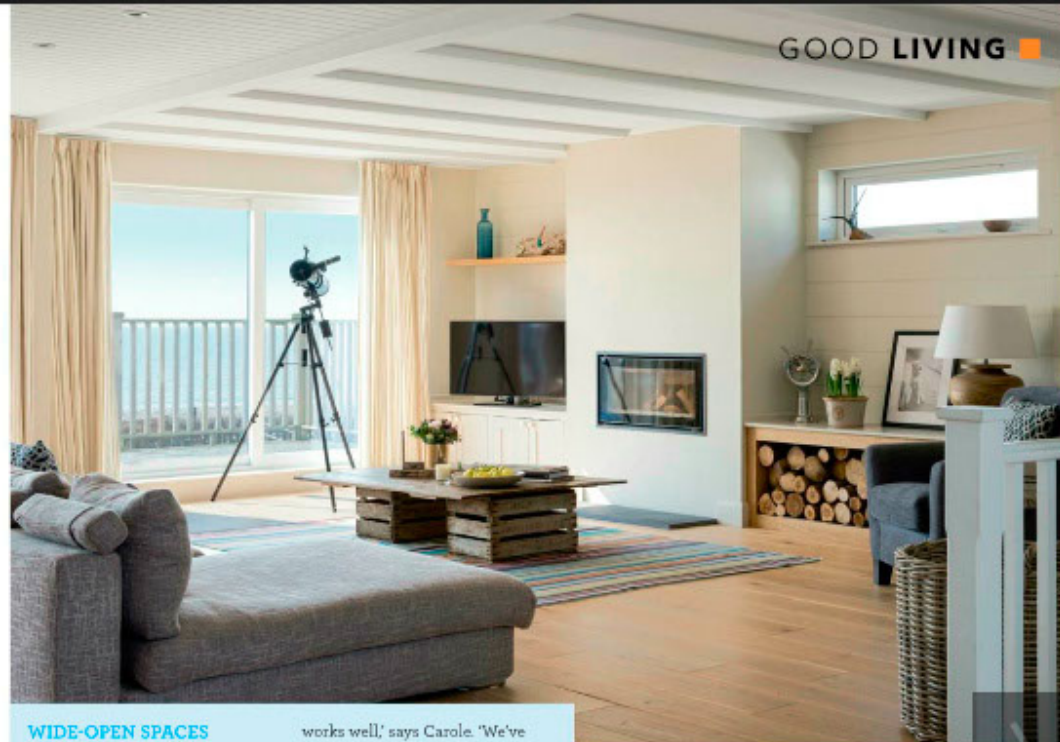


OUR HOUSE *of* LIGHT

The Sweetnam family had a beautiful view, but no way to enjoy it. So their dated bungalow had to go... and the only way was up!



DINING IN STYLE David Sweetnam commissioned a table that can seat up to 14. 'Perhaps it's my French upbringing,' says Carole, 'but I love it when family and friends gather round the table. The view is a bonus!' The placemats, dyed by Carole, and the blue bottles, bought on a Mallorcan holiday, lend a nautical feel to the dining area.



WIDE-OPEN SPACES

With the house's new three-storey height, it was clear the living area needed to be on the first floor. The open-plan arrangement maximises the sea views. 'Upside-down living

works well,' says Carole. 'We've broken up the open-plan space by zoning the room, and chosen practical, hard-wearing flooring and furniture to enhance the relaxed feel of our holiday home.'



CLEAR WINNER

A stunning feature of the first storey is a glass floor. 'It's a great contrast to the wooden flooring and it also lets light into the hallway below,' says Carole. All the walls have been painted in Quill Grey by Sanderson to create a soft, chalky backdrop.



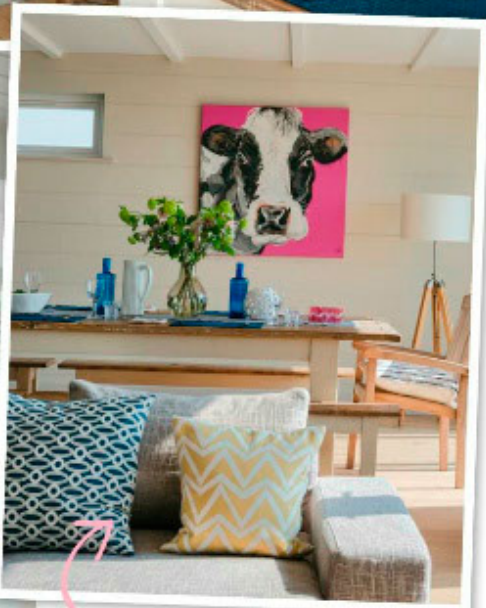
WHO LIVES HERE?

