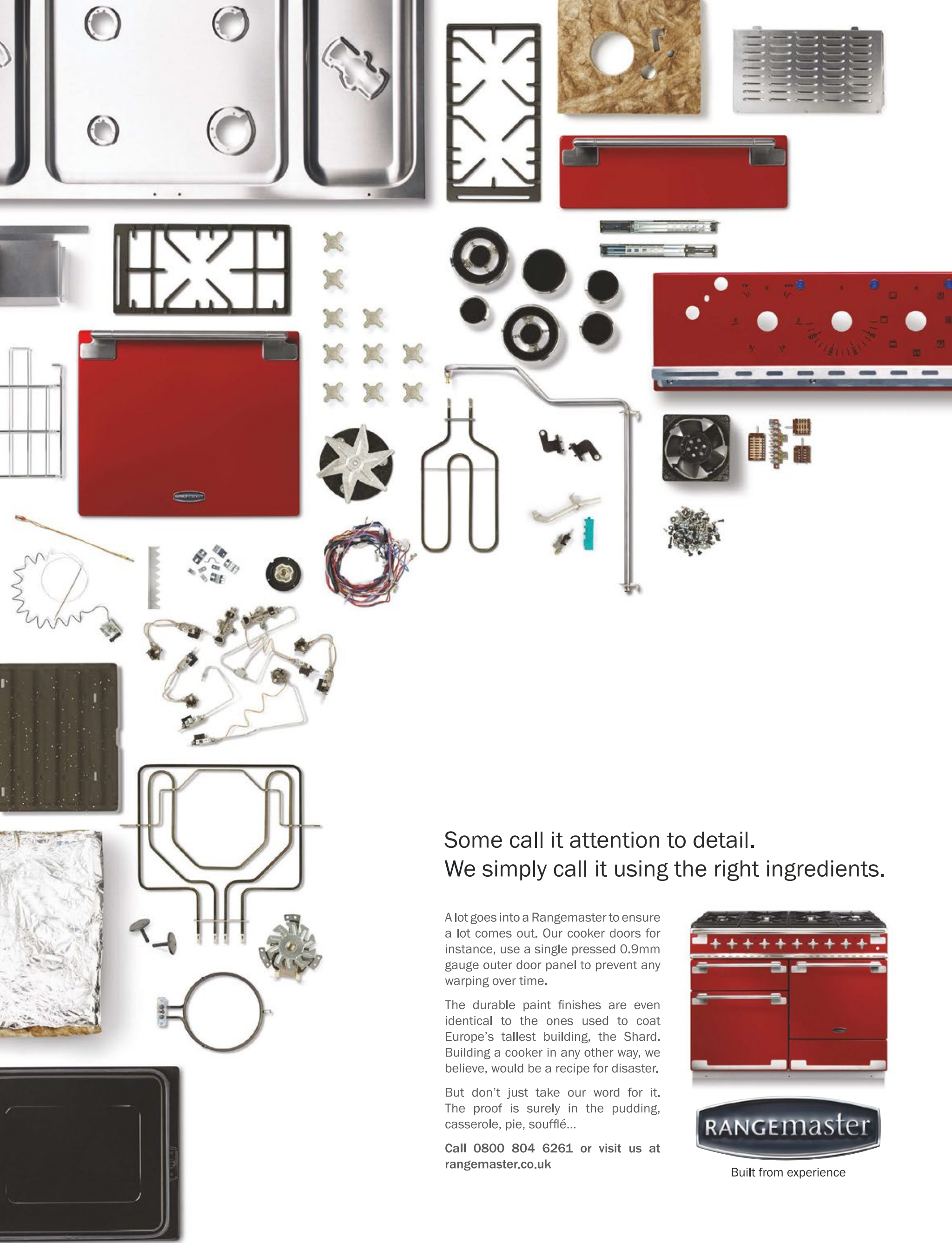
MASTER BEDROOM
Colourful accessories and patterned bedlinen add character to this neutral scheme.
 Indah double duvet set in indigo, £50; Bloc roller blind in seagrass, from £60, both John Lewis, are comparable. Aqua lampshade, £30, Hunkydory Home, would work in this space

floorboards, driftwood sculptures and porthole windows gesture towards the property’s beachside setting. Natural materials, including maple, linen and wicker, make for a relaxed, pared-back feel; and muted shots of lime green, dusky blues and delicate taupe complement the sea views. ‘Although I’m obsessed with white, I knew this was my chance to experiment with coastal shades,’ says Lindsay. ‘We opted for sky-blue cabinetry, a slate-grey island and a natural stone splashback that was inspired by the colour of the sand.’

Today, the cottage revolves around the needs of the family. Sofas and armchairs have removable covers; the ottoman in the sitting room was picked up for a few dollars in a local store and reupholstered, and

the stone floor in the hall is a durable, hard-wearing choice. ‘In winter there are skis and snow boots here; and in summer, our two boys, Marshall, 12, and Cash, 4, traipse through with sandy feet and body boards,’ explains Lindsay. ‘Nothing is too expensive or so precious that it would break our hearts if it got damaged. The boys even have their own loft space where they have sleepovers and their own TV.’

With the water on their doorstep and a sandy bay a stone’s throw away, this is an idyllic family home. ‘At weekends, we’ll wander along the beach, swim in the sea or go boating with friends,’ says Lindsay. ‘The cottage was a serendipitous find and has required a huge amount of work. But it’s perfect for us – we’re very happy here.’ ☺



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DRAWING ROOM
The light-filled Lutyens-style scheme enjoys views of the idyllic gardens on all sides. Sofas, £1,150 each, Maisie K. Pale olive silk cushion, £58; Lovat velvet cushion, £58, both Susie Watson Designs



INSPIRING

THIRD TIME LUCKY

After a couple of poor property choices, Beverly and Dean Talbot finally found the home of their dreams

FEATURE MANDY NOLAN | PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A 16th-century detached house

LOCATION Kent

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, study, conservatory, seven bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2007

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We used to live in an oast house nearby,' says Beverly.



KITCHEN

This area has been refurbished with all the mod-cons, but retains the charm of the house.

Kitchen from £25,000, JM Interiors. Cabinets painted in Stony Ground estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

DINING AREA

A wide table was designed to accommodate lots of candles and glassware. Bespoke cherry wood table, from £3,370; chairs, from £650 each, both Tenterden House Interiors, Curtains in Persian Tulip, £78m, Zoffany



When considering the move from London to Kent, Beverly and Dean Talbot found it more difficult than expected. 'We wanted a large property with restoration possibilities and plenty of history,' explains Beverly. 'After one sale fell through, we bought another house on the rebound, but it wasn't right. When this Tudor property came onto the market, we knew we had to

move again. It was a medieval hall house from the 16th century with later extensions and a beautiful garden – we were hooked.'

Once they were in, Beverly planned to renovate everything in one go. 'My brother is an interior decorator, so help was on hand,' she explains. 'But we didn't want to install top-quality finishes if the basics weren't there, so my first priority was to make the house warm.' Insulating the roof and installing a

new boiler, three log burners and an Aga reduced the heating bill by half. The house was also rewired and bathrooms were added.

Maintaining the features was important to Beverly; radiators were stripped and resprayed, new beams were fixed to replace damaged ones and damp patches were repaired with the original wattle-and-daub plaster. 'Once the structure was in place, decorating was easy,' says Beverly. 'We decided to keep it simple, as



HALL

A bowl of red roses lends a warm welcome in the wood-paneled entrance. For a similar table try Elisabeth James Antiques



STAIRS

The charming curved oak staircase dates back to the 16th century. The George III library chair would work well here, from £595, Antiques Atlas

MASTER BEDROOM

'Upcycle any wooden furniture by painting it a different colour, and then coordinate with accessories,' says Beverly. The classical white rattan bed, £840, Sweetpea & Willow, would suit this space. Bedside table lamps, £49.95, Maisie K

the house already has a charming character. I whitewashed the walls and hung white blinds, which gave me a blank canvas, allowing me to indulge my passion for bold fabrics.'

The kitchen was next. 'I couldn't wait to refresh the decor,' she says. 'After spending ages browsing magazines, by the time we consulted a local company, making decisions on what we wanted was easy.' A stone floor now flows into the dining room, linking the

rooms together despite having very different looks. 'It wasn't an obvious choice with two dogs and five cats, but it's very practical.'

In the Edwardian extension, the drawing room is a total contrast to the original house. 'With its abundance of windows, it has an inside/outside feel. I love sitting there with a good book on a sunny day,' says Beverly. 'I can't imagine living anywhere else but here, it really is the perfect family home.' 25

LAST WORD

'Decorate for yourself, not for fashion or effect, and complement what's already there rather than transforming the space into something it's not'

MASTER BEDROOM

Beverly has customised this glass-fronted cupboard by lining the front panels with a pretty fabric. Geranium Pale Topaz fabric, £35m, Laura Ashley is comparable. Candle holder, £28.95, Nordic House, is a match



FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 148

MASTER EN SUITE

Subtle hints of blue and pink are echoed in the soft furnishings and floor tiles. Excelsior acrylic bath with plinth, £1,799, MFL Heating & Bathroom Merchants



FIT FOR PURPOSE

Industrial and vintage pieces combine to create a stylish yet durable home for Isabelle and Frederick Gall

FEATURE DILLY ORME | PHOTOGRAPHY ANNE-CATHERINE SCOFFONI

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Chalet-style house, built in 1899

LOCATION

Divonne-les-Bains, France

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen-diner, family room, study, six bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2006

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a modern apartment in the same town,' says Isabelle.

SITTING ROOM

A Moroccan rug provides a splash of colour in this scheme of gentle greys and white.

Fair Trade vintage-style multicoloured shaggy pile rag rug, £115, Second Nature, has this look. Vince walnut side table, £120, Habitat, would work well



KITCHEN

A concrete surface makes a bold striking feature in such simple surroundings. Polished concrete worktop, £600sq m, Fluid Stone Studio. For a similar wall paint try Pearl Colour intelligent matt emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. The E27 pendant lights, £52 each, Really Well Made, are identical to these ones

DINING ROOM
The mixture of seating styles makes the plain grey table look even more inviting. Little Paris stocks a wide selection of vintage industrial chairs. Stonehaven Anglepoise floor lamp, £235, Amazon, is similar



‘Where we live is beautiful,’ says Isabelle Gall of her home she shares with her husband Frederick, in a small French spa town that has views of Mont Blanc. When the couple and their three daughters, Naia, 14, Yasmin, 10, and Leonie, 9, started to outgrow their modern three-bedroom apartment, they tried to find a suitable house nearby.

‘We were looking for a period property with a sense of history, atmosphere and lots of original features,’ says Isabelle. ‘We also wanted somewhere with the space to allow us to incorporate the fitness and personal training school that I run with Frederick. I thought it would take a long time to find, but this was the first house we viewed and it had everything we’d hoped for.’

Despite being more than 100 years old, the chalet was in good condition, with a solid roof and original windows, but the interior was in definite need of modernisation. The Galls decided that some structural changes were in order to meet their family’s needs. ‘We changed the position of the stairs from inside the sitting room to the entrance,’ explains Isabelle. ‘We then relocated the kitchen to the new extension, turning the existing space into a dining room, and also built a loft extension.’

For inspiration during the planning process, Isabelle used Pinterest and drafted in interior designer Angele Vuillet, who



MASTER BEDROOM
Sparingly furnished, this scheme has a cool New York loft-apartment look.

Attic sells vintage oversized letters, £95. For a similar throw, take a look at the faux fur blanket in silver fox, £130, Notonthehighstreet.com



INSPIRATION 'I like to use Pinterest. Not only is it great for finding new ideas but the process of compiling the boards is a really good way to focus on and build up a look for a room'



BATHROOM

Industrial elements, such as a copper wire basket and pipe-work shelving, lend a stylish locker-room vibe.

Present Time large home storage basket in copper, £21, Amazon, has a similar look. Industrial steel-pipe storage shelf, £95, Notonthehighstreet.com, is a good alternative. For large-format floor tiles like these ones try Polished Iron, £89.97sq m, Topps Tiles

LANDING

Dove-grey painted floors, stairs and banisters lead seamlessly up to the sleeping quarters.

French Grey floor paint, £59 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene, is similar



lived nearby. 'Because I was really busy with work, I asked her to help design the rooms and source some of the furniture and accessories,' says Isabelle. 'Luckily, she shared my taste.'

Once the building work was complete, the walls were painted white and grey throughout to create a calm backdrop for Isabelle's unique accessories. 'My environment is very important to me,' she says. 'I like to be surrounded by beautiful things, and have found many pieces on the street, which I've adapted and painted.' And when Isabelle can't find exactly what she's looking for, she'll make it herself – everything from taking photographs and enhancing them to making appliqué cushions or paper decorations for the girls' bedrooms. She also has a passion for calligraphy and uses dramatic oversized lettering as striking features.

'Although the house is finished and we've created a wonderful atmosphere, I always like to keep changing things as our family evolves,' says Isabelle. 'I've invested a lot of time and energy in our home, which has sometimes been very stressful, and sometimes calm. But the one thing I know for sure is that we are incredibly lucky to have found this amazing place.' 25



NAIA'S BEDROOM

Moroccan tiles make a feature of the sink area.

Porcelain Galena encaustic tiles from the Zeinah Tiles range, £29.95sq m, Walls and Floors, are comparable. For a vintage painted cupboard like this one try Attic, £495

INSIGHT

Creating an industrial look

Add a rustic chic look to your home just like Isabelle Gall, with upcycled metals, angular shapes and soft textures



From exposed pipes and brickwork to unfinished floors and stainless steel surfaces, industrial-inspired interiors give a rough, edgy look. To soften the style, add tactile furnishings, well-worn accessories and shots of colour.

RECLAMATION CHIC

An industrial-style interior remains an on-trend look. It adds depth to a scheme, complements period properties and new-builds, and gives an updated edge to country-style homes. But it can create a cold look if used over-zealously. The secret is to blend rustic elements with softer furnishings for a lived-in feel such as Isabelle's. Opt for light walls and woodwork coupled with an occasional splash of colour. Whether you decide on a subtle nod like metal letters or a reclaimed table, or a comprehensive update such as a corrugated tin ceiling or exposed steel supports, be sure to add light wooden elements to provide relief. Secondhand or reclaimed wooden furniture is good because it has a used patina, and feels even more homely. Pops of bright colours in rugs, soft furnishings or accessories work well, but use just two or three to keep the look cohesive.

MIX IT UP

This is a look that resists too much matching. Instead, mix a variety of styles of furniture and accessories from different eras to add a sense of history and personality to the space. According to Emile Azan of Chameleon Designs, layering leather, silk and velvet in graduating shades of copper creates a luxurious feel. Also, lighting is one of the easiest and most liveable ways to add industrial style. Ceiling pendants or table lamps are simple to install, but always consider existing ceiling height, mouldings and architectural features. Try placing new pieces of furniture alongside reclaimed options, and hang interesting found objects alongside some of your favourite prints or paintings. In a bathroom, balance shimmering black mosaic tiles with matt finishes for a cool, contemporary blend. Perfect for adding a n urban chic note, large metallic wall tiles make an eye-catching backdrop against a white suite, or use them in an internal space to add dramatic mood and depth. In kitchens, team industrial-style cabinetry with wood to soften the look, and pair with upcycled lighting over an island to pull the scheme together.

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE ...



● 'The industrial feel is all about stripped-back architecture, open space and raw materials. Unfinished bare walls, large windows and metal staircases work well, and anything that shows the original structure is a great feature in itself.'

● Consider metals like zinc or steel with a painted or blackened finish, concrete, bricks and reclaimed

wood. You could also use concrete- or wood-inspired wallpapers.

● **Opt for a colour palette that is neutral and monochrome. Mixing different shades of grey together will create a feeling of depth and touches of white will add brightness.**

● Try to avoid anything too shiny or modern, and don't mix too many colours – pick one or two and use them sparingly as accents.

● **Finish the look with clusters of exposed lightbulbs. Make sure the bulbs are dimmable so you can create a cosy atmosphere, too.'**

BRENDAN YOUNG AND VANESSA BATTAGLIA, MINEHEART

EXPERT EYE

'Scour antiques shops such as Retrouvius or Les Couilles de Chien. Retro tin ceiling panels also make a statement, or strip back and refinish antique stoves and radiators, while classic American fire extinguishers can be converted into fabulous lamps'

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SUMMERHOUSE

This space acts as an outdoor dining area and, thanks to underfloor heating, can also be used in winter.

