

# A festive *Fairytale*

Sarah Stanley has given an idyllic thatched cottage a gorgeous Scandi interior that's perfect for celebrating...

From the  
COUNTRY HOMES  
& INTERIORS  
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#### HOUSE

The pretty painted rubble and cob cottage with its wheat reed thatched roof was a dairy at one time. Front door and windows, painted in Light Peachblossom by Little Green.







WHAT MAKES THIS HOUSE A HOME?

“The light-filled country kitchen with its range cooker – it reminds me of baking days as a child helping Mum in our old farmhouse”



**CONSERVATORY**  
Vintage pieces add a reassuringly time-worn feel



**KITCHEN** Sarah kept the low ceilinged room light and bright. Range cooker: Rangemaster. Radiator: Timber Track



**DINING AREA** Sarah's grandmother's farmhouse table was upcycled. Pendant lights: Nkuku. Clock: Homesense



**LIVING ROOM**  
(Also above left). The inglenook fireplace is the perfect spot for a woodburner and Sarah has chosen a palette of neutrals and casual linens for a chic look. Sofas: All Sofas. Blanket box: Louisa Grace Interiors



**LIVING ROOM** A grey and white palette, reindeer skins and sheepskin throws ensure the scheme is the height of cosy Nordic style. Armchairs: All Sofas. Sheepskins: Barnscroft of Devon. Reindeer hide: Toast. Wooden stool: Louisa Grace Interiors



**I** thought it was magical,' says Sarah Stanley of the first time she saw the fairytale painted rubble and cob cottage with its wheat reed thatched roof near the north Cornish coast. 'It was such a pretty cottage and I fell in love with it there and then.'

Sarah and her husband Andy had been looking for a holiday home in Cornwall when Sarah's niece spotted the property online and alerted her. 'Inside it had a lovely farmhouse feel with its large kitchen, which was part of the original dairy. The cottage felt surprisingly spacious and it had a warmth that we loved.'

Although the house was in a good state structurally, it was rather dated. 'It had a deep purple carpet going up the stairs and a light pink one in the living room,' says Sarah. 'But although the decor wasn't right, I knew we could transform it into something special.'

Sarah was keen to create a warm, rustic look where the kitchen was the heart of the home, with a range cooker and farmhouse table taking pride of place. She also wanted the interior to have a fresh Scandi feel, while still being sympathetic to its agricultural Cornish roots. 'I wanted as much as possible to be recycled and hand-built, even down to the loos. The cloakroom reclamation loo has a wooden frame and seat and reverse water outlet that works surprisingly well! We also took out all the standard radiators and replaced them with reclamation ones and, after a light sanding, they look absolutely amazing.'

Restoring the cottage took around three months with the builders taking time to get every detail exactly right. The exterior walls were painted a pretty marshmallow pink and the dusky pink windows and door complete the look beautifully. The newer end of the cottage was completely re-plastered to blend more seamlessly into the adjoining older part.

In order to create the look she wanted inside, Sarah enlisted the help of interior designer Paul Hervey and put together a moodboard of the style she hoped to achieve. The grey and neutral palette creates a calm and stylish feel and keeps the look light. 'The kitchen was given a modern country look by replacing the cabinet doors and sanding back the worktops. I especially love the range cooker, and we upcycled a farmhouse table that was originally my grandmother's and put a zinc top on it.'

The garden has also had a makeover. 'It was very overgrown,' says Sarah. 'I have a passion for gardening inherited from my mother and with her help I filled the garden with some of the most beautiful roses from The Cornish Rose Company.'

'With the combination of the original cottage and the newer extension, we've got the perfect mix. The old part has a cosy and traditional low-ceiling, beamed charm, while the lighter and brighter addition has a permanent summer-room feel, whatever the weather. It's a really wonderful place to spend Christmas, and that's one of my favourite times to be in Cornwall.'



#### AT HOME WITH...

**OWNERS** Sarah Stanley, who owns holiday property company Unique Home Stays, and her husband, Andy, who is a builder. Sarah has three grown-up children, Bryce, 22, Josh, 21, and Morgan, 19. Plus there's Precious the Chug (a Chihuahua/Pug cross).

**HOUSE** Built in the late 17th century, the thatched cottage has two bedrooms with later additions. Sarah and Andy bought the house two years ago and restored it.







**GUEST BEDROOM**  
An eye-catching wallpaper makes a statement beneath the vaulted ceiling. Wallpaper: Andrew Martin. Bedlinens: Seas & Sleep



**BATHROOM** This room has been renovated using reclaimed items. Bath: similar from Drummonds.



Sarah and daughter Morgan gather foliage for the house with precious

**WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING HERE**

“Everything from the cosy living room to the large kitchen where we can relax and enjoy a lazy Sunday roast, plus all the lovely walks we can do from the cottage”



**BEDROOM SITTING AREA**  
Sarah has created a relaxing space. Chairs: Maisons du Monde. Rug: Barnscroft of Devon



FEATURE: WYVENE JAYES. PHOTOGRAPHS: POLLY ELITES FOR THE NORTH EAST LIVING CREDITS (UNARTISTED)



**MAIN BEDROOM**  
Industrial lights and a bark table add a modern touch. Bedside table: French Connection. Bedside lamps: Ebay