The New England-style beach house belongs to Carole and David Sweetnam, and is in beautiful Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex. The old bungalow had direct access to the beach, but was crying out for a complete transformation. The couple loved what had been done to the house next door. 'In fact, we were so impressed that we asked our neighbours to project-manage the build,' says Carole. Now the Sweetnams let out the house, which they've renamed Long Island, and spend holidays there with their three teenage children, Sophie, 16, Tom, 15, and Alex, 13. The house was designed by Scandia-Hus and is clad in Cedar weatherboard.



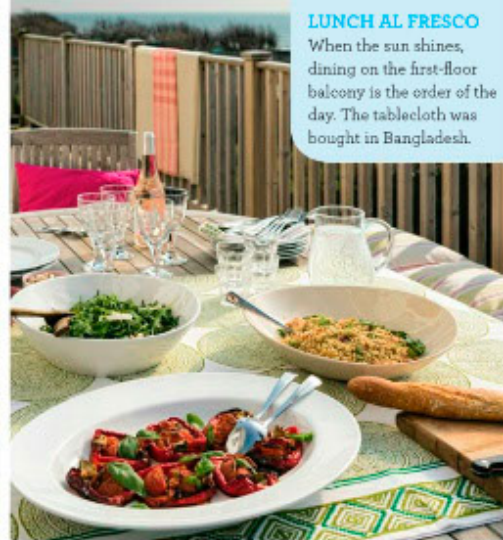
NAUTICAL AND NICE Reconditioned marine-style pendant lamps, sourced by David from eBay, inject character into the bespoke Sylvarna kitchen, which features a large island. 'We wanted the kitchen to be practical, and included several luxury touches, such as the wine cooler and boiling water tap,' says Carole.

SHIP AHOY The Feather & Black bed has been set in the middle of the second-floor master bedroom. 'If you leave the shutters open, you wake up to the wonderful sea view,' says Carole. Hampers from Fortnum & Mason have been used as bedside tables.



MIX AND MATCH A striking fuchsia cow painting by Caroline Walker adds a surprise touch to the dining area. 'We spotted it at an exhibition in Cornwall, and felt the painting would be rather unexpected and a vibrant punch of colour in this corner,' says Carole.

FEATURE: JANET MCKENZIE, PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDREAS VON EISENDEL, STYLING: CLARE LOCKWOOD AND JANET MCKENZIE. SHOP THE LOOK COMPILED BY ORACLE ALIZA. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT LONDON ISLAND, VISIT SUBSCRIBE.HOLIDAYS.CO.UK



LUNCH AL FRESCO When the sun shines, dining on the first-floor balcony is the order of the day. The tablecloth was bought in Bangladesh.



STAY CALM Stripy cushions, made up in Clarke & Clarke's Mitra fabric in Sage, add a bright and breezy touch to the serene bedroom on the ground floor.



NATURALLY NEUTRAL Pebble floor tiles, from Marble Mosaics, are the perfect choice for the ground-floor en suite bathroom.



Well-glass pendant with visor, £225, Davsey Lighting (daveyighting.co.uk)

Talia counter stool, £85, Habitat (habitat.co.uk)

Netties fabric in duck egg and indigo, £46 a metre, Harlequin (harlequin.co.uk)

Shop the LOOK

Recreate Carole and David's relaxed and bright seaside retreat



Darlington Crystal Primrose bottle vase, £42, John Lewis



Rowley tripod floor lamp, £216, Alexander & Pearl at Furnish (furnish.co.uk)



Cow art print, £14.95, King & McGaw (kingandmcgaw.com)



OH Vintage Adjustable Table, £776, Houseology (houseology.com)



Jacquard cushion cover, £7.99, H&M Home (hm.com)