

A HOME by the sea

With its refined spaces, Rachel Nogueira's Cornish holiday home is the perfect retreat

DINING AREA

Rachel used a painting by her son William to inspire the kitchen-diner's colour scheme, with slate floor, pink and grey wallpaper, and turquoise light. Ceiling light, £730, tamdesignshop.com. Feature wall covered in Skymning mural, £184, wallpaperdirect.com



KITCHEN-DINER

Rachel painted the kitchen units and island in seashell shades. Units, island and worktops, £20,000, plainenglishdesign.co.uk. Park Up extendable oak table, £1,195; similar Gramps armchair, £995, both loaf.com

Rachel Nogueira has had a long love affair with Cornwall. 'I used to camp on the beach here as a student, and I'd gaze longingly at the beautiful houses and say to myself, one day...', she reminisces. So when Rachel, husband Manuel and their two sons, William and Victor, set their sights on a holiday home, Cornwall was top of the list. Initially, the local properties seemed beyond their budget, but Rachel kept an eye on the market and soon a house came up at a price they could afford.

The idyllic setting immediately won the couple over. 'When we arrived, we could see there were sand dunes about 100 metres from the house. We walked over the top of them and there was the sea. At that moment it would not

have mattered what the house was like, we were going to buy it.'

The Grade II-listed cottage was traditional in style, with small rooms and cosy corners. The couple, both architects by profession, could see the potential of the not so hidden gem. 'It was a classic English cottage, 400 years old, with an inglenook fireplace and wood burner. It needed a bit of TLC but we both loved it. Although as Manuel is 6ft tall, he would have preferred higher ceilings,' Rachel recalls with a smile.

After buying in April 2007, the couple had to save up before they could afford to make major changes. Rachel and Manuel relied on a few touch-ups to tide them over until renovations could begin. 'We painted the walls and furnished it, then used it as it was for several years,' says Rachel. >>



EXTERIOR

The traditional thatched cottage was given a modern makeover with a blue painted front door and window frames. A wooden bench in the front of the house has cushions and a fabric throw



FAMILY ROOM

Pink hues lighten this room and a paneled ceiling adds character. Walls, ceiling and joinery in green smoke, £52 for 2.5ltr, farrow-ball.com. Try Enzo cage coffee table, £136.99, therange.co.uk. Frame armchairs in pink, £675 each, made.com. Flagon table lamp base, £125, loaf.com



In 2012, renovations began to turn the property into a family-friendly home. The couple looked for Cornwall-based contractors and, after gaining planning permission, engaged local builder Leigh Hammond to begin the work.

The galley kitchen was converted into a kitchen-diner by adding a 4m x 6m side extension, and the adjoining family snug took the place of the former dining room. 'Apart from finding a galley kitchen too cramped for family life, another reason I wanted a kitchen-diner that opened out onto the garden was to be able to keep an eye on the boys when they were small.'

SITTING ROOM

Above right: A jewel-toned sofa works perfectly with the slate floor and wood burner. Isla chaise sofa in deep turquoise, £3,090, sofa.com. Try the Anyday jute rug, from £112, johnlewis.com

BEDROOM

Right: The light colour scheme featuring painted furniture and natural fibres creates a relaxed feel. White French linen duvet cover and bed linen, from £33 for a pillowcase, soakandsleep.com. Try velvet cushions, from £15 each, marksandspencer.com. Similar throw, £46, thebritishblanketcompany.com



Rachel had a clear vision for the downstairs areas, but a challenge presented itself in the bedrooms, nestled upstairs beneath the eaves. 'Ben Ure, a local carpenter who was recommended to us, got round that with his clever joinery,' says Rachel. 'You need to find a good carpenter to maximise small spaces.' In one of the single bedrooms, the bed has been built into the eaves, while in the guest bedroom, a headboard and bedside tables have been designed to fit a narrow alcove. Keen to stay true

to the age of the cottage, careful renovations were made to the property's unique features. 'We love our porthole windows so Ben made wooden shutters for them and all the bedroom windows,' says Rachel. 'It's so peaceful here that we didn't want to be woken up by the morning sun.' Rachel's style is simple but comfortably stylish. 'We have made it bombproof, so we needn't worry about kids breaking things. This is our holiday home and the boys love surfing with >>>





BEDROOM
Soft, washed linens and distressed paintwork give the room a relaxed look. Bespoke shutters by Banjo Carpentry. White linen duvet cover, from £85, soakandsleep.com

their local friends, so it needs to withstand lots of sand and sea water.'

Using natural materials like wood and stone has grounded the colour schemes throughout the cottage. While the bones of the rooms are rustic and neutral, Rachel has given each one a contemporary and luxurious twist with the finishing touches. 'We chose a dark green for the family snug because we wanted a cosy and cocooning feel, adding soft pink accessories for a lift.' Upstairs, the scheme is casual and coastal, with only the subtlest additions of colour to an otherwise muted palette to encourage slumber and serenity.

Thanks to a sharp eye for design and local expert tradesmen, this cottage

now brims with seaside charm, and Rachel has made the decision to let the property from time to time – it is available through Unique Home Stays uniquehomestays.com. 'We didn't want it to stand empty – the money helps towards its upkeep and it brings business to the village,' she says.

BATHROOM

Above: A walk-in shower with frameless panels looks barely there in the small bathroom. A mix of raw materials – Carrara marble, slate and brass – is naturally beautiful. Freestanding bath, from £3,500, westonebathrooms.com. Carrara marble, from £91.73sq m, mandarinstone.com



FEATURE: SARAH SMITH; HOMEWALKER; AND INTERIOR: PHOTOS: COLIN BOYDIE

Handloom throw in Pink, £29, lamfy.co

Linear jug, £30, Linear tumblers in Pink Gin, £18 for set of two, all gardentrading.co.uk

Round mirror, £39.99, hm.com

Sweet Treat occasional chair in Mint Choc Chip Clever Softie, £1165, loaf.com

Glass jars, £13 for set of two, habitat.co.uk

Kingsbury oak table lamp in thisie green, £90, gardentrading.co.uk

Velvet cushion, £7, primark.com

Chevron baskets in teal, £125 for set of two, coxandcox.co.uk

Double cotton duvet set in Light Turquoise, £399, hm.com

Side table, £195, oliverbonas.com

HOW TO GET THE LOOK

- ✦ Pair pale greens and blues with dusky pinks for a soft summer palette.
- ✦ Lighting is key in cottages with small windows and low ceilings where there's no room to hang pendant styles. Opt for floor and table lamps to add warmth and create a cosy atmosphere.
- ✦ Velvet fabrics and metallic touches, like brass and nickel, elevate an otherwise casual look.
- ✦ Bring in natural elements, with pale oak furniture and woven jute rugs, to stop pastel schemes looking saccharine.

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