

C&C Milano, Tessuto



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Previous page Interior designer Katharine Pooley and her north Devon coastal cottage. **Clockwise from right** in the sitting room, most of the furniture is bespoke to match the diminutive proportions of the cottage – the sofa is by Ben Whistler; Croyde bay, a pendant light in the dining area by Scaletti features multiple glazed and singlazed porcelain fish; in the main bedroom the window is dressed with a roman blind made with fabric from C&C Milano and curtains by Volga Linen; a nautical solution on the staircase; the outdoor space is maximised with a dining set by Green Meadow Furniture and an artificial green wall by VitaGreen



KATHARINE'S KNOW-HOW

STAY NATURAL

Use materials such as timber, stone, wool and rattan. They give an earthy feel but are also luxurious and – best of all – durable.

KEEP IT LIGHT

The space needs to have really good natural light, so make the most of windows by having blinds and curtains in pale fabrics. Embrace lots of different lighting options, such as wall lights, table lamps and ceiling lights, too.

THEMED PIECES

A few beachy bits add interest. We used chunky rope as a handrail and I had a mirror made from driftwood for above the fireplace. We also added some great porthole-style mirrors to the bathrooms. Just don't go mad...

STORAGE SOLUTIONS

If you have plenty of storage, only decorative pieces need be on show. We built storage into every space possible: under beds, under bassinets, in window seats.



lage of Croyde on the north Devon coast, where the family were taken on holiday by Voyce's parents.

'I knew immediately we had found the perfect spot,' she says. 'It's so picturesque, relaxed and family friendly, with lots of great beaches nearby.' Happily, it is also a mere three-and-a-half-hour drive from their house in Oxfordshire, so near enough for weekend visits.

Initially there was no suitable house to buy, but in 2017 a property built in the 1800s, just a short walk from the beach, a three-bedroom house complete with a studio flat, came up for sale. 'It was quite tired, but I could see the potential,' says Pooley. Voyce was less convinced, exclaiming, 'What are you thinking?' when he saw the particulars.

It did require a great deal of structural work. As well as repointing the exterior, applying new lime render and putting in new hardwood windows, Pooley's team raised and replaced the roof to create an extra floor. 'It's no longer in line with the adjoining cot-

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tage, which I worried would look odd, but as it now matches the other cottages in the street it looks proportionally right,' she notes. They also levelled the ground floor and took down walls to create an open-plan layout. The result is a four-bedroom, four-bathroom house with a very smart facade that is totally in keeping with its surroundings.

Unsurprisingly, Pooley had strong ideas about the interior. 'Fundamentally, I wanted a light and airy beach house,' she says. 'I love the style of houses in the Hamptons, so there are elements of that look, such as lots of linens, but not too many because it is a period house in England.'

Sourcing new and antique pieces to create this look involved a helicopter trip to the Hamptons while Pooley was visiting New York, so that she could browse the boutiques.

When it came to choosing the materials, Pooley paid careful attention to detail in order to get the look exactly how she had envisioned it. She consid-