Try the Kubu rattan armchair bridge, £109 each, Tikamoon, for similar. Cotswold flagstones, price on application, Ronson Reclaim, are a good match. Try Oakworld for a wide range of farmhouse tables

LIGHT FANTASTIC

Jayne and Adam Thomas gave a run-down Regency property an elegant makeover with a Scandinavian twist

FEATURE PAT GARRATT | PHOTOGRAPHY AMANDA TURNER



FAVOURITE ITEM *'I love the dresser in the dining room, which used to belong to Adam's mother. I've filled it with cream and white china and it now suits the scheme perfectly'*

SITTING ROOM

Neutral shades and crisp, checked fabrics perfectly complement the fine proportions of this space. Walls painted in Dulux Subtle Ivory 3 matt emulsion; mouldings in Khaki Mist 4 matt emulsion, both from £25 per 2.5 litres, B&Q. Miss Daisy sofa, from £1,265, Sofa Workshop, is a match. Shamley 12-light white chandelier, £500, Laura Ashley, is comparable



Hoteliers Jayne and Adam Thomas had long admired an imposing Regency property in a pretty road in Cheltenham and felt it would make a great home. However, when it came on the market, the couple weren't ready to move. 'We were committed to staying in our property until the end of our rental period,' says Jayne, 'and at that time, Adam thought it too big a project to take on.'

Previously the house had been the headquarters of a Ukrainian Club and had functioned as both accommodation and a workplace for the local Eastern European community. It had been poorly

maintained, had no real kitchen, lots of bedsits, and needed to be completely rewired and replumbed. Nevertheless, the house sold.

To the couple's surprise, a few months later it reappeared on the market. 'By then we were in a position to move, so we put in an offer,' says Jayne, 'but there was another party interested. The sale went to sealed bids, which is a nerve-wracking experience when you really want a property,' says Jayne. 'We apparently bid within a few hundred pounds of the other offer, but we won. I think it helped that the agents were aware of the previous properties we'd renovated and were confident we'd do a great job.' And a good job is exactly



INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Regency detached house

LOCATION Cheltenham

ROOMS Hall, sitting/dining room, kitchen-diner, utility room, playroom, six bedrooms (two en suite), two bathrooms, summerhouse with kitchen

PURCHASED 2009

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We rented nearby,' says Jayne.



KITCHEN-DINER

Jayne chose to bring colour into this room with painted cabinets and bright accessories as a contrast to the calming shades elsewhere.

Units, price on application, Cheltenham Kitchen Workshop; painted in Pale Powder estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball.

The Barrett wooden barstool, £99, Atlantic Shopping, is similar



DINING AREA

A Scandinavian theme is present here, with painted furnishings, white crockery and a neutral colour palette.

Dining chairs, The Antiques Emporium Griffin Mill, painted in Matchstick estate emulsion, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Medium heart plate, £24.50, Sophie Conran for Portmeirion, John Lewis, is a good match

what the couple were determined to do, so much so that once they were in, Adam gave up work for a year to oversee the project.

One of his first tasks was to waterproof the basement, which was then converted into four self-contained apartments and is now part of the couple's hotel business. The upper storeys were also refurbished, but these are purely for family use. 'We had to replaster all of the walls, but we respected the original layouts,' says Jayne, who particularly adored the light-filled sitting room and its floor-to-ceiling windows. However, they did add one wall upstairs, creating a doorway from the master bedroom into an adjacent room,



MASTER BEDROOM
‘To draw people’s eye to the high ceilings, we painted the covings in a slightly darker shade,’ says Jayne. Clarence frame, from £1,350, Laura Ashley, is a similar bed. Take a look at the Biggie Best table lamp, £68, Emma Jane Interiors



GUEST BEDROOM
A group of mirrors creates a pretty display as well as encouraging light into the room. Cream rattan antique French-style bed, £1,140; Bergere bedside table, £136, both Homes Direct 365, is comparable



EN SUITE BATHROOM
The sleek shower works well with classic touches. Positano freestanding bath, £1,200, Victoria Plumb. Farmhouse mirror, £299, Oak Furniture Land, is similar



GUEST BEDROOM
Pops of metallics and gilded furniture gives a sense of glamour. Sylvia silver bedside table, £342, The French Bedroom Company, would suit this scheme

which was turned into a large en-suite bathroom and a utility room. ‘I love having the washing machine on the same level as the bedroom, as it saves time heaving laundry up and down the stairs,’ says Jayne.

When it came to the interior, she chose pale, calming colours. ‘I wanted to go for a Swedish look,’ explains Jayne, and as a result, the rooms look elegant and fresh. To attract the eye to the high ceilings, covings and picture rails have been painted in a deeper shade of grey. Jayne continued the Gustavian flavour with the furnishings, including the painted chairs in the dining room. ‘We didn’t have much to bring with us,’ she explains. ‘So I was pretty much able to

start from scratch. However, I still need some finishing touches, but these are the things you can’t rush – it’s a work in progress.’

The exterior, however, required immediate attention. ‘When we bought the property, it was very exposed with a low wall that failed to provide any privacy in the back garden,’ explains Jayne. The wall is now higher with new railings at the front, and a summerhouse has been added in the rear garden. ‘My brother, who’s an architect, designed it using reclaimed bricks from the same era as the house. It has hugely improved our use of the garden and we spend a lot of time entertaining friends there, come rain or shine.’ ☺



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INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY First floor apartment in a villa, built in 1899

LOCATION

Copenhagen, Denmark

ROOMS Hall, sitting room/library, kitchen-diner, TV room, study, two bedrooms, bathroom, attic, garden studio

PURCHASED 2011

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in an apartment in Hanoi, Vietnam,' says Britt.

Exotic TWIST

Britt and Jim Goodall have used African, Asian and Nordic elements to create a bold scheme that reflects their passion for globetrotting

FEATURE EMMA J PAGE | PHOTOGRAPHY KIRA BRANDT/GLOTTI PRESS



SITTING ROOM

This space features an eclectic mix of furniture, including a rug from Vietnam, a stool from Somalia and a table from Denmark.

Bloomer footstool in Midnight Plush Velvet, £515, Loaf, is similar. Stockholm sofa, £900, Ikea, is a match. Douglas Fir flooring would suit this look, from £53m, Dinesen. Painting above sofa by Jim Goodall



There are not many homes that can carry off a harmonious blend of Asian-Nordic style, but the country apartment of designer Britt Goodall and her Scottish husband Jim, an artist, is an easy combination of both cultures.

The pair have spent several years travelling for Jim's work, which eventually led to the launch of Britt's Vietnam-based homeware brand Oi Soi Oi.

After having gathered inspiration from Egypt, Kenya, India and Somalia, the pair came across a period apartment in Britt's native Denmark. 'It did take a while to find,' explains Britt. 'In the end, it was our daughter Pernille who spotted this classic mansion house just north of Copenhagen. It was the picturesque gardens that sold it to us, plus a summerhouse where Jim could indulge his passion for painting.'

Built at the turn of the 19th century, the property was developed and named after Kristian Kong, a designer and artist, and although it has since been converted into several apartments, it has lost none of its original appeal. Britt and Jim occupy the first floor and former attic space with a terrace overlooking the grounds and dense woodland beyond.

Although it was structurally sound, the couple decided to treat the apartment to some gentle renovation. 'We removed all the carpets and sanded the original floorboards,' says Britt, who likes a simple backdrop that will show off James's art and her collection of Asian pieces. 'A local carpenter designed and



LIBRARY
Jim's vibrant artwork and Britt's collection of African headrests add a touch of drama to this reading corner.

Scott armchair in deep grey, £429; Mortimer ottoman in shadow grey, £199, both Made, are similar

KITCHEN-DINER

An old wood-burning stove keeps this area warm in winter. Glass bell pendant lights would look good here, £190 each, Heal's. Lamp Room Gray floor paint, £58 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, is a match. For similar Wegner dining chairs try Pamono, from £500 each





HALL
A comfortable vintage settle adds character in the entrance. Try Design Vintage for a similar settle, from £295



BATHROOM
Quirky accessories and furnishings give a personal feel in this space. Hunter Dunn household emulsion, £42 for 2.5 litres, Paint Library, is a match

DESIGN ADVICE *'I love the fact that our home tells a story about the places we've lived. Try mixing good classic design with treasured pieces and don't be daunted by colour'*



MASTER BEDROOM
Painted floorboards give a Nordic touch that blends well with the Asian details. Buddha head, £46; Velvet cushion covers, £39 each; Velvet bolster cover, £39 each, all Oi Soi Oi

built a new kitchen for us, creating a peninsula overlooking the dining table, and we increased the size of the windows, retaining much of the original glass,' says Britt. To encourage even more light inside, windows were added in the attic and a large roof lantern was installed in the hall.

'We shipped many pieces over from Vietnam,' explains Britt. 'Our style is nomadic – it's a blend of cultures without being overly ethnic. It's clear that our travels have left a very permanent impression.' This is evident in Britt's unique collections, including many traditional African headrests, originally used by travelling men to prop up their heads while sleeping outdoors. An entire wall in the library is dedicated to them. 'It took me a while to figure out where to put everything,' she says. 'I used my Feng Shui instincts and now everything has a home.' To balance the richness created by vibrant fabrics, painted ceramics, woven baskets and wooden furniture, Britt has stuck to a plain palette and a curtainless scheme. 'I've never been keen on curtains and fortunately, we're not overlooked.'

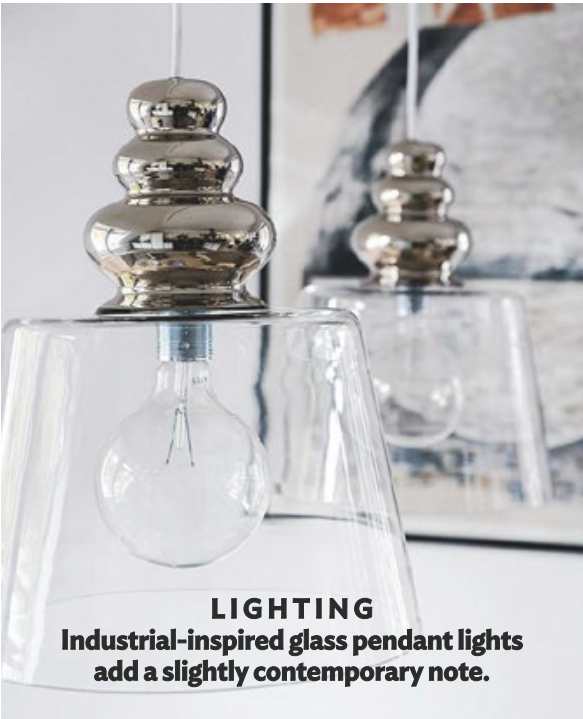
The only room that remains untouched is the bathroom with its sweeping views of the garden. 'We really should update it but I love the original tiles, which remind me of the period origins of the house,' says Britt. Instead, the window frame is painted in a vibrant green to draw the eye outside, while a wooden lion from Jamaica takes centre stage on the sill.

In summer, the couple enjoy tending to the garden and entertaining friends and family, in between visits to trade fairs in Europe where Britt can hunt for new pieces. On their days off, they like nothing better than relaxing on the terrace. 'We sit under an old red beech tree and soak up the peace and quiet,' says Britt. 'That's when I know we've come home.' 25

BE INSPIRED BY THE DETAILS IN BRITT AND JIM'S HOME



TERRACE
Classic Dansk garden furniture provides a comfortable place to rest alfresco.



LIGHTING
Industrial-inspired glass pendant lights add a slightly contemporary note.



WALL ART
African headrests were sourced while travelling. Seeing the world inspired Britt and business partner Christina Thorboell to set up their homeware company.



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Handpainted in Dove Grey, the Isabelle bedside table has a French Rococo look, £99



The Gustavian-style solid oak Juliette bench, £199, would work at the foot of a bed or as a window seat, in Wrinkled Grey

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DINING AREA

'I wanted a wooden floor that was robust enough to cope with three little boys tearing around on scooters,' explains Katie.

Fumed engineered character oak floor, £40.20sq m, British Hardwoods. Reclaimed pine refectory table, £1,200, Peppermill Antiques, is a good option

FRESH CREAM

Adding a new extension and painting the interior showed Katie and John Langley's period farmhouse in a new light

FEATURE MAIRI MACDONALD | PHOTOGRAPHY DOUGLAS GIBB



KITCHEN

Katie designed the cabinetry herself, using a pink island to perk up classic cream units. Cabinetry, £11,000, Handmade Kitchens Direct. Overmantel and island paint effect by Carte Blanche, price on request. Fair Isle Forecast wall tile, £84.48sq m, Fired Earth. Manola bar stool, £45, Simply Bar Stools

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Early 19th-century farmhouse

LOCATION

Perthshire, Scotland

ROOMS Hall, drawing room, sitting room, kitchen-diner, pantry, utility room, boot room, cloakroom, garden room, playroom, five bedrooms (two en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2004

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before here, we lived in a Georgian flat in Edinburgh,' says Katie.

While looking for a rural property to raise a family, Katie and John Langley found an old stone farmhouse with three bedrooms and an acre of land. It included traditional stables and a garden with fabulous views of the Perthshire hills. 'It was just what we were looking for – a real project,' says Katie.

With John's building skills and Katie's love of interiors, the couple wanted something that required work, and although the property was quite modest, there was space for a large extension. 'It was fine for the two of us, but we knew that when we had children, we'd need more room,' explains Katie. Their priorities were to convert the steading into a two-bedroom holiday cottage, and build an office next door for John's new construction company, JML Contracts. 'It was a very busy few years,' recalls Katie. 'John was establishing his new business while converting the outbuildings, and I was still commuting to Edinburgh for my job in marketing.'

With the help of close friend and architect, Kerry Smith, the couple also drew up plans for

their home extension. By the time all the plans were approved their first son, Jamie, now 8, had arrived. And just a few weeks before Freddie, 6, was born, the family moved into the newly completed holiday cottage to allow work on the farmhouse to begin. Will, 3, is the latest addition to the family.

Within a year, the extension was built, and the house now has five bedrooms and three bathrooms upstairs. Downstairs, the kitchen's size was doubled, and a pantry, utility room, cloakroom, boot room and small sitting room were also added. John was keen that the new extension should blend in with the farmhouse so he clad the building in salvaged stone. 'This was the slowest part of the project,' says Katie. 'But we have a home that looks as though it's been standing for 150 years, but has all the comfort and cost savings of a new-build.'

Now that the house is finished, Katie and John are able to enjoy the fruits of their labour. 'As the boys grow up, I'm sure we'll have to tweak a few things,' says Katie. 'The great thing is, there's lots of scope to do that here.' 25



GARDEN ROOM

The outdoors can be enjoyed all year round from in here. Bespoke Highlander garden room, from £18,000, JML Garden Rooms. Try Nordic House for oversized lanterns, from £135

SITTING ROOM

This newly created space, complete with traditional plaid curtains and cushions, is a cosy area to hang out in.

Ancient tartan fabric, £95m, Mulberry. Walls painted in Wattle V flat emulsion original, £37.50 for 2.5 litres, Paint & Paper Library



AFTER

GROUND FLOOR

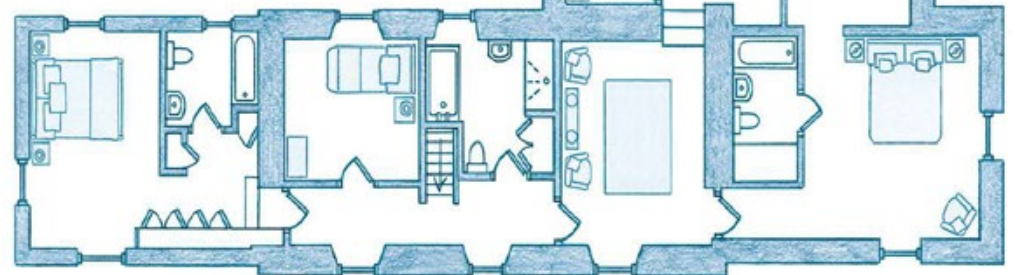
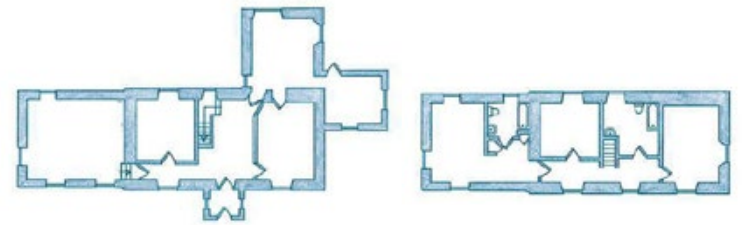


KITCHEN-DINER

By extending the property, the existing kitchen is now twice its original size, and with windows on three sides and doors that open into the garden, it's a bright and sociable space. A large boot room, WC and utility room were also added to the downstairs layout.

