

SITTING ROOM
Sarah chose a neutral palette and casual linens for a relaxed, chic look. Blanket box, from a selection, Louisa Grace Interiors. Garden Trading sells a large log basket, £120



INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Former dairy, built in the 17th century
LOCATION Cornwall
ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, cloakroom, conservatory, two bedrooms, dressing room, bathroom
PURCHASED 2014
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'Before moving here, we lived in a farmhouse, also in Cornwall,' says Sarah.

FESTIVE FAIRYTALE

Sarah Stanley and Andy Davey have given their storybook thatched Cornish cottage a farmhouse look with a Scandi feel that is particularly bewitching in the winter

FEATURE VIVIENNE AYERS | PHOTOGRAPHY POLLY ELTES



EXTERIOR
The gorgeous rustic porch with its painted door creates a magical welcome for Sarah, her daughter Morgan and their dog, Precious. Front door painted in Light Peachblossom Tom's oil eggshell, £67 for 2.5L, Little Greene. The wreath came from The White Company; its ivy and pussy willow wreath, £40, is similar



SITTING ROOM
A cool palette, reindeer-skin rug and soft sheepskin throws add a nordic-style twist to this cosy scheme. The Northern Sweden reindeer hide rug, £169.99, The Organic Sheep at Trouva is comparable. Sheepskins, from £53 each, Barnscroft of Devon. Vintage wooden stool, from a selection, Louisa Grace Interiors

Absolutely magical,' says Sarah Stanley of the first time she saw her cottage with its thatched roof, near the north Cornish coast. Sarah and her husband, Andy, had been looking for a home in Cornwall when Sarah's niece spotted this place online. 'It was so pretty that I fell in love with it there and then.'

Sarah was equally enchanted when she explored the interior. 'It had a charming farmhouse feel, with a large kitchen that was part of the original dairy,' she says. 'The cottage is set over four levels, so it felt spacious and it had a warmth that we loved. We knew it was the ideal retreat for us, and our children, Bryce, now 23, Josh, 22, and Morgan, 21.'

Although the house was in a good state structurally, it was dated. 'It had purple carpets on the stairs and a light pink one in the sitting room,' says Sarah. 'The decor just didn't suit the property. But I knew we could turn it into something special.'

Sarah wanted to create a warm, rustic, farmhouse look where the kitchen was the heart of the home, with a range cooker and chunky table. She was also keen to give the interior a Scandi feel while remaining sympathetic to the house's agricultural roots. 'I wanted as many pieces as possible to be recycled and hand-built,' she says. 'We took out the standard radiators and replaced them with reclamation ones and, with a light sanding, they look amazing.'

Further salvaged pieces, including a beautiful freestanding roll-top bath, have found a new life in the bathroom. 'The



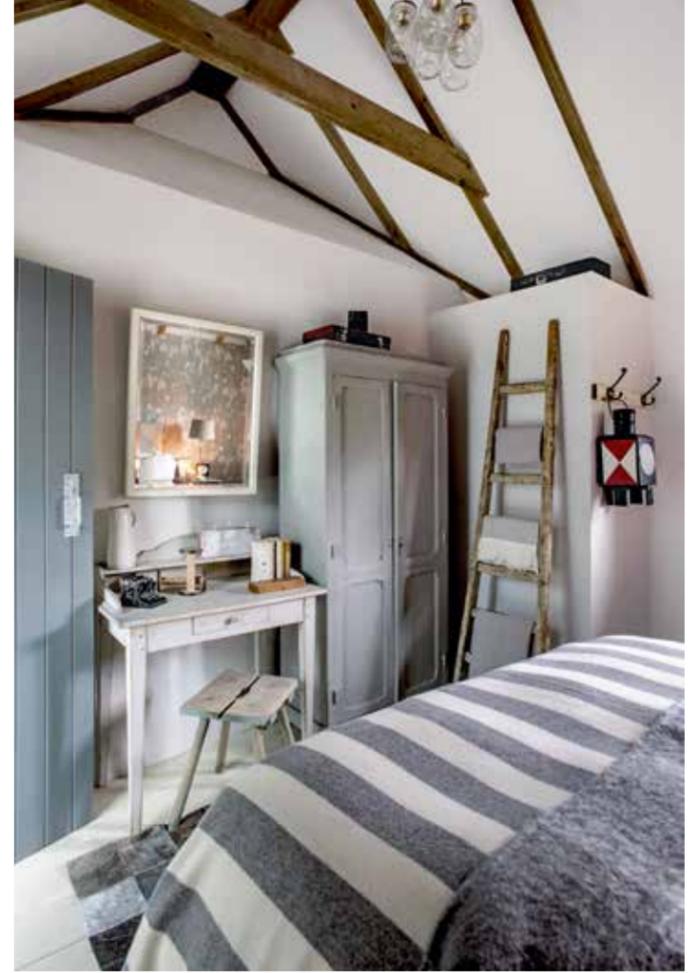
FAVOURITE ROOM 'The light-filled kitchen with its traditional range cooker reminds me of days spent baking as a child, helping my mother in our old farmhouse'



