



SEA CHANGE

This beachside family holiday home in a quiet part of Cornwall has been given a cosy makeover that has made every room warm and inviting

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HOME TRUTHS

PROPERTY A four-storey, semi-detached house

ROOMS Snug, sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility, cloakroom, four bedrooms, three bathrooms

LOCATION Cornwall

SITTING ROOM
'I like small design moments, like the reading corner with the table and oversized lamp,' says Fraser. 'The earthy texture of the base reflects the house's coastal setting.' Aged ceramic table lamp, Zara Home, is similar.

Faux animal hide, Tetbury Outdoor Market. Mason plug-in wall lights; Blue Dotty shades, all Pooky

EXTERIOR
The four-storey abode is positioned directly above Cawsand Beach and enjoys beautiful views of the bay



'I WANTED TO KEEP A LAID-BACK FEEL WITH MUTED COLOURS, COMFORTABLE FURNITURE AND A SOCIABLE LAYOUT'



Fraser Burnside's parents spent ten years looking for their perfect holiday retreat and when the Cornish beachside property they bought needed a refresh, they asked their creative son to take on the project. 'I studied fashion at university so moving into interior design was a natural step,' Fraser explains. 'I've gone from curating a personal aesthetic to designing another facet of someone's lifestyle, which I love doing.'

Cawsand – where the house resides – is on the border with Devon and accessible by ferry in summer from Plymouth. By chance, the family, from Bristol, already knew the area as Fraser and his father had competed in sea gig rowing regattas here. 'The sale happened to come up on a regatta weekend so we arranged a viewing and were blown away,' Fraser recalls. 'My parents had been waiting to find a house in a village with direct beach access – this was it.'

The 300-year-old property is over four floors and had once been a fish smoke house. 'Fishermen would bring the fish up the beach and into the cellar where there's a huge fireplace and beams to hang and dry the fish,' Fraser explains. 'Local legend says there are smuggler tunnels below!'

After giving the house a lick of paint, new carpets and new bathrooms, the family enjoyed coming here to unwind. However, as time went on and the property began to tire, Fraser started the transformation. 'I looked around with fresh eyes and thought about what improvements could be made,' he says. 'I want everyone who comes here to settle in quickly and feel relaxed.'

With a shoestring budget, Fraser had to be canny with decisions. One of his first jobs was hand-sanding the engineered wood floor. He moved on to

KITCHEN-DINER
Fraser updated the cupboards with new door fronts, handles and integrated appliances. 'I paired flat white oak doors with statement grooves on the island,' he says. White Oak timber veneer door fronts; V-groove door fronts, both Husk

BALCONY
An outdoor deck with sea views overlooks a sheltered private

courtyard, which has access to the beach

DINING AREA
'Upholstered chairs are comfortable enough to sit around and chat at mealtimes,' says Fraser. 'They go well with the table my mum already bought from Neptune some years ago.' Mowbray dining chairs, Neptune. Arundel dining table, Neptune Outlet, is similar. The rug was from a Neptune sample sale





an industrial sander for the wood kitchen floor, then replaced the modern white cupboards with a style in keeping with the house. 'Husk in Bristol usually does this for Ikea carcasses but didn't charge any more for making my doors,' Fraser says. 'I mixed a painted green grooved finish on the island with white oak along the back – a carpenter friend showed me how to fit them.'

Rooms that face the sea are decorated in shades of white with a blue undertone while front rooms have a hint of neutral warmth. The upholstered furniture is a blend of soft beiges, creams and taupe. 'Spaces share colours for a serene feel and to give a sense of moving slowly through the house,' explains Fraser. 'The furniture I chose isn't pretentious or precious, it's mostly second-hand or vintage. I've also arranged pieces to encourage lingering, admiring the views and taking it easy.'

Fraser trawled Facebook Marketplace, eBay and flea markets. He bought from furniture outlet warehouses, Loft's Furniture and Neptune – a particular favourite for classic styles, oversized lamps and quality upholstery fabrics. In summer, alfresco eating can be enjoyed on the balconies or in the courtyard, while in cooler months, Fraser paid particular attention to living areas where there's plenty of comfortable seating and space to congregate by the fire or at the table to watch stormy weather roll in.

'Everyone loves coming to our holiday home and I'm proud to have created another chapter of its life,' says Fraser. 'I'm really enjoying the pivot into interior design; this was a very special project for me.' 
Avonacottage (@avonacottage) can be rented on boutique-retreats.co.uk

MAIN BEDROOM
With its stunning sea views, this is Fraser's favourite space.

Try Flaxby Malton headboard in Silver, Myza. Navy cushions, Darlings of Chelsea. Fired Earth Seville Amar cushion, M&S Home

MAIN EN SUITE
This washstand has a traditional farmhouse feel, and two basins make it a wow feature.

Chichester countertop double door washstand, Neptune. Di Scacchi tumbled marble floor tiles; Cararra honed marble wall tiles, both Mandarin Stone

LOFT EN SUITE
'We inherited the bath; it's a lovely spot to relax at night and look up at the stars,' says Fraser.

Duke Blue roll-top bath, Victorian Plumbing, is similar. Walls in Wood Ash, Little Greene

LOFT BEDROOM
'I spent a while sourcing beds to fit beneath the eaves,' says Fraser. 'The tone and texture of the faux hide and beige blankets add warmth.'

Olivia single bed frame in Grey, Habitat, is a similar design. Faux animal hide, Tetbury Outdoor Market. Beige blankets, The White Company