BEFORE

FIRST FLOOR



LESSON LEARNT *'If we did the extension again, we'd spend more of the budget on indoor and outdoor lighting, and employ a lighting specialist to design a great scheme'*

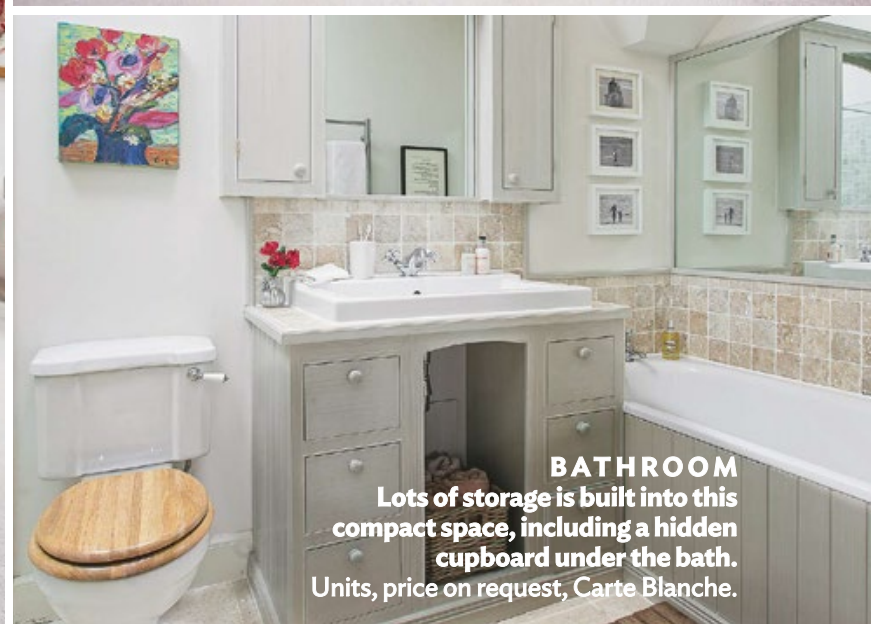


MASTER BEDROOM

Based in the extension, this benefits from modern insulation and heating.

Etienne bedspread, from £120, The White Company. To enquire about Katie and John's holiday cottage, contact 07956 103051, thearnscottage.co.uk

FREDDIE AND JAMIE'S BEDROOM
Neutral walls make it easier to adapt the room as the boys grow.
Oundle beds, £275 each, Aspace



BATHROOM

Lots of storage is built into this compact space, including a hidden cupboard under the bath. Units, price on request, Carte Blanche.

NORTHERN BRIGHTS

Classic furniture and splashes of colour give Marie and Hans Ålund's Swedish home a fresh retro style

FEATURE VIKKI ELIAS | PHOTOGRAPHY CECILIA MÖLLER/LIVING FOR MEDIA

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Detached 1930s house

LOCATION

Holmsund, Sweden

ROOMS Sitting room/
kitchen-diner, study, utility
room, storage room, playroom,
nursery, two bedrooms,
bathroom, basement spa

PURCHASED 2011

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a house in a village
just three miles away,' says Marie.

STAIRCASE

The wood-and-glass flight of steps is a bold architectural feature in the open-plan living space. Bespoke glass-sided staircase, from £22,000, Bisca



KITCHEN

This chic white space is enlivened with colourful kitchenware.

Metod/Forvara 80 x 60cm base unit, £150; Hammarp beech worktop 186 x 2.8cm, £80; Orrnäs stainless steel handle, £8 for two; ceiling track with three spots, £16, all Ikea. Prismatics white satin wall tile, 15 x 15cm, £15.08sq m, Tile Mountain



DINING AREA

'I love the fact our children enjoy eating at this table, which is an heirloom from my great grandmother,' says Marie.

Henriette table, £1,125, Maison Home Interiors; and Bonde chairs, £595 each, Nordic Style, are similar. Stokke Tripp Trapp highchair, £159, Kiddicare



DINING AREA

Statement furniture, including a large glass cabinet and vintage sideboard, are both practical and eye-catching.

Premier Housewares porcelain mugs, £19.99 for eight, Amazon, are similar. Ferm Living Zig Zag bowl, £20; lunch plate, £18; Gusto Collection crockery, £3.95-£19.95, Ekobo Home, all Edited. White string shelving (left), £109, Do South Shop, is a good match





SITTING AREA
Modular sofas that can be configured into different positions offer greater flexibility. Ashley large chaise, H90 x W292 x D168cm, £1,999, Barker and Stonehouse, is a good match for these sofas



NURSERY
Practical storage in children's rooms helps hide clutter and free up floor space. Bespoke storage, from James Mayor Furniture. The Stuva modular storage units, from £40, Ikea, is similar



WILLIAM'S BEDROOM
Carefully selected pieces create a fun yet coordinated interior. For similar teepees, from £175, try Just For Tiny People. Aristo Katt cushion and Ferm Living Marionette cushion, both £27.50, Cloudberry Living





Marie Ålund had a good feeling about her Swedish home from the first time she stepped inside it. 'We'd viewed a few properties, but nothing like this beautiful 1930s stone building,' she recalls. 'It's close to the ocean and the city.' After a smooth purchase, the couple moved in 2011 when their son William was six months old.

A lot of renovations had been carried out by the previous owner, and the period property offered a contemporary living space with underfloor heating and a basement with a spa. The only major expense for the couple was two toughened-glass panels for the open-tread staircase, replacing steel cable handrails that were not family friendly. 'Now it's a lovely architectural feature and adds to the feel of openness,' says Marie.

The master bedroom in the attic suited the couple for a few years, but following the arrival of their daughter Millie in 2014, they added a stud wall to create a separate room for William. Decoratively, though, little has altered, except regular painting of the window frames and the decor in the children's rooms.

Having space and built-in storage is a bonus for the family. 'I love open-plan living as it brings everyone

together,' says Marie. 'We have a playroom, but William and Millie spend most of their time in the sitting area.' With high ceilings and room to spare, zoned areas have been created for different functions, and each section has an anchoring feature. There's stone flooring in the kitchen, a tactile rug in the sitting room and a designer pendant above the dining table.

The Scandinavian all-white scheme is prevented from appearing cold thanks to Marie's ever-increasing collection of vintage glass and retro furniture. 'I often visit flea markets,' she says. 'I love the 1950s and 1960s, especially the design and colours of Rörstrand porcelain.'

Marie's furniture tastes include iconic 1950s designer pieces, such as her Albert Larsson Alberts-Tibro side table and 1960s silver Bumling floor lamp. 'I'm drawn to fine craftsmanship,' she adds. Marie believes her style has been cultivated over the years by attending auctions and fairs with her mother and grandmother. 'I've inherited some beautiful heirlooms and I enjoy mixing old pieces with new ones.'

It's clearly a recipe that works, as the Ålund's home is full of personality and style. 'We just love spending time at home, entertaining or exploring the coast,' Marie says. 'Living here is such a pleasure.' 25

MASTER BEDROOM

Stylish floor cushions are perfect for casual seating.

Duvet cover, £30, bedspread, £50; pillows, from £8 each, all H&M Home. Barometer work lamp, £27, Ikea.

Try Habitat for a wide selection of floor cushions

INSPIRATION 'Every summer, my mum and I visit lots of flea markets. We pick up loads of ideas and always return home with gorgeous finds'

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SITTING ROOM

The generous proportions and period details in this space provide an ideal backdrop for the stylish blend of pieces.

Artwork, price on application, Emma Douglas. Swan sofa by Fritz Hansen, £6,060; Naguchi coffee table by Vitra, £1,022; Nuvola bookcase by Cassina, £2,190, all Shop GoodMood



INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Georgian townhouse

LOCATION Central London

ROOMS Sitting/dining room, kitchen, study, four bedrooms, two bathrooms

MOVED IN 2013

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a house in the south of France,' says Fanny.

ARTFUL APPROACH

Mid-Century furniture, colourful artwork and striking geometrics help personalise Fanny and Michael Moizant's chic city home

FEATURE EMMA J PAGE | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH



KITCHEN

Statement pieces of furniture add character and colour to this simple sleek scheme.

Triangle oven mitt, £16; triangle apron, £26, both Ferm Living. KitchenCraft classic enamelled kitchen scale, £23, Wayfair, is a good match



Working in fashion, Fanny Moizant knows about mixing luxury with high-street staples. And this has become a philosophy that she's adopted to striking effect since moving with her family from Paris to London two years ago. 'I like to combine vintage with designer,' says Fanny. 'I'm not one for a complete look, courtesy of one brand or style.'

Instead, the four-storey London home that Fanny, her husband Michael and their children, Louise, 9, and Jeanne, 7, settled into combines elegance and affordability thanks to striking artwork and bold Mid-Century pieces.

Relocating from the south of France to expand the London arm of her fashion website meant that Fanny had quite a property search on her hands. 'Our main criteria was that the children were within walking distance of their school,' she says. 'We wanted to be able to get around on foot and forego the need for a car completely.'

The couple looked at many properties, but one in particular caught their eye. Located above an art gallery on a bustling street, it features period details, including sash windows and oak flooring, and a neutral palette that Fanny could work with. 'As we're renting long-term, it was important to know we'd be able to make our mark,' she

FAVOURITE ROOM

'I love the study with its roof terrace. I spend a lot of time there being inspired by the view'



STUDY

'In summer we have barbecues on the terrace as much as possible,' says Fanny.
RO lounge chair by Fritz Hansen, £2,326, Nest.
Panton desk chair by Vitra, £206; Saarinen coffee table by Knoll, £1,700, both Shop GoodMood

DINING AREA

An extendable table is a versatile choice for this family, while an arc lamp and framed artwork gives a creative touch.
Super-elliptical extendable table, £3,955; Ant chairs, £1,200 for four, both Fritz Hansen at Shop GoodMood.
The Ligne Roset Ouverture lacquered floor lamp, £923, Heal's, would suit this look.
Framed photography, price on application, Damon Heath





explains. 'We decided to take it largely unfurnished and invest our time and budget in the decor.' Fortunately, the house had a neutral palette and a new kitchen. 'All we had to do was invest in a few statement pieces and keep everything else subtle,' says Fanny. 'When renting, try and identify any flaws so you can hide them, and then focus on highlighting its strengths. For instance, we've emphasised the windows by keeping the Georgian shutters and compensated for the lack of storage with practical items.'

Furnishing this home was a treat for Fanny, who had not paid much attention to decor when the children were younger. 'Now they're older, we can enjoy an attractive home again,' she explains. To help, they enlisted the advice of retailer, architect and interiors specialist Camilo Torres. He suggested a mix of French furniture and functional Danish style for a modern look. Together, they chose stand-out pieces, such as the sculptural sofa and sleek dining table. Elsewhere, artwork provides colour, and geometric fabrics, soft throws and inherited pieces add depth.

The family now spend weekends exploring London. 'Experiencing a new culture has been the icing on the cake,' says Fanny. 'It's been great to furnish our home with the children's input and make them aware of their own sense of style, while creating a place that feels uniquely ours.' 25



INSIGHT

Add character to a rental

Keen to inject personality and style into a rented home as Fanny Moizant has done? Consider these points before making a start

If you are a tenant, it doesn't necessarily mean you can't make your home your own. While structural improvements may not be an option, you can still enhance a property's best features with a host of decorative touches.

GET CREATIVE

Rentals, whether houses or flats, almost always come with restrictive covenants regarding structural changes. But there are still ways to decorate a rental home to add flair, colour and character. A clever means of injecting new life is to paint the walls – if you plan to rent long-term, most landlords will permit a fresh colour scheme as long as you agree to revert to the original decor. But if that isn't an option, enliven the walls with artwork. If wallpaper appeals, try framing a favourite design as a large-scale piece. Decals can be easily removed when necessary – try Notonthehighstreet.com for some witty options. Consider investing in good-quality curtains or blinds to inject colour and pattern. Smartening up kitchens and bathrooms with new handles is an affordable way to add a chic touch, but remember to keep existing accessories so that they can easily be replaced if you move. Take the opportunity to invest in heirloom furniture you can keep forever. Look for sleek freestanding storage pieces such as statement consoles and comfortable seating.

LIGHT IT RIGHT

Lighting is an important mood setter, and one of the best ways to add character to your home is to banish harsh overhead lamps. If you can, consider replacing existing centre lights with a striking pendant, and if you plan to rent long-term, upgrading light switches and plug sockets is a good way to create a cohesive, more personal look. Almas Shamsee of Maisha Design suggests creating a sophisticated ambience by layering table lamps, floor lamps and shelving units with built-in lights – these can be used in different combinations to suit the mood. Interesting sculptural table lamps will add character – try Porta Romana for beautiful and striking pieces, while Heathfield & Co offer a number of two-tone pendant shades. Finally, think about adding dimmers to help create a subtle scheme.



EXPERT EYE

‘Make a statement by changing curtains, throws and rugs to reflect your own style, keeping a common thread in every room. It’s easier and more cost-effective to update soft furnishings such as these’

VERONIQUE PIEDELEU, CARAVANE

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE...



- ‘Upscaling mirrors in narrow corridors can enhance spaces, making them appear larger. This is especially important in small, dark flats.’
- “Less is more” is my motto. Buy a few large, high-impact bespoke pieces rather than cluttering the room with lots of furniture. For additional storage, I like to choose coffee tables and ottomans that have plenty of space beneath or inside.
- Freestanding open shelving will create different zones and provide storage for objects, books, etc, that can be accessed from both sides. I recently used a 6ft high-wine rack to act as a room divider as well as being a decorative and functional piece.
- Fresh flowers and plants placed around the house are one of the best ways to make the place feel alive. Don’t forget the little things – candles add fragrance and softer light, while seashells and corals in the bathroom and fresh white towels inject a comfortable touch.’

MILA PODIABLONSKA, ABSOLUTE INTERIOR DECOR

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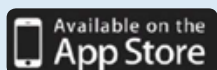
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Simply SERENE

Alexandra Blaker has sensitively restored a run-down farmhouse in a peaceful seaside spot

FEATURE PENNY CRAWFORD-COLLINS | PHOTOGRAPHY PHILIP LAUTERBACH



INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Georgian farmhouse

LOCATION County Wexford

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen, six bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2003

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I lived in a little cottage nearby,' says Alex.



KITCHEN
A ceramic sink, wooden worktops, exposed beams and tongue-and-groove units create a farmhouse feel. Belfast sink, from £145, Kitchen Fittings Direct. The Cohen small pendant light is similar, £89, Heal's



DINING AREA
This space has been sympathetically refurbished using traditional materials. For a comparable table try Baker Boy, £545, Loaf. Dorchester pine bench, £115, Cotswold Company, is comparable



Off the beaten track, hidden along a narrow lane in County Wexford, sits a beautiful farmhouse that is home to Alex Blaker – she has long held an affection for the area, with its natural rural beauty and sense of history. ‘In 1139, it was the site of the first Norman invasion in Ireland,’ she says. ‘The Norman town is still meant to be underwater and all that remains are the church ruins on the cliff side.’

Before Alex bought the property, she owned a cottage nearby and, over a period of 20 years, has grown to know and love the area. ‘I had always liked the idyllic rural location of this farmhouse – to me, it seemed like the perfect retreat,’ she recalls. So in 2003,

when a neighbour mentioned that the house was likely to be coming onto the market, Alex jumped at the chance to snap it up. ‘It’s a magical place and has a great sense of peace and tranquility,’ she says.

The property was simple and enchanting, but despite having these qualities, it was in a bad state of disrepair. There was only a rudimentary kitchen, an outside toilet and no central heating. ‘The whole place had to be totally gutted to let its simple structure shine through,’ explains Alex. ‘I decided to take time with the restoration in order to get a real feel for the place and the way it would function as a home.’ So, over a two-year period, Alex gradually and sensitively transformed the run-down farmhouse, with plenty of help. ‘I enlisted



SITTING ROOM

Alex has introduced more contemporary elements with her choice of rug and colourful cushions.

Rug, price on application, Ceadogán Rugs. Lambswool throw Scottie Red, is similar, £90, Avoca. Roses Poppy cushion, £42; Folklore embroidered cushion, £52, both Pip Studio. The Carrick sofa, from £1,030, sofa.com, is a match



BATHROOM

This former cowshed has been transformed into a large, relaxing space. For a similar tub try the Falmouth, £645, Cast Iron Bath Company

DECORATING TIP *'Keep the interior of the house whitewashed and introduce colour with accessories, to make it feel really light and spacious'*

MASTER BEDROOM

The exposed brickwork adds texture here. To rent the property, visit crosslake.eu.com.

Flower Bouquet duvet set, from £70, Amara, is a close match. Tate cream wooden lamp base, £42, Laura Ashley



friends to lend a hand and employed local tradesmen using traditional, natural materials where possible,' she says.

