



GARDEN
Claire designed a coastal garden with rustic textures, wildflowers and grasses.

THE LONG VIEW

After a year of careful planning, Annette Pisani and Claire Winchester began work to turn their dated chalet bungalow into a chic seaside abode

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LIVING/DINING AREA
A coastal palette of stone, pale greys and soft blues form a subtle backdrop to the ever-changing sea views. Squishmeister chaise sofa in Winter Sky is similar, £3,185, Loaf. Wever & Ducre's Wiros 6.1 ceiling pendants, £311 each, DM Lights



KITCHEN

'I re-drew the plans after buying the bargain ex-display units,' says Annette. Lightweight vinyl floor tiles were used to decorate the back of the peninsula unit.

Try Norwich Perla porcelain tiles, £53.94sq m, Acorn Tiles. Avenue's Bubblegum & Liquorice tiles in Sagres Black, £15.30sq m, Floor Mart



At the start of Annette Pisani's house-hunting journey with her partner Claire Winchester, affording a home with a sea view seemed like an impossible dream as they wanted to stay close to Brighton's city centre. After months of looking, they were delighted to find a dated chalet bungalow along a clifftop road. 'Nothing obscured the sea views, the outlook was amazing,' recalls Annette. 'It felt a bit like being in Cornwall, yet Brighton was only an eight-minute drive away.'

However, the dream almost slipped from the couple's hands when their offer was refused. But some months later, they

noticed the property still hadn't sold and boldly knocked on the door. 'The owners were keen and the timing turned out to be uncanny as we received an offer on our home later that afternoon,' says Annette.

Annette and Claire moved in and hunkered down for a year to save up for what would be a major renovation. As well as living with sticky carpets, old bathrooms and broken kitchen cupboards, it became evident a major flaw in the layout was the sitting room extension at the front. 'The add-on had a porch slap bang in the middle that protruded onto the drive and made parking difficult,' says Annette. 'But more importantly, it blocked our lovely coastal



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

1920s chalet bungalow
LOCATION East Sussex
ROOMS Open-plan kitchen-diner/living area, office, cloakroom, three bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2017

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

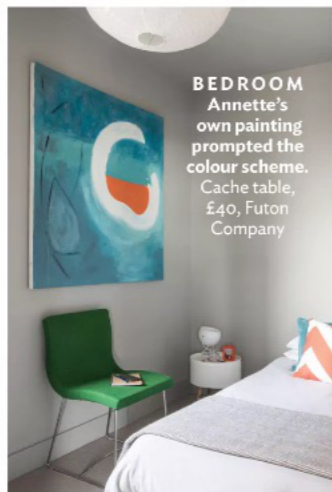
'We lived in a terraced fisherman's cottage in the centre of Brighton,' says Annette.



OFFICE
Direct views onto the garden provide the perfect set-up for garden designer Claire. Try the Taylor chair, £139, Cult Furniture



EN SUITE
Combining hexagon and chevron tiles brings a unique touch. Kronos hexagon tiles, £41.97sq m, Master Tiles



BEDROOM
Annette's own painting prompted the colour scheme. Cache table, £40, Futon Company



BEDROOM
A simple dressing area was created with a chair, mirror and one of Annette's paintings. Mustard Jerry chair is similar, £120, Habitat



MAIN BEDROOM
'The hotel-style headboard was a great solution to the tricky layout, anchoring the bed in the middle of the room to face the view,' says Annette. Walls in Worsted modern emulsion, £56 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



BATHROOM
'Textured tiles with a rustic surface catch the light - we were inspired by a visit to the Alhambra in Spain,' says Annette. Clifton Handcrafted Metro tiles are similar, £35.95sq m, Walls and Floors. Orchard White freestanding bath, £799, Victoria Plum. Asayo stool has this look, £79.20, La Redoute

INSPIRATION *'We didn't want the decoration to fight with the sea views and light so we kept everything simple'*

outlook - we could only see the sea if we looked out of windows to the left and right.'

The couple are veteran renovators, working on their own and clients' homes - Annette's an interior designer and Claire was a property developer before becoming a landscape and garden designer. Annette's big idea was to open up the kitchen, sitting room and family room - controversially she proposed demolishing the extension. Claire wasn't sure at first. 'I couldn't get my head around why removing space would be a

good idea,' she says. 'But when I saw the sketch of the new open-plan room with floor-to-ceiling windows, it all made sense.'

The couple moved into a flat while work got underway with Claire managing the renovations and Annette planning the interiors. Inspired by the coastal location, they settled on a light touch of blue-greys and wood textures. 'We didn't want the decoration to fight with the view and light,' Annette explains. 'We wanted a calm, relaxing home inspired by the colours in

Brighton's pebble beaches and the colour changes we see in the sea and sky every day.'

After the couple moved back in, Claire got stuck into the garden. She also took cues from the coastal location in the planting and use of weathered oak sleepers and earthy Corten steel. 'We love the garden, we love our home and we're pleased with all the decisions we've made,' says Annette. 'It was well worth spending a year planning. We feel like we're living in a brand new house, with, of course, the most amazing sea views.' 25