

# 25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

## CONFIDENT STYLE

*Discover houses brimming with personality*

### FUNCTION & FORM

Restorations, renovations & new-builds to inspire  
Beautiful ideas for kitchens & bathrooms

An idyllic coastal retreat in Camber Sands



RECALL 04/09/19



# RURAL restoration

After a decade-long property search, Jo and Chris Ogden took on the renovation of a neglected 17th-century farmhouse

FEATURE SHARON SMITH | PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE

## HALLWAY

The granite-paved passage that runs all the way from the front to the back of the house is Jo's favourite feature. Walls painted in Clay Pale intelligent matt, £50 for 2.5L, Little Greene



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Detached farmhouse built in 1610

**LOCATION** East Cornwall

**ROOMS** Hallway, sitting/dining room, kitchen, TV room, utility room, five bedrooms

(two en suite), two bathrooms

**PURCHASED** 2008

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We also have a Georgian townhouse in London,' says Jo.



DINING AREA

**Modern lighting is a counterpoint to the antique furniture here.**  
Pendant ceiling lights, £200 each, Twentytwentyone. The Rajasthan mirror, £180, John Lewis & Partners, is a modern version of this vintage sunburst mirror









**F**inding their dream retirement home took Jo and Chris Ogden 10 years. 'Chris had been looking for a property that would be our holiday home and where we'd eventually retire to,' says Jo. 'He looked all over the country and was keen to find something with character, and which we could renovate ourselves.'

The couple were twice gazumped on properties before Chris found a farmhouse in Cornwall in 2008 sitting in 50 acres on the River Tamar and enjoying stunning views. It sounded wonderful, and when Chris took Jo and their children, Isabel, now 27, and Otis, now 20, to view the property, Jo loved its idyllic location, but she didn't feel quite the same about the house. 'It was very rundown and dark inside because the owners had planted a lot of fir trees all around it as a windbreak,' she says. 'My first impression was to wonder if we could turn it into the beautiful house we wanted and whether it would be worth our while.'

#### INITIAL CHALLENGES

It did not help that part of the house was inaccessible. 'Half of the sitting room floor had been flooded in the past and the floorboards had disintegrated,' says Jo. 'And Chris wouldn't even let me see the master bedroom. To this day, I still don't know why!' But Chris's enthusiasm won the day, aided by the breathtaking setting and by Jo knowing that purchasing the house would bring to an end their 10-year search. Once they'd secured the property, the couple invested in an American Airstream-style caravan so that they could travel down from their London home as often as possible to oversee the renovation work.

The plan was to return the Grade II-listed house to its former glory by removing all the inappropriate additions that had been added over time and restoring the period features wherever possible. To kick off the process, Jo and Chris found a local landscaper, who in turn recommended an architect who specialised in the style of property found in this part of Cornwall. While waiting for planning permission, the couple tackled the garden. 'We uprooted firs, eucalyptus and kiwi trees and replaced them with orchards of apples, pears, quince, plums and mulberries.'



**1 SITTING AREA**  
The damaged floorboards were replaced with granite flagstones to match the original floor in the dining area, with mid-century furniture adding a contemporary touch.

Try Twentieth Century Antiques for a Robin Day sofa, around £2,000. For Sixties ex-airport armchairs, from around £500 each, try Danish Design Classics. For a Jacobsen coffee table, around £500, and Danish leather recliner chair, around £1,200, try Vinterior

**2 & 3 KITCHEN**  
Jo chose a good-quality handcrafted design with a pared-back look for her country kitchen.

Painted oak kitchen, price on application, Plain English. The Sleek Flat pendant, from £89, Industville, is a match

**4 GUEST BEDROOM**

The unusual chest of drawers is a vintage piece.

Chinese bedside cabinet in blue and black decorated with gold butterflies, £285, Vinterior, would work





1 2

3



4

**INSPIRATION** *'The house itself – we removed the unnecessary additions and restored the features that had been covered up, moved or removed'*

says Jo. Next, they put the renovation project out to tender and chose Heritage Cornwall, a local firm recommended by their architect. Planning permission came through and in early 2009 work began on the house. 'It was a case of restoring it back to its 17th-century roots, but with some concessions to modern living,' says Jo. Tasks included unblocking fireplaces, repairing a chimney in the kitchen and moving another fireplace back to its original location. They also replaced the Seventies windows with more suitable alternatives, and used lath and plaster on the ceilings and lime plaster for the walls.

**SYMPATHETIC RESTORATION**

Where the original features were too damaged to save, Jo and Chris replaced them with materials in keeping with the style and era of their home. In the half of the sitting room that had been damaged by flooding, they laid granite flags to complement the existing floor. Upstairs, they stripped and painted the floorboards. As well as rewiring and plumbing throughout, they installed a new kitchen and four bathrooms, extending the master en suite to return it to its original layout. As the rooms in the house are small, Jo and Chris chose white walls throughout and added antique furniture to match the age of the house mixed with the mid-century pieces they both like.

The two-year project ran smoothly – after Jo and Chris had accepted that Cornish time differs to that of a city. 'We weren't used to the slower pace of life here and at first we found it strange,' confesses Jo. 'But we hadn't set a deadline so all that mattered was the end product.' She admits the final result has taken her by surprise. 'When it was finished I felt relieved and also delighted that it has exceeded my expectations. Of course, Chris never had any doubts that it would all turn out well.' 25

**1 OTIS' EN SUITE**

Screened from the rest of the bedroom by a half-wall behind the bed, the space contains the tiniest bath Jo could find.

For a similar wooden towel ladder, try Nomad, £325, Skandium

**2 LANDING**

The steps that lead up to Otis' bedroom are topped with granite.

**3 MASTER EN SUITE**

Jo and Chris installed the granite-framed window to make the most of the views.

Bocci pendant light, £450, Twentytwentyone. Try Swale bath, £2,875, Drummonds

**4 MASTER BEDROOM**

A neutral scheme allows the beautiful bed cover to take centre stage.

For a similar handmade bedspread, £400, try Etsy

**FOR STOCKISTS GO TO WHERE TO BUY**



OTIS' BEDROOM

The bedspread is a handmade Amish piece and was a gift from Chris' grandmother.

Sheepskin rug, £80, Loaf. For a similar floor lamp, try a vintage theatre light, from £420, Any Old Lights. Oil painting by Barry Kamen. The house is available for holiday lets via Unique Home Stays