The house has a rather unusual layout, with two bedrooms and a bathroom downstairs. Meanwhile, a tiny wooden staircase leads up from the ground floor kitchen to the first floor, where there are four further bedrooms. The two largest and more romantic rooms have wonderful panoramic views of the rural landscape and unspoiled coastline. The downstairs bathroom was once the animals' quarters – it was divided up into three spaces on two levels. 'I decided to open up the whole area to create a spacious, light-filled bathroom instead,' says Alex. She

kept the traditional, country-style look with flagstone flooring, and by installing a roll-top bath and classic basin.

The kitchen features rustic tongue-and-groove units, an antique-style dresser and exposed beams, complementing the period of the house. Furnishings have been kept simple, which gives the house continuity and a strong sense of style. New and second-hand pieces add character and individuality, while lime-washed white walls and the absence of clutter lend a sense of serenity.

'It's been wonderful to breathe new life into this house, while preserving its history and original features,' reflects Alex. 'The place is a great retreat for me and it never fails to restore my equilibrium.' 25



DINING AREA

The original brick fireplace has been teamed with vintage furniture and vibrant artwork for a modern look.

Tulip table, £1,560; four Tulip chairs, £3,600, both Eero Saarinen for Knoll, Haus London. White resin stag head, £55, Graham and Green, is similar

CITY OASIS

Gustavo Antonioni and Robert Dajksler reimagined the footprint of their traditional townhouse to create a more contemporary feel

FEATURE SHARON SMITH | PHOTOGRAPHY TONY TIMMINGTON



When Gustavo Antonioni and Robert Dajksler first laid eyes on the dated, cramped house in southwest London, their reactions differed vastly. 'It had lots of tiny rooms with poor light and an awkward layout, plus it hadn't been touched in 40 years,' says Gustavo. 'After studying architecture and having a keen interest in design, I saw it as a challenge, but Robert wasn't convinced.' What swung their decision was when they reached the top floor of the

three-storey townhouse. 'We found two art studios,' says Gustavo. 'And when I looked into the attic, I realised we could extend and create a master bedroom and en suite.'

Gustavo finally managed to persuade a reluctant Robert to buy the house. 'We'd lost two other properties so I was determined to get this one,' he says. As soon as they completed, they moved in straight away, despite the property's parlous state. 'The first evening, we were in the sitting room and a bus stopped right outside the window,'



REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian townhouse

LOCATION

Southwest London

ROOMS

Hall, sitting/dining room, kitchen, family room, cloakroom, two bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2010

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We had a two-bedroom flat in west London before moving here,' says Gustavo.



FAMILY ROOM

This is a relaxed living zone where guests can unwind. Print artwork above fireplace, £1,500, by Kari White. Kubrick wing armchair, £399, Made



KITCHEN

Gustavo, who enjoys cooking, opted for a practical gallery layout in this area. Units, £15,000, Unpainted Kitchens, in Elephant's Breath estate eggshell, £39 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



SITTING ROOM

The ground floor was opened up to create an area for entertaining.

Joyce coffee table, £110, Habitat. Ritchie sofa, £499, Made



MASTER BEDROOM
‘This is where we come to escape,’ says Gustavo. Alison Mills painting, £4,000, Affordable Art Fair. Union Jack cushions, £104, Jane Hornsby



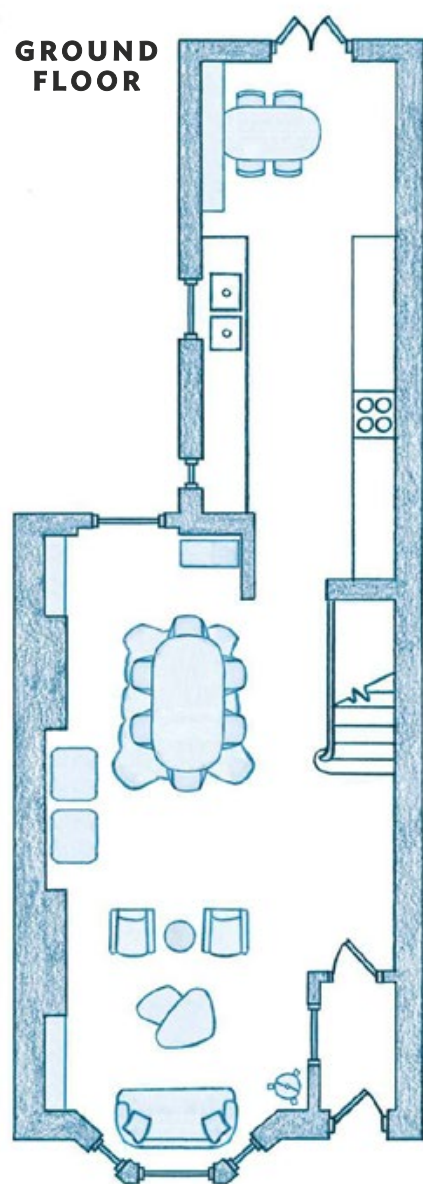
BATHROOM
This jacuzzi keeps the couple’s nieces and nephews amused. Tumbled limestone tiles, £71sq m, Topps Tiles, are similar



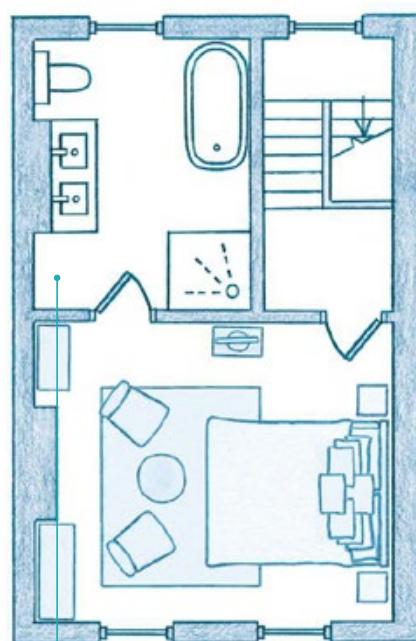
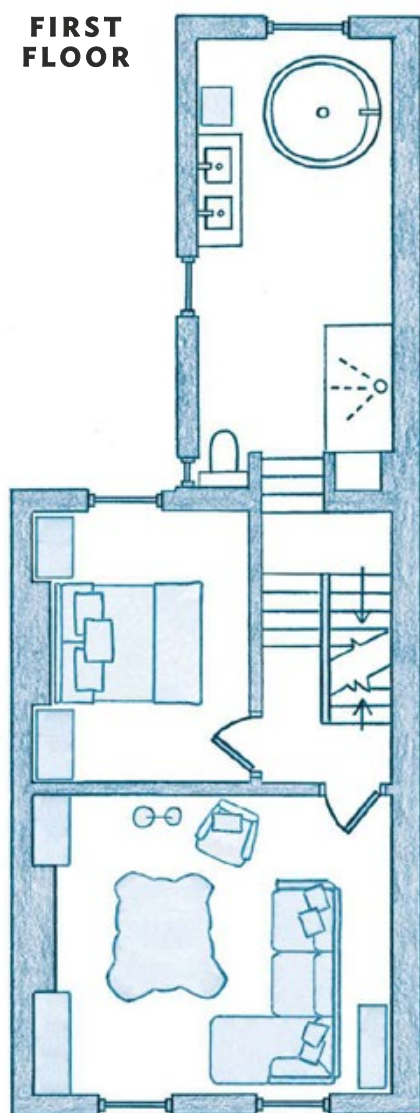
BEDROOM
Period features have been sensitively restored. Chest of drawers, £55; wardrobe, £80, both Ikea

AFTER

BEFORE



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

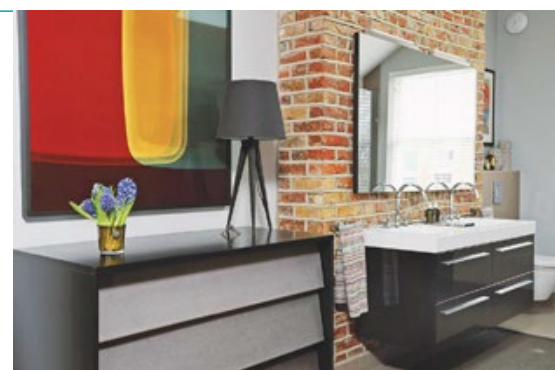


REPLANNED

The interior has been changed from four bedrooms and two bathrooms into two spacious bedrooms, one en suite, two sitting rooms and a bathroom.

EN SUITE

The original exposed brickwork is contrasted with hi-tech super-sleek fittings and eclectic artwork to create a classic yet modern look in this room.



recalls Gustavo. ‘It reinforced Robert’s opinion about the property, and I was a bit disconcerted, too. But we’d moved because we wanted more room to entertain, and I was still sure this place was perfect.’

With the help of Gustavo’s brother Dario, an industrial designer in Texas, they redesigned the interior, converting four small rooms and two bathrooms into two large bedrooms, one en suite, two sitting rooms and a bathroom. ‘We wanted separate social areas,’ says Gustavo. ‘The ground floor is a relaxed but formal living area where we entertain, the first floor is where guests stay and the top floor is our private oasis.’

After much discussion with their builder, the pair decided to start on the top floor and create a master bedroom and en suite where they could live while the rest of the work took place. One of the first jobs

was to reinforce the property’s structure, which was a bigger task than anticipated. ‘We knew the house had subsidence,’ says Gustavo. ‘But we hadn’t realised the extent of the problem. As a result, steel beams had to be inserted into the roof and the walls.’ A more welcome surprise was the discovery of six original fireplaces that had been hidden behind plaster walls. ‘They look great against the brickwork and we often use the ones in the bedroom and the family room.’

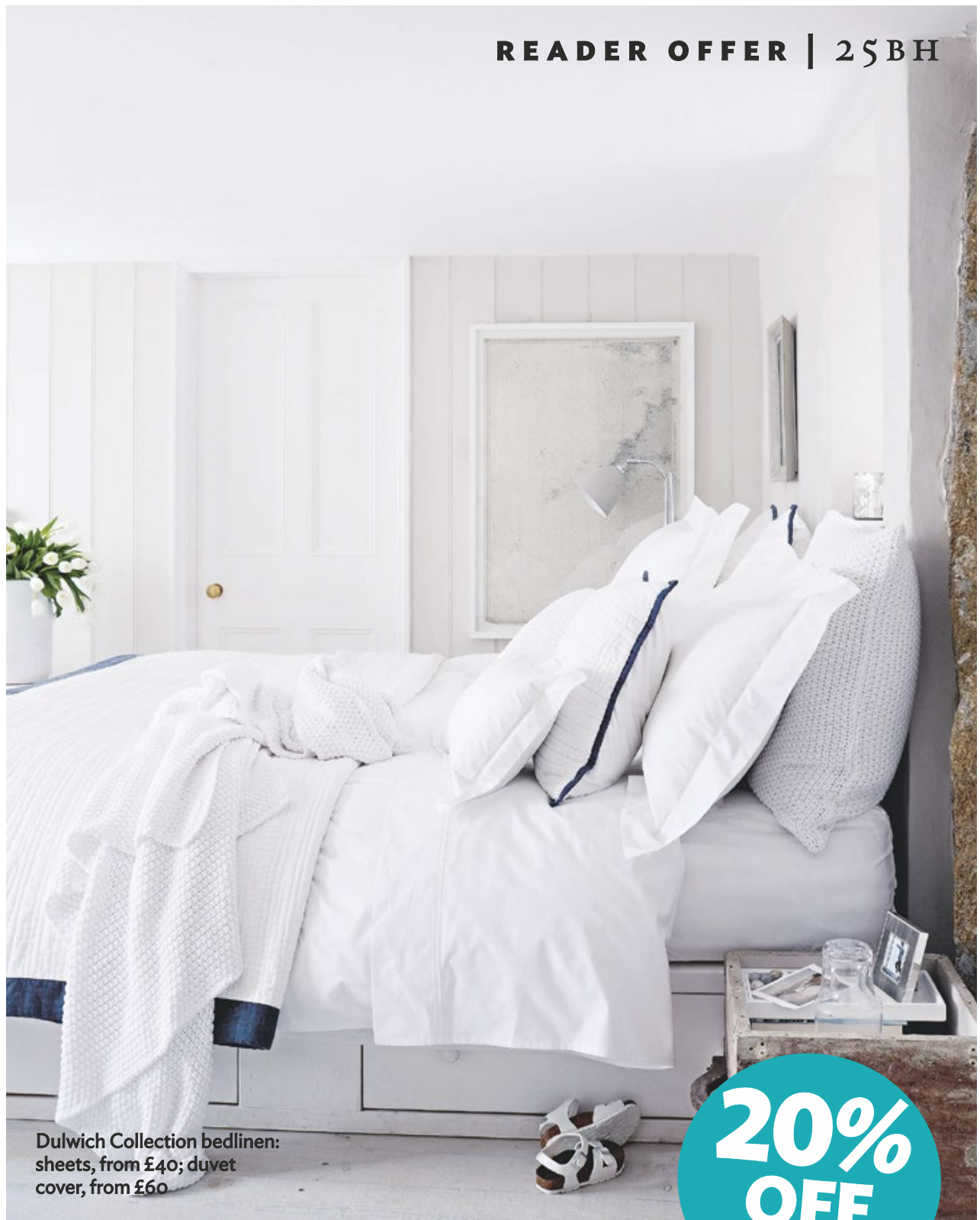
The project took eight months to complete, but the results have been worth the hard work and disruption. The clever rearrangement of space is complemented with a contemporary look thanks to Mid-Century pieces, bold artwork and raw elements. ‘We now have a bright, spacious home – even Robert is pleased,’ says Gustavo. 25



Bath brush, £12;
Super-soft waffle
towels, from £12



Stoneware Collection,
from £6



Dulwich Collection bedlinen:
sheets, from £40; duvet
cover, from £60

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DELIVERY

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Make the most of the summer by updating your home and wardrobe

Summer is the season we all look forward to. We can enjoy eating alfresco; it's when we splash out on a new warm-weather wardrobe; as well as escaping to sunnier climes to unwind. The White Company's stunning new collection is inspired by lazy summer afternoons and bringing that holiday feeling back home. Expertly designed, the pieces help you make the most of the coming season: think fabulous tableware for outside dining, cotton bedlinen for the perfect summer's night sleep, plus stylish and wearable clothes – not to mention gorgeous new-season buys for little ones.

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THE WHITE COMPANY
LONDON

NEW-BUILD



HOME TRUTHS THE PROPERTY

A three-storey new-build house

LOCATION West Sussex

ROOMS Hall, kitchen-diner/living area, TV room, conservatory, study, five bedrooms (all en suite), pool/gym/sauna area, basement kitchen, separate garage/study

BUILT 2006

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a bigger house not far from here,' says Nick.

INNER SPACE

A desire for space, light and an intuitive layout led Nick and Maddie Griffin to build their home on a very special site

FEATURE JENNIE FILER | **PHOTOGRAPHY** GAP INTERIORS/JOHNNY BOUCHIER

VIEW FROM SITTING ROOM

The glass balustrades of the terrace offer an uninterrupted scene.

The Carlisle dining table, £2,750; and Carlisle Carver chairs, £495 each, are a good match, Indian Ocean

Fifteen years after Nick and Maddie Griffin turned down the chance to buy five acres of agricultural land on the edge of Ashdown Forest, the opportunity presented itself again. 'We'd thought about running it as

farmland,' says Nick, 'but came to our senses and decided not to go ahead with the purchase.'

In the intervening years, Nick and Maddie had built a modern holiday property in France, which threw their own, older home into contrast. 'It motivated us to build

something closer to the way we wanted to live,' says Nick. 'So in 2002, with the land for sale again, we acted quickly.' Offering magnificent views of the South Downs, the site was occupied by a derelict 1960s house. 'The decision to demolish it and start

again was an easy one,' he says. 'We wanted a home that was contemporary but unusual, and our architect, Nathaniel Gee, was very much on our wavelength.'

Built on a ridge, the house looks two storeys high from the driveway, but a basement



KITCHEN/CONSERVATORY
The range cooker creates a cosy atmosphere in this area, which enjoys views over the fields. Four-oven Aga, price on application. The Keep 6-8-seater extendable dining table is a good match, £500, John Lewis



KITCHEN
Guests tend to congregate here and help with the cooking. For similar flooring, try the Bayonne Provence limestone floor tiles, £79sq m, Mandarin Stone. The Xavier bar chair would work here, £159 each, John Lewis. Pendant lights, price on application, Steng



excavation creates three floors at the rear. 'From the front, it looks traditional, but inside, it's another story,' says Nick. The limestone exterior was a choice that, as Nick recalls, led to a heart-stopping moment. 'The stone is from Iran,' he explains. 'When it was due to be shipped over, the US threatened sanctions and we worried it wouldn't arrive – luckily, it did.'

