

ADDED ATTRACTION

Jane and Anthony Hosking's creative restoration of their waterside home reflects their enduring love for its beautiful Cornish setting

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THE STORY

OWNERS Jane Hosking lives here with her husband Anthony, a fisherman, their son Jowan, 23, daughter Tean, 20, and their four springer spaniels, Kim, Madge, Sally and Saffron Bun

PROPERTY Wildwood Holt is a four-bedroom, extended cottage in Cornwall's Lizard Peninsula. It was originally built in the 1830s. The cottage is available to rent for holiday stays through uniquehomestays.com

WHAT THEY DID The cottage was almost derelict when the couple bought it, with no electricity or running water. It had to be virtually rebuilt and the couple tackled everything themselves, apart from the plumbing and electrics. They added a timber-frame extension about 20 years ago to enlarge the kitchen and add two more bedrooms

Cornish Renovation

During the initial design process for the extension, the utility was moved from the far end of the kitchen to the side so as not to spoil the views from the kitchen. The bespoke units were made from reclaimed floorboards by Richard Winfrey

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nestling by a stream at the bottom of a steep, wooded valley, and all but invisible from the road, Jane and Anthony Hosking's home on Cornwall's Lizard Peninsula is a world away from the county's bustling tourist centres. 'It's an amazing spot,' says Jane. 'No one knows we are here.'

two snug living rooms, and four cosy bedrooms, Wildwood Holt could not be more different from the near-derelict, two-up-two-down, cob and stone cottage the couple bought over 30 years ago. Back then, it was almost hidden among overgrown trees and bushes and had no electricity, phone or running water.

'Nothing had been done in 60 years and it was falling apart; however, we weren't deterred,' says Anthony. 'My family farmed here for generations. It was an opportunity we couldn't let go.'

The couple embarked on what would become a decades-long labour of love to restore the property. 'It wasn't easy, especially at first,' explains Jane. 'We would spend hours fetching water and cutting wood, and the range cooker kept filling the rooms with smoke, so everything was covered in soot all the time.'

The cottage was stripped back to the walls, before being rebuilt. Apart from plumbing, wiring and rendering, Anthony and Jane tackled the work themselves, tirelessly digging up and relaying floors, replacing ceilings, renovating windows and beams, and patching the roof. By the time Jowan was born, 10 years later, they had created a comfortable, two-bedroom home.

Within a couple more years, just before the arrival of their daughter, Teán, they had built a timber-framed extension, adding a more family-friendly kitchen-dining room, and two more bedrooms. 'We knew an extension could never match the exterior stonework of the cottage, so the new structure had to look like an addition to the original building, but still sit comfortably in the landscape,' says Jane.

The pair did later make some changes to the original plans for the extension, repositioning the utility room from the far end of the kitchen to its side. 'When we saw the lovely view from the kitchen, we realised we didn't want to lose it, so we changed the layout,' explains Jane.

The spacious kitchen-diner has become the centre of family and social life and is Jane's



favourite room. She commissioned a local craftsman to hand-build the furniture and tailor the island to her perfect height. All of the kitchen cabinetry is made from reclaimed pine floorboards. 'I wanted a rustic feel, with natural wood and nothing shiny. Slate worktops were a must-have feature, too,' she says.

The lofty, timber-framed kitchen in the extension, and the spacious bedrooms above, contrast with the low-beamed rooms of the original cottage, but Jane has nevertheless achieved a sense of harmony.

Natural wood is a consistent element throughout and a window seat, built by Anthony in the dining area, echoes the original ones in the cottage. All the rooms are decorated in restful off-whites, punctuated by muted pinks, blues and neutrals. Jane chose the pale background in part to boost light inside the home. 'I love light, and we fitted a skylight over the staircase, which has made a big difference in the centre of the house,' she says. 'Even so, it can be dark in the valley, surrounded by woodland, so I've used pale colours wherever I can.'

It has been a big project spread out over many years and the couple has put so much of themselves into their home. Heirlooms and auction finds sit alongside investment buys, upcycled items, and pieces made by Anthony, Jane and Jowan. Unique objects, from old family photographs to driftwood, salvaged boating and fishing items, plus Jane's own pottery, are dotted around on shelves and walls.

'Over the years, we've occasionally looked at other properties, but we've never seen anywhere we liked more than this house,' says Jane. 'We just love walking in the woods or watching trout in the stream, and at night the moonlight and stars are amazing. It has always felt like a safe, happy place and we enjoy sharing it with people.'



ABOVE Rough stone walls, painted in Pointing by Farrow & Ball, indicate where the two-hundred-year-old cottage meets the modern, timber-framed extension. Tongue-and-groove panelling on the ceiling adds further surface interest. Anthony cut down and refurbished the painted dresser, which was rescued from a skip. The bench and table are both made from recycled wood, while pendant lights from Nkuku bring the look up to date. Anthony also built the window seat

LEFT The house sits in a private wooded valley. The extension is clad in Douglas fir timber to fit in with its surroundings. The stream running alongside the house, and woodland beyond, offer the family lots of wildlife watching opportunities



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ABOVE The living room has a calming air, inviting you to relax. The Isla sofas are from Sofa.com

FAR LEFT Jane stripped stairs, adding a reclaimed rope handrail. The landing's original window was boarded up and shelves were fitted to display characterful boating items, including floats, a rudder and a wooden pulley, salvaged from Anthony's fishing nets. For similar salvaged items, try Trinity Marine

LEFT AND RIGHT Jowan, who is a carpenter, built his bed himself, using reclaimed pews from a local church. It is dressed in throws from Soak & Sleep and cushions from Nkuku. Built-in bedside desks house classic desk lamps from Garden Trading. Linen curtains are from H&M Home









LEFT Teān's bedroom features a relaxed mix of old and new: the bed and cabinet are from French Bedroom, the lamp is Nkuku, and the bedlinen is Soak & Sleep, while the framed French print was a car-boot find

ABOVE The bathroom is defined by a Cornish Fixings claw-foot bath, painted in Farrow & Ball's Oval Room Blue. It is paired with vintage wooden shutters, sourced in France and adapted by Jowan, which draw the eye to the decorative window. Tiles from Walls & Floors give the room a distinctly Moroccan look

RIGHT The master bedroom is in the timber-framed extension. The pine bed from Trago Mills has been painted white, and complements the dainty dressing table, which was a car boot find