DINING AREA
This low-ceilinged space was originally the dairy and Sarah has painted the walls, ceiling and floorboards white to keep the scheme as light and bright as possible. To make the most of the space, extra seating has been built into the windowsill. Vintage Eastern European school chairs, price on request, Peppermill

Antiques. Shimla pendants in Distressed White, from £99.50 each, Nkuku. Floorboards painted in Slaked Lime Deep floor paint, £67 for 2.5L, Little Greene

DRESSER
An assortment of antique buys creates an interesting vignette. Vintage blue dresser, from a selection, Louisa Grace Interiors



GUEST BEDROOM
 Taupe fabrics and wallpaper make a statement beneath the beamed vaulted ceiling. Crackle Charcoal wallpaper, £78 a roll, Andrew Martin. Broadstripe blanket in grey, £259, Melin Tregwynt. Key West mahogany and Kubu rattan headboard, from £286.50, Maisons du Monde, has this look. Hambleton towel ladder, £110, Garden Trading, would work here

MAIN BEDROOM
 The focal point of the under-eaves space is a beautiful Gustavian-style bed. The Verona double bed, from £945, Feather & Black, has the same look. Try the Classic Cotton quilted bedspread, £65, Soak & Sleep. Old Factory pendants in pewter, £59 each, Industville. The Fable is available to rent through Unique Homestays, 01637 881183, uniquehomestays.com

CONSERVATORY
 Sarah's vintage furniture enhances this light-filled space. Deconstructed grey linen armchairs, £495 each, Graham and Green. Shop counter, £690, The Hoarde, is a similar cabinet. Oriental Weavers checked flatweave anti-slip rug in grey, from £24, Dove Mill

corner is an ideal display space for a carefully gathered collection. White Amish tin star, £29, Lime Lace at Notonthehighstreet.com. would suit this scheme

BATHROOM
 To add character, almost everything in this elegant space is reclaimed. The Spey cast-iron bath with ball-and-claw feet is similar, from £3,570, Drummonds

STUDY AREA
 A distressed table in a quiet



original scheme was only two years old, but it ended up being a blessing in disguise that we decided to remove it, as there was a serious water leak that wasn't visible,' says Sarah.

It took around three months to complete the restoration, with the couple's building team taking time to get every detail in the cottage just right. The exterior rubble and cob walls were painted a soft marshmallow pink, and the dusky pink windows and door finish off the look beautifully.

Keen to give the cottage a distinctly individual look, Sarah enlisted the help of interior designer Paul Hervey. They put together a mood board of the look Sarah wanted to achieve and sought out original pieces on eBay and in reclamation yards. 'I didn't want anything reproduction,' says Sarah. The cabinet doors in the kitchen were replaced and the worktops were sanded back to give the room a rustic modern farmhouse look. 'We upcycled an old wooden table that used to belong to my grandmother and put a zinc top on it.' Throughout the property, the neutral palette of grey and white creates a calm, stylish feel and keeps the look light.

'I love the tranquillity of this setting,' says Sarah. 'It really feels like you are so far removed from the everyday. In the winter, we enjoy heading off for windswept walks and then coming back to the cottage to hunker down by the fire.'

At this time of year, the cottage is particularly captivating. Garlands of greenery, and a Christmas tree are adorned with decorations taken from nature; frosted pine cones, fragrant dried apple and orange slices and swathes of silvery eucalyptus. 'This is such a cosy home,' says Sarah. 'There couldn't be a more welcoming place to spend the festive season.' 25