Creating space was the brief, and this was realised in the kitchen-diner, which flows into a triple-height sitting room with a barrel-vaulted ceiling. Bifold glass doors lead out to a terrace, with rolling fields beyond. 'We wanted as much of the view as possible,' says Nick. 'It's like an ever-changing picture.' The basement gym/sauna and pool is opened up in summer for the couple and their guests to enjoy.

When choosing furnishings, the Griffins took the chance to

update their style. They opted for a mix of modern Italian and French furniture and bespoke pieces, including the dining table, a favourite of Nick's. 'It can seat 16 people,' he says. 'At Christmas and parties, we sit around it for most of the evening.' Despite the fact it's such an open house that is ideal for entertaining, the couple have made sure there are also plenty of cocooning areas where you can relax and unwind.

The four-year process may have taken Nick and Maddie even further from their previous idea of running a farm, but now, there's nothing they would change. 'We love how the house works for us as a couple – we're not rattling around in it, and we use every room,' says Nick. 'The project was challenging, but very rewarding. Designing a space to suit how you want to live is such a great thing to be able to do.' 25

DECORATING TIP

'Keep your colour palette as consistent as possible, and let your furniture create interest'



SITTING ROOM

This triple-height space has concealed lamps in the cornicing to throw light up into the soaring ceiling to enhance the impressive architecture.

White Mist mixing matt is a similar wall colour, £24.50 for 2.5 litres, Dulux.

Sofa from Roche Bobois, its Landscape Sectional is similar, price on application. The Greyson Reach floor lamp is comparable, £160, John Lewis



HALL STAIRS

'The staircase was initially going to have a stone edge,' says Nick, 'but we loved the shape of the steps and chose glass instead so we could still see them.' The Botticino Tumbled marble floor tiles would work here, £79.75sq m, Topps Tiles



GUEST BEDROOM

Nick and Maddie call this 'Jessica's room', after their grown-up daughter, who sleeps here when she comes to visit. The Louise Grape Velvet quilt is comparable, £170, Laura Ashley. The Indulgence shaggy rug would suit this scheme, £40, Dunelm. Luciana curtain fabric is comparable, price on request, Zoffany



MASTER BEDROOM

The green tones in this room echo the views of the South Downs. Charles bed and bedside tables, prices on application, both B&B Italia. The green Goa shaggy rug is a match, from £140, The Rug Seller. Mustard/teal Dupioni raw silk £13m would work as a similar bedspread, cushions and wall art, Desicrafts



GUEST EN SUITE

As this is the only room not to have a window, the couple installed a sun pipe, which channels light in from the outside. Shower, bath and sanitaryware, prices on application, all CP Hart. The Venetian Stone Avorio square wall tiles, £72.32sq m; and Venetian Stone Crema Mosaic tiles, £130.52sq m, would work here, both Fired Earth

TV ROOM

The relaxing feel and fresh contemporary scheme make this room an ideal place for the busy family to unwind.

Curtains in Floresco fabric, £38m, Romo. Floral cushions in Caspia fabric in Slate/Seagrass, £44m, Harlequin

Lucky BREAK

Kate and Simon Clayson went out to buy lunch and instead bought the house of their dreams

FEATURE JANET McMEEKIN | PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD GADSBY

FAVOURITE SHOP
*'Frida & Sophia Floral
Design in Tenterden
is a lovely florist
that also sells home
accessories, from
bell jars to vases
and candlesticks'*

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Detached Edwardian house

LOCATION Kent

ROOMS Hall, sitting room,
kitchen-diner/family room, TV
room, study, utility, four bedrooms
(two en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2008

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in an Edwardian semi-
detached house nearby,' says Kate.

DINING AREA

Light suffuses Kate and Simon's
orangery-style room, which has been
designed with the idyllic views in mind.
Chairs painted in Bone China Blue intelligent
matt emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5 litres, Little
Greene. For similar chairs, try the Cottage Oak
wooden seat chair, £75 each, The Cotswold
Company. Botticino tumbled Opus Romano
stone tiles, £55sq m, The Stone Collection

DESIGN TIPS *'Making a home is all about patience. It's worth waiting until you find the right object or piece of furniture that you know you'll keep forever'*



SITTING ROOM

'I searched for about five years to find a footstool in this lovely heather shade,' says Kate. 'It pulls all the dusky hues together.'
Footstool, £399, Sofa.com. Walls painted in Green Blue estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



1



2



3



4

1 TV ROOM

Kate has echoed the green tones of the fireplace tiles in this vibrant space.

Walls painted in Lime White estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Painting, £800, Karen Birchwood. Pouffe in Steel, £90, John Lewis

2 & 4 KITCHEN

The island has been well designed to blend contemporary and traditional elements.

Island painted in Bone China Blue intelligent matt emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. Original BTC Cobb lights, £185 each, John Lewis

3 GUEST BEDROOM

An inherited painting of the Bahamas adds a personal touch to this room.

Walls painted in Shaded White estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Florence white bed frame, £159.99, Bedroom World is similar

5 MASTER EN SUITE

The calming tones of the main bedroom have been continued through to this room.

Double-ended Marlborough bath, £2,625, Victoria & Albert. Panelling painted in Acre intelligent eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene



5

Kate and Simon Clayson will never forget the Saturday they popped out for lunch and ended up buying their dream home instead. 'Seven years ago, we were driving past the house we'd always had our hearts set on and noticed a For Sale sign outside,' recalls Kate. 'I immediately suggested we head to the estate agent.' Within the hour, the couple had viewed the property and agreed to the asking price. The next week, their own home went up for sale and they had accepted a full-price offer from a cash buyer. 'It was remarkable,' she says. 'In just over three weeks we were moving into the place we'd always said we'd do whatever it took to buy.'

The couple had previously renovated two Edwardian houses, so they instantly saw the property's potential as a home for themselves and their 12-year-old twins Will and Tom. 'As it had a large front garden, we were worried the back garden may be small,' says Kate. 'But it was huge, which was fortunate as we wanted to extend the kitchen.'

As soon as they set foot in their new home, Kate slipped into the familiar role of project manager and began planning how to transform the rather dated interior into an comfortable family home. 'After coming into a small inheritance, we got plans drawn up and tackled

everything in one fell swoop,' she says. Contractors began by creating a light-filled kitchen-diner/family room with bifold doors leading out to a new swimming pool, plus a first-floor master bedroom with en suite was also added. 'I'd researched Edwardian orangeries and knew this look was ideal,' explains Kate. 'The doors would give us panoramic views and a sense of bringing the garden in.'

Kate was eager to incorporate the property's triangular roofline into the extension, ensuring that both old and new blended together. 'It was almost too much to do in one go,' she says, 'but it was a case of no pain, no gain. Luckily, most of the kitchen work was done in the summer, so we managed with barbecues and a tabletop cooker.'

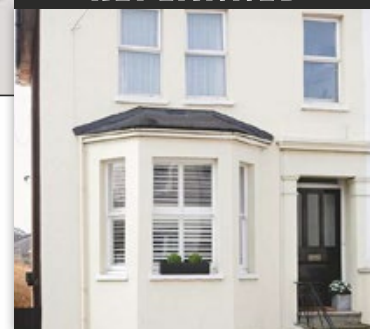
Right from the outset, Kate had a clear vision for the interior. 'I wanted it to be welcoming, eclectic and a colourful home with heart,' she says. 'I'm always loath to throw things out and, having inherited many paintings and pieces of furniture, I was determined to let them set the tone.' Walking into the Claysons' charming home now, it's clear that Kate has achieved her aim. 'The house has surpassed all our expectations,' she says. 'We're so glad that on that fateful Saturday, we skipped lunch in favour of a house viewing.' 25

ACCENT ON STYLE

*An eye for design helped Angela and James Colley
turn an unloved house into a super-chic home*

FEATURE AND PHOTOGRAPHY AMANDA TURNER

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Semi-detached Victorian villa

LOCATION Cheltenham

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, study, three bedrooms, dressing room, bathroom, plus a one-bedroom basement flat

PURCHASED 2006

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before this, we lived in a two-bedroom townhouse with a small courtyard garden,' says Angela.



SITTING ROOM

Sumptuous furniture and vibrant cushions soften the bold backdrop.

Graham & Brown Flock Star Stripe Tuxedo wallpaper, £55 per roll, House of Fraser. Lynden Grande sofa, from £1,800, Laura Ashley



HALL
A harlequin console adds an elegant note. Console table, £250, The Triton Gallery. Lower wall painted in Dove Grey matt emulsion, £32 for 2.5 litres, Laura Ashley



KITCHEN
This space offers a clear run through to the garden. For similar cabinetry try the Hygena Cavell Cream kitchen, £2,158 for a standard 8-unit scheme, Homebase. Eve cream wooden bar stools, £70 each, Atlantic Shopping. Grundtal metal wall shelf, £14, Ikea

DINING ROOM
The oak furniture warms up a cool, monochrome design. Chicago floor lamp, £169, Made. Chelsea velvet grey dining chairs, £50 each, Lakeland Furniture. Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen Scaramouche hall table, £149, Very, is an alternative mirrored console



DINING ROOM
A classical armchair fits into the alcove and complements the period fireplace. Louis XVI chair, £796, Belle Maison. To find replacement tiles for Victorian fireplaces try Britain's Heritage, prices from around £250 per panel



STUDY
Angela made clever use of an unused space under the stairs. Linnmon/Finnvard white table, £75; Valje wall cabinet, £17, both Ikea



BATHROOM
Vivid pink damask wallpaper adds a colourful zing against the white and walnut finishes. Elizabeth pink/silver wallpaper, £12 per roll, Debenhams. Cheshire roll-top bath, £1,685, Victoria+Albert. Try Kingsford solid American Black walnut flooring, £50sq m, Posh Flooring

CHILDREN'S BEDROOM
Classic white furniture suits the girls as they grow. Cheeky Charlie bed with heart, £895; Nursery dresser, £1,795, both Belle Maison. The Pintoy white heart vanity unit, dressing table and stool, £109, Kids' Rooms, are comparable



DRESSING ROOM
Reserved for preening and pampering, this pretty area leads up to an attic bedroom. Console table, £175, Melody Maison. Tatton Teal damask wallpaper, from £39 per roll, Laura Ashley. Floor-standing mirror, £264, Dibor, would suit this scheme



**DECORATING
ADVICE**
*'To create interest,
try alternating
different scales
of pattern in the
wallpaper and soft
furnishings'*

MASTER BEDROOM

**The soft colour palette
here is easy on the eye.**
Hastings Ivory bed, from
£575; Delaney duck-egg
blue quilt, £175; Josette
Seaspray wallpaper
is similar, £33 per roll,
all Laura Ashley



Angela and James Colley bought their home as a project when they were expecting their first daughter Georgina in 2006. Luckily, it also contained a separate basement flat, and it was renting this out that helped fund the refurbishment. One of the first areas the couple tackled was the dining and sitting rooms, which were dingy and divided by 1980s-style folding doors painted in the same mustard colour as the walls.

'We removed the doors and brightened up the space by painting the walls white,' says Angela. An original fireplace provided the inspiration for the yellow and black accent colours in the sitting room. 'I wasn't keen on the fireplaces when we first saw the house but I love them now, and the colours of the Victorian tiles really stand out. But when the striped wallpaper first went up, I thought I had made a mistake, as it was so bold having it on one wall,' she continues. 'However, when it was carried on into the dining room alcoves, the two spaces came together beautifully.'

Feature wallpaper continues upstairs, with a damask design in different colourways appearing in the master bedroom and also the bathroom and dressing room. As well as building the wardrobes

himself, James fitted new carpets throughout, but his hard work was soon to be undone when a caster wheel on the sofa disappeared through a knot in the floorboard, leaving a big hole in the new carpet. 'The chances of that happening were very slim,' says Angela. 'At that point we just had to take a deep breath and replace the whole thing.'

A new Shaker-style kitchen and wooden worktops were fitted, and then the dated bathroom suite was replaced. 'We lived with it for two years before we bit the bullet and started work on it,' recalls Angela. 'We didn't skimp, but chose high-end fittings including a roll-top bath with a floor-standing tap and solid-walnut flooring.'

One unexpected benefit of doing up the house was that it gave Angela the impetus to make a career out of being an interior designer. 'I never envisaged doing this seriously,' she says. 'But when our girls (Georgina, 7, and Lexie, 5) reached school age, I decided to go on a course.' She now has her own business called GeorgieRose.

Armed with a new set of skills, Angela hopes one day to extend the house and take some space from the basement flat to create a kitchen-diner. 'For now, though, me and James are happy to take a break,' she says. 'We're really pleased with what we've achieved, and more importantly, the house works brilliantly for us as a family.' 25

SEA CHANGE

Although used to renovating period properties, Elle and Mark Winsor Grime found this modern project to be an unexpected success

FEATURE CLAIRE FULTON-RAY
PHOTOGRAPHY TONY TIMMINGTON



FAVOURITE ROOM
*'Come rain or shine,
most of our time at
home is spent in the
garden room – we love
how the floor-to-ceiling
glass walls connect
us to the outside'*





NEW-BUILD



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Detached house – built in 1998

LOCATION Cornwall

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen/diner, cloakroom, garden room, boot room, four bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2011

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

‘We lived in Oxfordshire before moving here,’ says Elle.



Although Elle and Mark Winsor Grime were perfectly settled in their Oxfordshire home, they sensed they would eventually move further afield. And sure enough,

their love of the coast brought them to Cornwall, where they spent the next five years renovating two near-derelict cottages.

‘After that, we were keen to find a more spacious property where I could showcase items from my wedding styling company,

Inspire Hire,’ says Elle. While out walking, the pair saw a grey, detached, pebble-dashed, four-bedroom house, built 17 years ago for the manager of the local sawmills. ‘We love the romanticism of character cottages and hadn’t considered a newer house,’ says Elle. ‘It needed lots of work after flood damage but we loved the area and so we put in an offer.’

It was a close-run race – the property already had a buyer who pulled out, before it went to sealed bids – Elle and Mark managed to submit the winning bid. They moved in a

GARDEN ROOM

Mark clad the walls and built the shelves and dining table using reclaimed wood, which gives a rustic seaside feel.

Vintage Ghost chairs by Philippe Starck, £230 each, John Lewis. Walls painted in Elephant’s Breath estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

1 KITCHEN-DINER

This space is a social place to cook. Range cooker, from £3,700, Aga. Kuta kitchen cabinetry, from £6,749, Magnet

2 HALL

'The driftwood sculpture is a subtle nod to a coastal theme,' says Elle. The Driftwood Christmas tree, £25, NeverGreenTrees at Etsy is similar. Console table, £300, Acorn Antique Interiors

week before they got married in June 2012. 'We got the call to tell us our old home had sold on the morning of our wedding,' smiles Elle.

The new house had been empty for several years and everything was in need of modernisation. 'But the sublime coastal location eclipsed the property's shoddy state and so we started the renovations with optimism,' recalls Elle. But things didn't go

entirely according to plan. 'We assumed it would be easier than the period projects we were used to,' says Mark. 'So we weren't prepared for things like the new windows not fitting, resulting in us having to send them back – which was a costly lesson.'

Despite this, the process went smoothly, and the couple exchanged ideas with a local architect until they devised a final look. The



DECORATING TIP *'Carry your chosen style throughout the house to ensure continuity'*





MASTER BEDROOM
'I got this dramatic bed as a 21st-birthday present,' says Elle.
 The Reverence double bed is a similar style, £820, SPW Ironworks. Logan king-size duvet cover, £95, The White Company. Faux-fur throw, £59.99, Dunelm. Kartell Bourgie bedside lamps by Philippe Starck, £211 each, John Lewis



3



4

original dining room wall was knocked through to create a spacious kitchen, while the rest of the house was replastered, replumbed and refloored. The couple also decided to extend the living area out into the garden with decking. 'It has really made this house unique and provides an interesting dimension where I can display some of my wedding hire pieces,' says Elle. 'It's our favourite place to unwind.'

When it came to personalising the contemporary space, decor was less

easy. 'Settling on a new look that wasn't my usual cottage-style was a challenge at first,' admits Elle. 'Eventually, we decided that preloved Mid-Century pieces would work here as they create a modern but cosy feel.'

A combination of designer furniture and family heirlooms have resulted in an attractive home underpinned by a love of design. 'Everything works together, but if you look closer, there's quite a variety of styles,' says Elle. 'It's a bit of a departure for us, but we've loved trying something new.' 25

3 BATHROOM
Elle loves soaking in the vintage-style tub after a long day at work. 'The views over the fields as the sun sets are quite spectacular,' she says.
 Cambridge bath with modern resin feet, £599, Bathstore

4 GUEST BEDROOM
'Cheerful seaside' is the theme here, with sherbet stripes and nautical-themed cushions.
 Cushions, £35 each, Habitat. Sherbet-striped throw, £18.99, Trago

THE SOURCE

Erica Miller shows how you can achieve the style secrets seen in this issue's homes

DESIGN IDEAS



BUILT-IN BEDS

PAGES 37 – 42

The Franklins have made great use of the limited space in their guest bedroom with a pair of custom-made beds with generous pull-out drawers beneath. Between the beds, additional storage has been integrated to add greater functionality and enhance the space. A crisp blue-and-white colour scheme, simple furnishings, minimal clutter and large windows ensure the look is light and airy.



