

inspirations

for your home

FULL OF
DECORATING
IDEAS

EASY PAINT EFFECTS

10 projects for your garden
5 projects for your home

MODERN OR TRADITIONAL
Create the living room
of your dreams

stunning makeovers

Country-style kitchen • Colourful kid's bedroom

NEW LOOK DECORATING
Mix silver and mauve this summer

PLUS pages of inspiring ideas, makes and designer style





ABOVE Originally a stable, the kitchen is a light-filled room. Simple blinds tone with the Aga. The large table is perfect for big gatherings. White walls, pale blue-green cupboards and junk-shop chairs with cushions add to the low-key look.

RIGHT The front door of the 17th-century house opens directly on to a narrow street.

FAR RIGHT Inside the house, the front door opens straight into the spacious living room.



TOP RIGHT The living room has a laidback feel typical of a holiday home, including comfortable chairs and cushions in jolly colours. Many of the paintings are by friends.

ABOVE RIGHT Judith and Richard loved the house as soon as they saw it and wanted it for their family.

RIGHT To lighten the shady living room, Judith painted the rough plaster walls in a ready-mixed pale orange colourwash.



Cornish dream

A seaside setting provides the perfect backdrop for a relaxed family home



When Judith and Richard Bond first visited Fowey in Cornwall 11 years ago, they arrived by boat along the estuary from Golant where they were staying with friends. 'We couldn't believe that places like this still existed,' remembers Judith. 'There was all you needed: a baker, a butcher, the fishmonger, a dairy, the old post office and a fudge shop.' Fate led them to a 17th-century property that was for sale. It had originally been two cottages and a stable and was later converted to one spacious house. The Bonds, keen sailors, wanted a place near the sea as a summer home and for holidays and they moved in straight away with their young daughters Lucinda and Emily and baby son Charlie.

'We love sailing,' says Richard, 'and we have our racing yacht moored here now. We've got a little rubber duck dinghy that we take the children around the coves in and they go water-skiing.'

Constructed from Cornish stone with a slate roof, the house had four bedrooms – this meant that a lot of the family's friends could come and stay, which ►

RIGHT A local artist painted a *trompe l'oeil* of an open window with a view of a yacht.

FAR RIGHT Charlie's bedroom is papered in Laura Ashley Shell wallpaper. Models and paintings of boats add a nautical touch.



The Bonds, both keen sailors, wanted a house near the sea as a summer home



ABOVE The second-hand bathroom curtains were a real find – they're patterned with yachts and Judith had them cut to fit. Two sinks save a lot of time – especially when the house is full of guests.

LEFT The light creamy yellow walls in the bedroom add an airy, spacious feel to a low-ceilinged area. A naval cushion on the bed in navy blue wool continues the sailing theme found throughout the house – it came from a shop in Fowey.



TOP The Bonds had wooden steps built leading up the cliff to a deck, which has a view towards neighbouring Bodinnick and the busy estuary. In the other direction is the house where novelist Daphne du Maurier worked.

ABOVE Judith and Richard have spent many happy hours eating outdoors with family and friends in the courtyard garden. The walls are whitewashed and the plants growing there give a soothing feel. The large-scale handmade tin lighthouse adds drama to the living room.

BELOW A handy sign that the family hangs on to the door latch to let each other or friends know where they are.



was the main purpose of buying somewhere near the sea. Put-you-up beds made it easy to accommodate extra children. There was a bright red Aga already in the kitchen, which had originally been the stable, and a playroom for little Charlie leading on to a courtyard garden, often used for outdoor eating.

As the house had been well cared for there was not much to do except decorate. 'We did buy some new cheap kitchen units to make a bit more room and painted them in sea jade blue. We bought the elm kitchen table from an undertaker who made it from coffin planks. The kitchen chairs are all from junk shops,' says Judith. 'It's an easy house to live in, which is what we wanted.'

Judith painted the plaster walls in the living room while Richard was dozing on the sofa after lunch one day. 'He woke up and half the room was pale orange. I bought a ready-mixed colourwash and just slopped it on to the walls with a cloth. It's a dark room because the windows are small and the paint's really lightened things up.'

Five years after they bought the house Richard and Judith decided to add a bathroom over the kitchen, which would lead from their bedroom. They used local

Cornish stone and slate and painted the stone white to match the rest of the house. From the outside, it is impossible to tell where the new building starts. They put in two hand-basins and a shower and commissioned a local artist to paint a *trompe l'oeil* window with a yacht on the water, which adds a sense of fun and light to the side of the room where they would have liked a window.

Judith enjoys picking up old sea paintings and adding to her collection, which is displayed all around the house. Friends who stay often leave a painting behind as a thank-you gift. There are lighthouses, lobster pot floats, binoculars and ship's lamps and books on local walks. Even the aqua blue kitchen china picks up the theme, although there are lemons on it, and there are needlepoint cushions of lighthouses from Nantucket in America.

'We love it here – every time I walk in I feel happy,' smiles Judith. 'Now that Lucinda is at college, she brings friends down with her from London. It's lovely to think that the children want to come and share it with their friends and it will go on being a family home from home.'

By Olivia Temple Photographs Mark Bolton