FUNCTIONAL FOOTSTOOL

PAGES 59 – 61

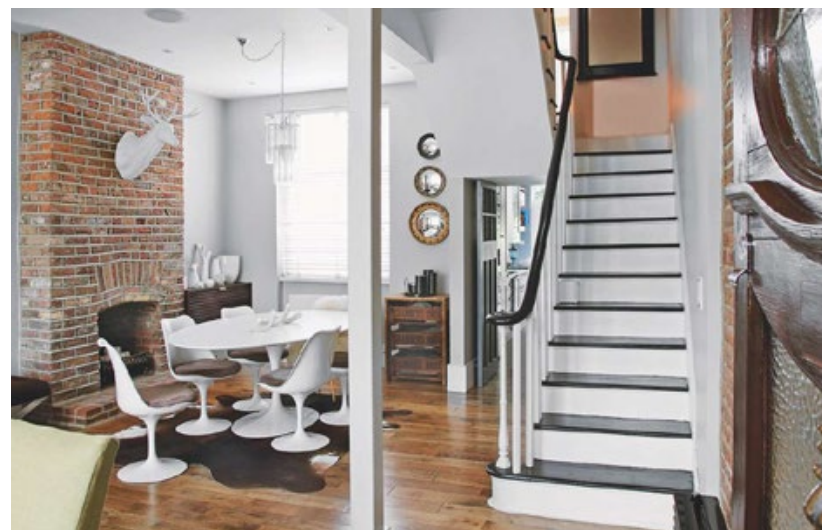
Footstools are a very practical and stylish accessory to have in your home, just as the Talbots have proved in their drawing room. As well as offering extra comfort for putting your feet up, they double up as extra seating when entertaining guests, can be used as a coffee table and some provide valuable storage space inside for anything you want to keep close at hand but out of sight.



OPEN-PLAN SPACE

PAGES 96 – 98

A modern multifunctional open-plan space for living and dining is at the heart of Gustavo Antonioni and Robert Dajksler's stylish home. The trick with open-plan living is to create distinct zones that co-exist within the same space. Another key to getting it right is to use no more than two or three colours. This helps keep the look light and open, creating an easy flow from one section to another. In the image on the right, a predominantly white scheme has been balanced with warm wood floors, and a rough exposed brick wall and chimney breast introduces essential texture into the room. When the space was opened up, a single pillar was installed to support the ceiling. Painting it white has helped it fit seamlessly into the overall area.



COASTAL LIVING

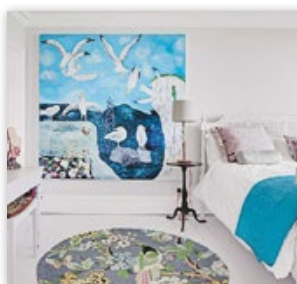
A key trend this season, the coastal look is ideal for creating a space that is airy and inviting. Add a breath of sea air into your home this summer with these imaginative design ideas.



NAUTICAL WALL ART PAGES 52 – 56

A painted fish plaque strikes just the right note on the wall of the Schultz's hall. This space has been decorated in a Hamptons style with an eclectic display of nautical-inspired furnishings. Grouping art along the lines of a similar theme is a great way

to turn your wall into a focal point, just as Dunelm has done below. To break up a white wall, a faux dado rail has been painted in navy and a red frame has been painted on the wall. Within this box, coastal signs have been hung. Seaside accessories and fabrics complete the look. Winchester table, £170; Edinburgh armchair, £200; basket, £17; jug, £14; lamp, £30; New Jersey cushion, £13; set of three canvases, £13; signs, from £2, all Dunelm.



SEASIDE MURAL PAGES 45 – 49

Imaginative and original, the Franks have introduced colour into their all white bedroom with a large piece of seaside-themed art. You too can turn your home into a coastal haven by using bold artwork. This stylish wall mural

from the Ashmolean Collection at Surface View (above) is reminiscent of the sea. Perfect for a bedroom, it features restful tones and loose brushstrokes that create a sense of calm.

Waterfall in a High Mountain bespoke wall mural, from £60sq m.



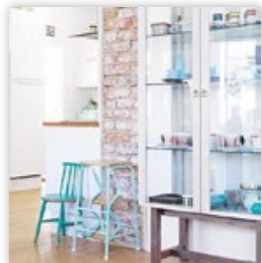
SUMMER STRIPES PAGES 138 – 140

A boldly striped headboard and cushions grace Caroline O'Connor's imposing guest bed. Thick or thin, horizontal or vertical, stripes are one of the hottest trends this season. Classic and timeless,

seafaring stripes are easy to incorporate into your existing decor and mix with other patterns, too. This bedroom (right) has been given an easy update with striped bedlinen balanced by a neutral backdrop. Tongue-and-groove clad walls have been painted white and floors have been laid with washed-wood planks. Rustic furniture in metal and wood, maritime accessories and bright pops of colour finish off the look. Cornish stripe standard pillowcase, £20; and double duvet cover, £95, both Seasalt.



INSPIRED SHOPPING



GLASS CABINET PAGES 82 – 85

A contemporary glass cabinet is the perfect place for the Ålunds to display their eye-catching and colourful collection of ceramics and crockery. For an equally stylish design, consider the Stockholm glass-door cabinet, £275, Ikea.



EXTRACTOR FAN PAGES 87 – 90

A modern black extractor fan adds a distinguished note in the Moizants' well-appointed kitchen. The KT110BLE Victoria cooker hood in black, £559, Smeg, is a smart alternative.



PATTERNED TILES PAGES 62 – 65

If you admire the Galls' bathroom, then you may like these Amore patchwork tiles, 40 x 25cm, around £33.40sq m, Renaissance collection, Craven Dunnill.



TALL TABLE LAMPS PAGES 69 – 72

A pair of statuesque table lamps create a grand impression in the Thomas' master bedroom. The Oscar table lamp in ivory white, H62cm, £455, Luku Home, is a similar design.



DARK WOOD DINING CHAIR PAGES 74 – 77

Attractive cane-back chairs set the Goodalls' dining room apart from the ordinary. To imitate this striking look try the Baroque Noir cross-back chair, £108, Sweetpea & Willow.



ROUND BATH PAGES 96 – 98

If you covet a large jacuzzi bath that's comparable to the one in Gustavo Antonioni's bathroom, take a look at the Thinn Roundell bath, £4,500, BC Designs.



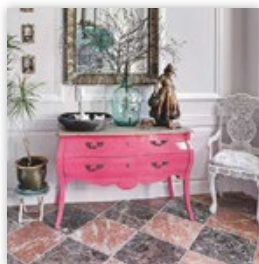
WING CHAIR PAGES 87 – 90

A classic wing armchair with a contemporary twist provides a comfortable and cosy spot for settling down with a good book in the Moizants' study. The grey wing chair, £599, Dickins & Jones at House of Fraser, emulates this look.



MODULAR SOFA PAGES 142 – 146

Offering a flexible arrangement of seating, the Gourlays have invested in a practical rattan sofa for their conservatory. Suitable for indoor and outdoor use, this modular rattan sofa set should suit your needs, £995, Wovenhill.



PINK FURNITURE PAGES 45 – 49

An elegant Louis XV-style pink chest adds a pop of colour and a touch of personality in the Franks' hall. To emulate this look try the TNE15 sideboard in cherry and lime wood, from £3,279, Grange.



5 OF THE BEST *Floral cushions*

Invite summer into your home and embrace all that blooms with our selection of this season's most prettiest botanical cushions.



Bluebellgray anemone linen cushion, £70, Occa Home



Flowers of Thorpe cushion in summer bloom, £95, Liberty of London at Amara



Chelsea cushion in coral, sand and emerald, £70, Sanderson



Blurred floral cushion, £15, Marks & Spencer



Sunflower cushion backed with Narnia Wisteria, £57, Voyage Maison

OLD MEETS NEW

Period details mixed with modern touches create the perfect blend in Simon Richards and Christopher Hallas's home

FEATURE ANASTASIA BURTON
PHOTOGRAPHY SIMON SCARBORO

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Detached house built in 1929

LOCATION Kent

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2010

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a typical terrace in east London,' says Simon.

DINING ROOM
Floral wallpaper visually leads the eye out to the conservatory and garden. Orchid wallpaper, price on application, Cole & Son. The Tuscan Hills small dining table is similar, £655, Furniture Village. Similar chairs are Terje, £11 each, Ikea

Simon Richards and Christopher Hallas were, by their own admission, very 'London-centric', having lived in the East End for many years. But Simon's job as a flower expert for Marks & Spencer meant he yearned for a bigger garden. 'We looked all around the capital but couldn't find anything suitable,' he recalls. 'We realised what we wanted just wasn't affordable in this location. Then, some friends in Folkestone suggested looking near them.'

So the couple did, and found that there were lots of lovely period houses with big gardens at affordable prices. 'We found a place we liked that needed a lot of work,' says Simon. 'On the day of the second viewing, we had some time to spare, so decided to view another property, too. We walked in, and fell in love with it.' The pair adored the period details, including original radiators and a wooden ladder to the loft.

Before they moved in, Simon and Christopher had the interior painted cream to give a blank canvas. 'All the walls were papered or patterned, so we wanted to simplify it,' explains Simon. 'The only wallpaper we kept was the one in the dining room, which we plan to replace with the same design, but in a different colour.'

They got rid of the dated kitchen units in favour of modern ones, bought a new oven and hob – keeping the Rayburn to heat the house – and took up all the carpets. 'We were hoping the flooring downstairs would be parquet, in keeping with the age of the property, but sadly not,' says Simon. 'So I searched for oak parquet flooring online and found some that had come from an Edwin Lutyens building, a



I CONSERVATORY

Painting a tired tiled floor is a quick fix, or use a large rug to cover it up.

The Alison sofa is a match, from £1,537, Camerich. Find a design like this at Crucial Trading, from £105, for a bordered sisal rug

2 & 4 SITTING ROOM

Try out existing furniture before investing in expensive new pieces.

The Bosworth sofa, from £799, and footstool, £399, both Next, would suit. The Cell extending shelving unit is a match, from £555, Heal's

3 & 5 KITCHEN

Mix old and new to create the perfect combination of convenience and tradition.

The Aldsworth studio table is comparable, £500, Garden Trading. Verona folding bar chairs in beech, £50 each, John Lewis



1



2



3



4



LESSONS LEARNT

'Live with the inherited decor for a while – we almost replaced the dining room wallpaper, which we now love'

former bank in Manchester. Luckily there was enough for the drawing room and hall.

It was a happy accident that the couple had the right style of furniture to suit the era of the property. 'Oddly enough, it fits better here than it did in London,' says Simon. 'The house has inspired us to collect more, so I'm always looking for anything that suits the period. It's become a bit of an obsession.' Other focal points include a fantastic haberdashers cabinet in the dressing room, which was bought by Simon's parents in the 1970s. 'It was in my dad's garage for years, but I always said that once I had a big enough house, I would have it,' he says.

The garden is, of course, of prime interest to Simon, who now works part time so he can fully indulge his passion. 'The outdoor space is an absolute joy,' he says. 'I have lots more plans to implement this summer.'

Simon and Christopher have been living in the house for four years now and love being there. 'We still have things we want to do to the place, but it was a really good move for us, and we've made some lovely friends here,' says Simon. 'It's an easy commute to London for our work and, all in all, we're very happy.' ☺

1 HALL

Painting stairs in two contrasting colours creates the illusion of a stair runner. Stairs painted in Mahogany and Hay floor paint, both £58 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

2 BATHROOM

Adding tongue-and-groove panelling is simple to do and can cover up uneven walls. EASlpanel, £9.29 per 915 x 516mm panel, Homebase. Bath painted in Lulworth Blue estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

3 MASTER BEDROOM

A simple wooden bed with crisp white bedlinen is a timeless look. Try the Rutland Rustic pine wooden bed frame, £249, Time4Sleep. The Denver duvet is a match, from £65 for a double, The White Company

4 MASTER EN SUITE

If space isn't an issue, double washbasins are a practical and symmetrical solution. Cuba countertop basin would work here, from £40, Victoria Plumb. Vogue Vela towel radiator is similar, from £160, Designer Radiators Direct

OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Give your garden a fresh new look and enjoy great savings on these stylish pieces

ST KITTS GARDEN LOUNGE SET

ONLY £199.99 PLUS P&P* – SAVE £300

Ideal for enjoying the long balmy days in comfort, this four-piece set will transform your garden, conservatory or terrace into a luxurious space. It includes two chairs, a two-seater sofa and a glass-topped coffee table. Each set features cushions that can be removed and hand-washed.

- Made from rattan-effect PVC, the set comes in three colourways: black or brown rattan with beige cushions, or grey rattan with black cushions
- Home assembly required
- Sheltered storage is recommended during winter and inclement weather
- Waterproof and UV-resistant cover available for £24.99
- Chair, H89 x W59 x D52cm; two-seater sofa, H89 x L102 x D52cm; table, H49 x W92 x D46cm

LUTYENS-STYLE GARDEN BENCH

ONLY £179.99 PLUS P&P* – SAVE £120

Inspired by the English architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, this iconic bench is a design classic that would grace any lawn or patio. Famous for its distinctive shape and curved, flowing lines, the Lutyens bench complements any outdoor space and provides the perfect place to relax.

- Made from Acacia hardwood, a material renowned for its durability and resilience to weathering
- Available in rustic brown, white or natural finishes
- Home assembly required
- Sheltered storage is recommended during winter and inclement weather
- Bench, H88.5 x W130 x D52cm; seat on bench, H42 x W120 x D43cm

THREE-PIECE ROSE ARMCHAIR BISTRO SET

ONLY £79.99 PLUS P&P* – SAVE £70

The classic rose Bistro table comes with two comfortable chairs and is perfect for enjoying afternoon tea or a light lunch alfresco in spring or summer. Designed to recreate a French-inspired wrought-iron look, this set is made from UV-stabilised PVC making it strong and rust proof, as well as light and easy to move around.

- Available in traditional verdigris and antique bronze finishes
- Home assembly required
- Table, H66 x Dia67cm; chair, H87 x W45 x D45cm



Garden lounge set
Sit back and unwind on this chic rattan sofa



Garden bench
The perfect place to relax after a day of gardening



Armchair bistro set
A pretty rustic table can create a charming look

TERMS AND CONDITIONS *Postage and packaging £19.99 for St Kitts garden lounge set; £9.95 for Lutyens-style garden bench; and £3.95 for three-piece Rose armchair bistro set. Due to the weight of the St Kitts garden lounge set and the Lutyens-style garden bench, delivery will take between five and seven days, and due to courier limitations, these products cannot be delivered outside mainland UK, to Scottish Highlands and Isles or BFPO addresses. 'Was' pricing refers to original selling prices offered on promoter's website cjooffers.co.uk, and in their retail store between 19 January 2015 and 19 April 2015. Offer subject to availability. Return faulty/unused goods in resealed original packaging for a refund or replacement within 14 days. Please note that postage is not refunded on unsuitable items or cancelled orders. Cards will be charged by, and your contract for supply of goods, is with BVG Airflo – a company wholly independent of Time Inc. (UK) Ltd. When you respond, Time Inc. (UK) Ltd. and other group companies may contact you with offers/services that may be of interest. Please give your mobile or email details if you wish to receive such offers by SMS or email. We will not give your details to other companies without your permission; please let us know if you are happy for us to do so.

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NEAT RETREAT

When it came to decorating their beach house on the edge of the Pacific, Lance and Stacy Humphreys used a riot of colour

FEATURE JO LEEVERS | PHOTOGRAPHY MATTHEW WILLIAMS

NEW-BUILD



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

New-build beach house

LOCATION Near Seattle

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, two games rooms, six bedrooms (five en suite), additional games room

PURCHASED 2013

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'This is our special holiday home,' says Lance.

DINING AREA

'The citrus walls were a controversial choice, but we love it,' says Lance.

Lime Zest paint mixing matt, 2.5 litres for £25, Dulux, is a good match. The extra-large Gothic pendant would work here, £2,254, Holloways of Ludlow



KITCHEN

'This is where everyone tends to gather, from the first coffee of the day right through until dinner,' says Lance.
For marble worktops, from £235sq m, see Mandarin Stone. The Beat White Fat pendant light is comparable, £285, Tom Dixon for Heal's



SNUG

Making clever use of a corner with an L-shape sofa creates a cosy nook in this open-plan space.
The Leon corner sofa, from £2,090, Sofa.com, would work here. The Bayadere multicoloured bright striped round coffee table is comparable, £270, UniqueChic Furniture

GUEST BEDROOM

This is the most secluded room, tucked away at the back corner of the house like a private retreat. The Art Stripe wool rug is a good match, £120, RugZone. The Veronica Flush Light would work in this space, £165, Bhs



MASTER BEDROOM

‘Our room has amazing ocean views,’ says Lance. ‘You can lie in bed and gaze at the ocean.’ Bergius Cobalt wallpaper, price on application, Designers Guild. The Madeline Easyfit ceiling light would suit this space, £50, BHS



Hot orange, purple and bright yellow hues adorn the surfaces of Lance and Stacy Humphreys’ beachside home sending out its message loud and clear: ‘As soon as you walk in, you know this is not a serious place – you’re here to kick back and relax,’ says Lance. But, he adds, this northwest US coastal hideaway can catch the uninitiated by surprise.

‘It’s built on a bluff overlooking the sea amid tall shore pines,’ he explains. ‘The exterior is clad in natural grey timbers and stone, so the house almost blends into the seascape.’ Inside, you might expect a classic beach-style scheme – weathered driftwood, bleached whites and seagrass mats. Instead, you’re greeted by blasts of colour and plush velvet sofas. ‘Our vintage pool table is always set up and ready for the first break,’ smiles Lance. ‘That’s when you realise this place is all about family and having fun.’

But the couple aren’t into shock tactics for the sake of it – quite the reverse. The decor reflects the ethos of the house: a place where you slip into a holiday mindset, cut loose from the everyday and see things afresh. ‘Because it’s our holiday home, we felt it should be different to everyday life,’ explains Lance. ‘It was designed with

downtime in mind, whether that means moments of peaceful contemplation or simply hanging out with friends.’

When they discovered this elevated, coastal spot, Lance and Stacy were inspired to create a house that celebrated the freedom and space of the beach below. They brought in architect Lew Oliver to map out balconied bedrooms that would maximise the views

FAVOURITE ASPECT
‘This is a relaxing place where inspiration strikes easily. Everyone gets around by bike and the pace slows right down’

and, inside, an open-flow communal hub called the Great Room, which encompasses different zones. ‘There are playful areas for groups to gather, laugh and be together,’ says Lance, ‘but you’re never more than a few steps from a quiet nook. That was a very clear intention of ours, right from the start.’

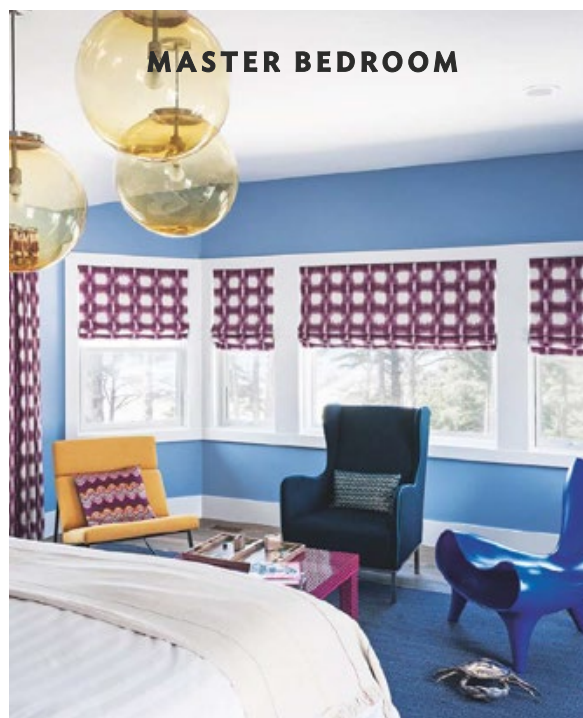
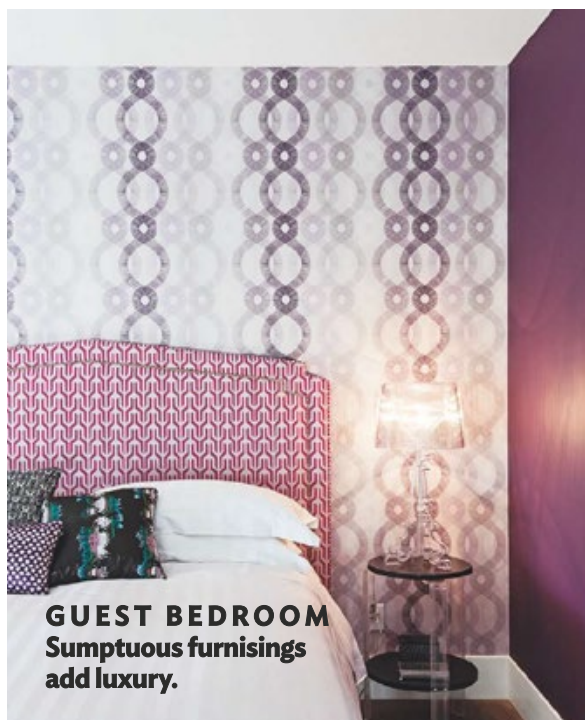
The architecture of the house pays homage to north America’s Arts and Crafts

tradition, with solid, unfussy balustrades and porticoes painted in pure white, so they shine out against the slate grey. This pared-back, simple aesthetic is echoed inside in the kitchen, with its sweep of white metro tiles and a range cooker in an earthy green. ‘We love its traditional, country feel,’ says Lance.

When it came to the interiors, Lance approached interior design couple Bob and Cortney Novogratz, whose work had just the right mix of attitude, wit and modernity. ‘Bob and Cortney’s style is contemporary but creative, with lots of great surprises,’ he says. In the Great Room, some of the Novogratz’s more unique touches include a striking orange wire sofa, a goose-feather pendant suspended over the pool table and fabric combinations that zing with energy.

For Lance, it’s these pops of colour throughout the house that unite each of the style-savvy rooms into a coherent, flowing family space, perfect for the couple’s children Jake, 19, and Emily, 17, to hang out. ‘Ultimately, this is a home for all the family and our friends – it’s a place where we’ll share great experiences,’ says Lance. ‘After all, for most of us, our best memories come from being on holiday.’ 25

SEE THE REST OF LANCE AND STACY'S HOME



FASHION SHOW

A sartorial flair inspired the look of Megan Hess and Craig Yelland's stylish apartment

FEATURE FIONA MCCARTHY | PHOTOGRAPHY ARMELLE HABIB



SITTING ROOM

An oversized image of Audrey Hepburn anchors the black-and-white palette of this scheme.

For a similar Audrey Hepburn print, from £10, try King & McGaw.
For a shaggy grey rug like this, from £30, go to Modern Rugs

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Top-floor apartment in a converted church
LOCATION Melbourne, Australia

ROOMS Sitting room/kitchen-diner, three bedrooms, studio, two bathrooms, playroom, cloakroom
PURCHASED 2008

PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'Before this, we lived in a bigger apartment,' says Megan.



STUDIO

This Tiffany-blue-painted workspace is a place to be creative. The Chesterfield Queen Anne stool is similar, £308, Winchester Leather



KITCHEN

The illustration behind the splashback was adapted from a 1600s etching of Versailles.

The Pam bar stools would work in here, £352 each, Ligne Roset at Heal's. Fridge, from £650, Fisher & Paykel



DINING AREA

Opulent accessories and modern pieces create an eclectic yet harmonious area to enjoy meals.

The Stockholm sideboard is a good match, £300, Ikea. Eames plastic dining chairs in white chrome, £226 each, Heal's. The Orissa glass candlesticks are comparable, £10 each, Nkuku



DINING AREA

One of Megan's fashion illustrations has been made into a wall canvas.

You can find similar artwork, from £15, at King & McGaw

I like my interiors the way I like my fashion,' says illustrator Megan Hess, 'dramatic, eclectic and filled with humour.' Friends visiting her Melbourne apartment joke that it is indeed like walking into one of her designs. 'My style has a heavy dose of 18th-century France meets 1970s Hollywood,' she says.

This is clearly demonstrated in the top-floor apartment in a converted church, which she shares with her architect husband Craig and children Gwyn, 9, and Will, 5. The interior features a Louis XV-style chair alongside a sheepskin rug, swathes of linen curtains and a white leather Chesterfield sofa that is perfectly at home with vintage 1960s fluted glass

pendant lights and a zebra-print throw. Along with oversized black-and-white portraits of Audrey Hepburn are Megan's own illustrations.

Yet behind the glamorous touches, the space itself is very pared-back. This is down to Craig, who persuaded Megan that the flat was meant for them when they first saw it five years ago. 'I loved the location, with views of the beach from our roof terrace,' says Megan. 'But I wasn't convinced an odd space at the top of an old church would be right for us.'

So Craig produced 3D layouts to show its potential for accommodating their needs. 'There was plenty of room, along with tall church windows, which makes the place feel extra-open,' says Megan.



GWYN'S BEDROOM
Pink walls distinguish this room from the rest of the apartment. The velvet tub chair in Dusk is similar, £445, Oliver Bonas



BATHROOM
Choosing tiles in three graduated shades adds depth to the space. The Canterbury slipper bath, £1,900, Fired Earth, would work here



MASTER BEDROOM
This space gave Megan the opportunity to experiment with a bold wallpaper. For a vintage chandelier like this, price on application, try Rainbow London. The Bergère chair was a market find, which Megan had reupholstered, try Selling Antiques for similar

Craig designed the apartment with different zones for living, working, relaxing and entertaining.

The apartment was virtually rebuilt with hardwood floors and steel windows. Craig did most of the work himself, with some help from family and friends. 'It took four months longer than the eight planned,' says Megan. Lots of storage and seven 'secret' doors (undetectable thanks to Craig's joinery) hide storage such as a medicine cabinet behind a mirror.

'I think a mix of vintage pieces against the modern shell only works because the space is uncluttered,' says Megan. 'Clever storage helps, but you need to be strict about what you can keep.' The pièce de résistance for Megan is her studio. 'Before,

I always had to set up a makeshift space in the corner of a room, often staring at a wall,' she explains. 'Painting the studio walls a different colour to the rest of the house made it feel instantly distinctive.'

Getting curtains for the four metre-high church windows posed a problem. 'The first six curtain makers who came to quote took one look at the windows and politely ran for the door,' laughs Megan. Ultimately though, the couple have created a dramatic, inspiring and very liveable space where home is everything. 'It's where I work, create, relax and spend time with my family, so it was our chance to build it around the things we love and the way we like to live,' says Megan. 'We always feel very happy to be home.' 25

ALL change

For Paula and Frederick Norris,
transforming their new
woodland home proved
a welcome challenge

FEATURE ROS CONNELLY
PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON



INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Grade II listed 17th-century house

LOCATION New Forest

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, three bedrooms (one en suite), landing/dressing room, two shower rooms

PURCHASED 1981

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before here, we lived in a 17th-century farmhouse,' says Paula.

SITTING ROOM

'The woodburning stove in this classic country-themed space was our best buy – it's a joy to use,' says Paula.

Clearview Vision log burner, £800, New Forest Woodburning Centre. Cream sofa, £1,300, Conran at Marks & Spencer. Coffee table, £475; leather sofa, £900, both Norris Gifts & Furnishings. Vintage Parker Knoll chairs covered in Cairngorms Meadow, £40m, Voyage Maison



Paula and Frederick Norris weren't planning to move house when the opportunity to buy a property in the New Forest came up but, as Paula explains, the temptation was

too strong. 'It just happened that this place, which four generations of my husband's family had lived in, came up for sale in 1981,' she says, 'and we were lucky enough to buy it.'

The sale went through smoothly and in many ways, the house felt familiar. 'It's very similar in terms of age and feel to our previous home, but the main difference is that it's in the centre of the village,' says Paula. 'Despite this, it has a surprisingly large and fairly secluded garden at the rear.'

The property has a quirky feel as a result of different constructions and additions over the years. 'It had all the original features – inglenook fireplaces, low-beamed ceilings, and stone walls,' says Paula. There was also a tree growing up through the 'cat slide' roof at the back. In addition to these unique

features, the house was also in a very poor state of repair. 'It had deathwatch beetle, woodworm, bad wiring, rotten windows, uneven oak floors and damp,' recalls Paula.

The first thing the couple did was to repair the roof, but even that wasn't straightforward. 'As the property is Grade II listed, it meant removing the clay tiles, re-felting, battening, putting back the original tiles, then replacing broken tiles with reclaimed ones,' says Paula. 'We also had to treat the infestation, while the damp was resolved by dry lining and insulating all the exterior walls.'

There were a few layout changes, too. 'We converted an outhouse into a kitchen-diner, and joined it to the main house with a glass link,' says Paula. 'Upstairs, the bathroom could only be accessed by walking through the master bedroom, so we had to create a new shower room in the front.'

When the bulk of the work and replastering was completed, Paula was able to focus on the decorative side of things. 'The

look I chose was very much dictated by the house, which is essentially a simple cottage built from whatever materials were around at the time,' she says. 'The small windows and low ceilings meant we had to keep things light and unified throughout, so I went for various shades of white, grey and green, lifted by a few touches of red in some rooms. I love decorating and am very much inspired by magazines and trade fairs, where I also source furniture and accessories for my shop. I like to track down unusual pieces for the house and had a lot of help from paint colours and styling expert Gemma from New Forest Living.'

Now that the property is finished, the couple are delighted with the results. 'We love the house and would never have believed it would scrub up so well,' says Paula. 'It has a quirky and unique atmosphere, and although our children have now all left home, they visit often with the grandchildren. We hope that same sense of family continuity is something we can pass down to future generations.' 25

DINING AREA

Antiques and junk shop finds create a warm, lived-in feel. The Montana dining table is similar, £600, Halo. The Croft Collection Cecile dining chairs are a good match, £75, John Lewis



KITCHEN

Simple Shaker-style units and a range cooker fit perfectly in this country space. Cabinetry, price on request, Kitchenmakers. Oven Range XG Fleet, £4,399, Britannia. Butlers sink, £800, Villeroy & Boch. Wall clock, £140, Norris Gifts & Furnishings.





MASTER BEDROOM
Bright red accessories enliven the neutral theme here.

Hypnos Richmond bed, £1,150; bespoke headboard, £275, both Crestwood of Lymington. Fergus Autumn cushions, £60, Voyage Maison; Chester bedside table, £475; Venetian heart mirror, £90, all Norris Gifts & Furnishings

DESIGN TIP *‘Try to incorporate a few pieces you already have or are in your family to add personal history and to avoid a bland characterless look’*



BATHROOM
Tongue-and-groove walls create a traditional look.

Hampton bath, £750; Classic sink, £400, both Burlington. Lucca bathroom spotlight, £25, John Lewis



GUEST BEDROOM
A white and grey palette is brought to life with shades of cool blue.

Myers Bed, £800, from a selection at Crestwood of Lymington. Heart throw, £40; sheep cushion, £30, both Norris Gifts & Furnishings

HARVEY JONES
KITCHENS



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#radiantheat

SITTING ROOM

Megan created a bright ambience in this space by painting a dark mahogany fire surround white. Walls painted in Cornforth White estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Ektorp sofa, £350, Ikea. Ceiling light, £200, The Mews Interior Design Company



INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Detached villa, built 1925

LOCATION Belfast

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen-diner, family room, utility room, four bedrooms, bathroom, shower room

PURCHASED 2013

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a semi-detached red-brick house in Kent before moving here,' says Megan.

Out of AFRICA

A fusion of UK and colonial style has transformed Megan and Bryan Edgar's classic home

FEATURE MANDI MILLAR | PHOTOGRAPHY ASHLEY MORRISON



DINING ROOM

'Bryan loves going to auctions and we've found some great buys, including this table – its top flips over to become a pool table,' explains Megan. Walls painted in Pavillion Grey estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Antique balloon back chairs, from £150, The Mews Interior Design Company



KITCHEN-DINER

The working areas of the house have been given a stylish sleek edge, while still being functional.

Kitchen, price on application, The Mews Interior Design Company. Walls painted in Pavillion Gray estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. For similar ceiling lights, try the Siri pendant, £135, BHS

When South African-born Bryan Edgar's temporary work secondment in Northern Ireland became permanent, he and his wife Megan were happy to adopt it as their home. 'We moved to London after university, and then to Belfast when Bryan was offered a two-year work placement,' says Megan. 'We loved it so much that when it was extended, we were happy to put down some roots with our sons, Matthew, 8, and William, 5.'

While their home in South Africa had been very different, Megan had always admired double-fronted, red brick houses. 'You can imagine my reaction when I found this place,' she says. And after renting for so long, she had a specific idea of how she wanted to style the property. 'I've always wanted to put my own stamp on a place. So when the sale finally went through, I was raring to go!'

The couple were happy to worked with the existing layout, except for in the kitchen and dining room, where they decided on an open-plan design. With the help of builder Derek Stephenson, the project ran like clockwork. 'We knocked down two dividing walls to create a spacious bright area,' says Megan. 'We also raised the ceiling and installed roof lights.' Once the work was complete, she was able to devote her attention to the interior.

Megan started by removing the dated carpets and wallpaper, but kept the stained glass in the front door and windows. 'They're among my favourite features,' she says. 'It's great the leaded lights have been incorporated into the double glazing.' She then created a scheme of warm greys with pops of colour, courtesy of South African artwork.

'It was amazing to watch it all come together. Once the walls were painted and the flooring installed, it was a total transformation,' Megan recalls. 'Even though our Belfast move wasn't planned or meant to be permanent, it's turned out to be one of the best things we've done.' 25



GUEST BEDROOM

'I made the headboard with MDF, foam and some Ian Mankin ticking stripe – a quick change of fabric is a low cost way of updating the scheme,' says Megan. Noble blackout curtains, £70, Dunelm. Ektorp Jennylund chair, £165, Ikea. Rook table lamp, £59, Marks & Spencer, is similar. Blue striped cushion, £32, Debenhams, is a match

DESIGN TIP *'If you can't find what you're looking for, have a go at making it yourself. It's often easier and cheaper than you think, plus you get a great sense of satisfaction'*



I

I BATHROOM

The walk-in shower has been fitted with a glass enclosure to maximise the feeling of space. Walls painted in Plummet estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. White star, £12, Next

2 MASTER BEDROOM

This space has been given a designer makeover with clever styling ideas. 'I painted the stripes myself,' says Megan. 'I think they make a big impact.' Dorma quilt, £99, Dunelm. Format bedside lights, £20, Ikea. The Skinny Mimi white chandelier, £195, The French Bedroom Company, would suit this scheme



2



SITTING ROOM

Bold upholstery and Caroline's colourful artwork help bring the neutral scheme to life.

St Ives striped cushions, £11 each, are similar to these ones, also try Shelly Ivory semi-plain ribbed curtains, £69, all B&Q. Stockholm floor lamp, £110, Ikea, has this look

STYLE ON A SHOESTRING

Although on a tight budget, Caroline O'Connor had the vision to remodel a dated house into a wonderful retreat

FEATURE PENNY CRAWFORD-COLLINS
PHOTOGRAPHY PHILIP LAUTERBACH



BALCONY

This space provides outdoor seating that is perfect for summer entertaining. Source similar wooden seating at Pallet Furniture, price on application. Stainless steel top-panel lantern, £15, Matalan, is a good option



REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Extended semi-detached house

LOCATION County Wexford

ROOMS Hall, sitting room/
kitchen-diner, three bedrooms
(one en suite), two bathrooms

PURCHASED 2010

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before this place, I lived nearby in an older property,' says Caroline.

DINING AREA

A mix of furniture styles has a relaxed, homely appeal.

Henley extending oval oak table, £1,395, Neptune, is comparable. Habitat Africa directors chair, £45, Homebase



Artist Caroline O'Connor knew that bringing her new home up to scratch would take a bit of work.

As well as updating and extending it, she was keen that it should be somewhere to inspire her love of painting. 'I was brought up nearby, and I've always had a soft spot for County Wexford,' she says. 'My family live here, too, so the house is in the ideal location, close to the beach and village amenities.'

Instead of opting to steam headlong into a major renovation, Caroline decided to live in the house for a short period before making any changes. 'I really wanted to see how it would work for me on a day-to-day basis, and how best to improve the existing layout,' she explains. 'My main priority was for the interior to have a good flow and to

be light and bright as well as having a lovely open, airy feel.'

To achieve this, Caroline decided to radically reconfigure the house, putting the living quarters on the upper floor and the bedrooms below. 'Originally, the property had three small bedrooms upstairs and a kitchen, sitting room and bathroom downstairs,' she says. 'I could see that if I opened up the first floor and extended the back, I would have a spacious open-plan living area.'

'I couldn't afford to do all the work at once, so I tackled everything in stages,' continues Caroline. 'My first job was to remove the walls between the bedrooms. The floorboards were in good condition and ran all the way through the first floor, so I sanded and painted them white to maximise light.'

Two years later, with encouragement from her sister Edwina, and help from her



KITCHEN

These inherited units have been painted and altered to fit the space. Cabinets painted in Crown Kitchen & Bathroom matt emulsion, £20.34 for 2.5 litres, B&Q. Hanging heart decoration, £3, Matalan. Linea oversized stripe cushion, £12.50, Tesco Direct



DESIGN TIP
‘Take your time if you’re renovating a property, and live in it for a while before you start any work. This will help you to prioritise jobs’

GUEST BEDROOM

Blue-and-white striped fabrics lend a coastal feel. Bespoke headboard by Redhaus Interiors. Norfolk stripe Parisian fabric, £12.38m, Hickeys, is similar. The Danish Style Hygge throw, £165, Notonthehighstreet.com, is a close match. Aina white curtains, £45 a pair, Ikea



BATHROOM

The existing space was simply freshened up with white paint and new tiles. Super Relief white wall tiles, 33 x 25cm, £15.88sq m, Topps Tiles. Chrome-plated round mirror, £10.99, Homebase, would suit this space

engineer brother Robert, Caroline started planning the extension. ‘Although I had the money for the building work, I couldn’t yet afford a new kitchen,’ she says. ‘Luckily, a friend, who was renovating his house, offered to give me the oak units he was replacing. So it all worked out really well in the end.’ The extension also created space for two bedrooms at the rear of the property.

Downstairs, the layout remains very much the same. ‘I kept the original bathroom and converted the existing kitchen and sitting room into a master bedroom with en suite,’ says Caroline.

When it came to furnishings and finishes, her main expense was tiling the new en suite and fitting a good-quality shower. ‘Other than that, there’s very little in the house that’s new,’ she says. ‘The two sofas were given to me by my nephew; the

floor tiles in the kitchen came from my sister; and the dining chairs are on loan from my brother. Everything else was either a Christmas or birthday present or picked up in closing-down sales or auctions. So I have a real mix of styles, but it all seems to go together well.’

White walls throughout help keep things bright and provide Caroline with the perfect blank canvas to display her artwork. ‘I have been blessed with this house and am so pleased with how it has turned out,’ she remarks.

‘The surroundings here inspire me to be creative,’ says Caroline. ‘I’ve joined a local art group in the village, and my home now has the space and light that make it ideal for painting. There’s a few things still to be done to the property but I’m not in a mad rush to finish it. It’s a work in progress, a bit like my paintings.’ 25

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A GREEN DREAM



Building an eco home for his wife Mary was a lifelong ambition for Neil Gourlay

FEATURE NICHOLA HUNTER | PHOTOGRAPHY DOUGLAS GIBB



NEW-BUILD

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Two-storey self-build house

LOCATION Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland

ROOMS Hall, sitting room/kitchen-diner, larder, snug, study, laundry room, conservatory, five bedrooms, four bathrooms

BUILT IN 2011

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We used to live in a traditional farmhouse nearby,' says Neil.

SITTING ROOM

At the press of a button, the large glass doors slide right back for an unobstructed view.

Flooring and coffee table made from oak railway sleepers, price on application, Jarabosky.

Wordsworth sofa, £1,600; footstool, £325, both HJ Cooper. Walden rug, £179, John Lewis



DINING AREA

Custom-made pieces, constructed from reclaimed materials, make for a unique setting. Table and chairs, price on application, Jarabosky. Bottle light fitting, £185, HJ Cooper. Stovemason makes Kachelöfen stoves, price on application

FAVOURITE FEATURE *'A lot of blood, sweat and tears went into creating the Kachelöfen stove, but it looks great and works brilliantly as a heat source'*



SITTING ROOM

The seat covers are hand-crafted from cowhides from the Gourlays' farm. Flooring and bench seating, made from oak railway sleepers, price on application, 3b Construction. Cushions, £6 each, Ikea



The idea for Neil Gourlay to build a home for his wife Mary's retirement

first took root in 2009. But it has taken five years to come to fruition, due to meticulous planning, conscientious sourcing of materials and the exacting build process.

'I'm a great believer in sustainability and many of the materials for the house were found on the farm,' says Neil. While this was the cheaper option, the labour required to use these items generated more expense. However, using recycled materials has created a modern and incredibly sustainable house with a traceable history.

With stunning views across the countryside, the

site of the proposed property lent itself to something rather special, and Neil set out to do it justice. He started by utilising 286 railway sleepers for the timber frames; 500 tons of stone collected from local fields to build the walls; and 2,000 fleeces from local sheep for insulation.

The oak cladding came from wind-felled trees on the surrounding land, which was cut into boards, left to dry out for two years and then cut again to the right lengths. Seating was made from hides from Neil's herd, and the turf roof is exactly the same as the grass in the surrounding fields. Add to this the more technical side of eco living and you have a house that's almost completely off the grid.

Electricity is provided by the 100kW turbine, heating



KITCHEN

This fresh scheme contains an interesting mix of old and new. Cabinetry, £8,500, Stevenson McConnell. Slate worktops, £2,500, B & M Healey. Fisher & Paykel fridge freezer, £1,489, John Lewis



CONSERVATORY

Exposed stone is a bold feature and creates a great talking point. Terracotta floor tiles, £24sq m, Solway Tile & DIY Centre. The Maze London rattan corner garden sofa set, £1,279, Furniture Alfresco, would work





HALL
The one-way mirror at the end allows some daylight into the shower room behind it. Marimekko Itavilli wallpaper, £72.95 per roll, John Lewis. City Cows is a good place to source cow hide rugs, from £200



BATHROOM
Golden salvaged taps add shimmer and glamour. Black ceramic wall tiles, £22sq m; mosaic border, £2.98 per tile, all Solway Tile & DIY Centre

LESSON LEARNT *'Make sure the architect doesn't go overboard with the design, which can cause you problems with the build costs'*



MASTER BEDROOM
Toile fabric creates a calm and relaxing ambience. Walls painted in Green Blue estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. The Mallani cabinet, £219, Myakka, is similar to this one

is courtesy of a ground-source heat pump, a heat-recovery system and the wood-fuelled biomass stove – an Austrian Kachelöfen. 'It took a while to install – a master Kachelöfen builder came over for a week – but it only takes four or five logs a day and is the main feature of the house,' says Neil. 'The only complaint is that sometimes it can be too hot!'

Eye-catching features are something that this property has in abundance both inside and out, and Neil seems to have had as much fun creating the finishing touches as he had managing the build. 'The house took 18 months to complete but I didn't lose interest because the whole time, we were finding extra things – such as my father-in-law's old mill wheel, which I've

made into a clock,' says Neil. 'We even used the reel from the wind turbine cable to make a patio table.'

When it came to kitting out the bathrooms, Neil was as industrious as ever. 'I went to an architectural salvage and bought all the baths, toilets, sinks and taps there,' he reveals. 'And my shepherd made me wooden handles for the toilet flushes, plus plaques for the decorative stags' heads.'

Today, with the house all complete, Neil feels that he's achieved his ambition. Three Glens (named after its vantage point) is super stylish as well as sustainable. 'I've built a nice warm house for our retirement,' he says. 'Mary and I are more than happy to see out our days with that incredible view.' 25

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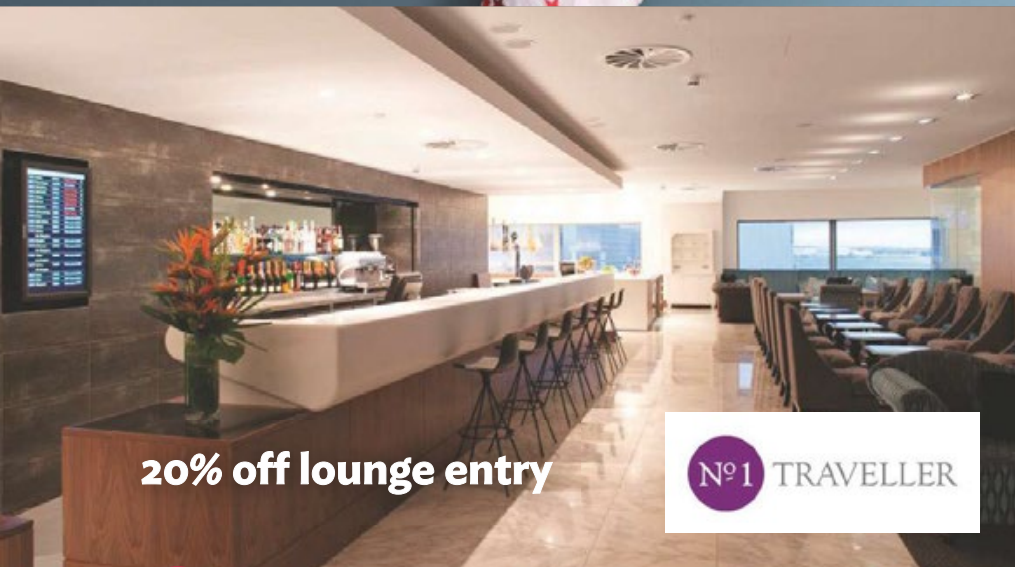
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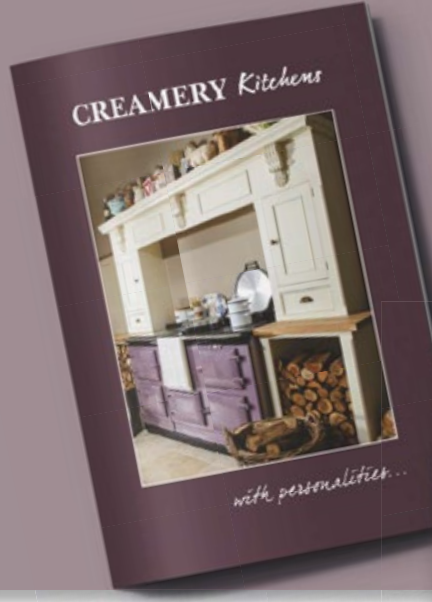
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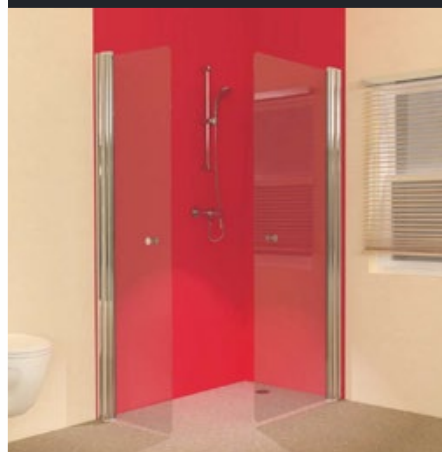
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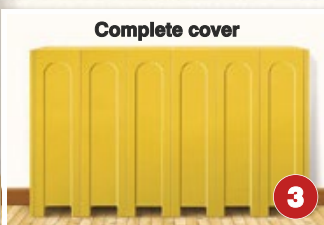
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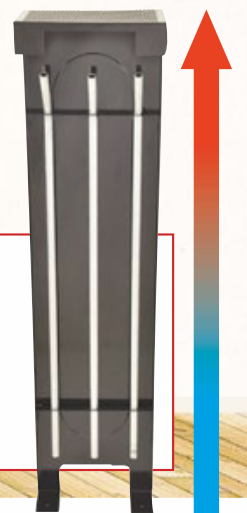
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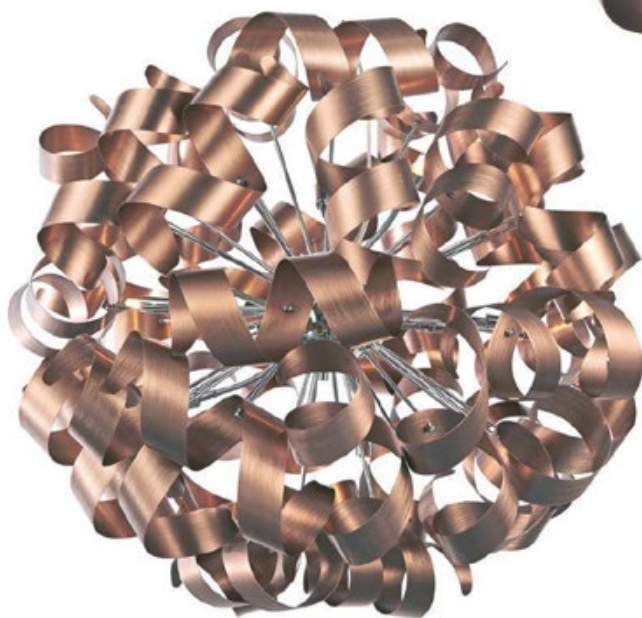
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