



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

1970s extended bungalow

LOCATION

Buckinghamshire

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen, dining area/sunroom, utility, cloakroom, three bedrooms (all en suite)**PURCHASED** 2009**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We rented for five years in a nearby village while we developed our business,' says Cathrine.

A PERFECT BLEND

Scandi clean lines and pre-loved vintage finds come together in Cathrine Tjore and Simon Keeley's beautiful bungalow, united by natural materials and earthy colours

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JAMES FRENCH

**SITTING ROOM**

Reclaimed scaffold boards clad the walls and light pours into the room through a roof window put in by the previous owners.

The Ottawa Chevron coffee table, £169, Cult Furniture, has this look. Green wool throw, £80, NORSK



KITCHEN
 Reclaimed scaffold board cladding repeats in the kitchen and sits nicely with the rustic brick wall (right) found beneath the plaster. Striking metal-framed glazing gives a glimpse into the utility area/pantry. Cupboards in Stiffkey Blue estate eggshell, £70 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Imo oak bar stools, £395 each, Pinch. Barazza Lab sunken hob, from £1,140, Arredatutto. Oak antique floor planks, £65sq m, Oakley Wood Timber

It's not often you can say a house was inspired by great coffee or that a 1970s bungalow was redesigned for Nordic living, but that was the case for Cathrine Tjore and her husband, Simon Keeley, founders of café and homeware shop NORSK and the Little Italy Espresso Bars – their home is a true expression of all passions.

'Simon's precious about the coffee, while the interiors are one hundred per cent me,' says Cathrine, who's from Norway. 'We like classic, clean Scandi lines, but not complete perfection. I've mixed new designs with vintage to create relaxing warmth.'

The couple's home was built as a bungalow in the 70s by the artist owners who favoured big windows and plenty of natural light. 'As a Norwegian, being connected to outside is important to me – and to Simon, as well,' says Cathrine. 'We loved the spacious rooms and amazing light. I was also astonished to see their Norwegian log burner was exactly like the one in my parents' home, it felt like a sign!'

The couple decorated everywhere in white to begin with then put their energy back into growing their coffee business. A few years on, the first



SITTING ROOM
 The plaid chair fabric blends Nordic and British styles and brings a touch of pattern to the room. Abraham Moon's Skye Check in Cocoa is a similar upholstery fabric, £59.96m, British Made Interiors



SITTING ROOM
 Simon's collection of photographic art makes a striking gallery. Wall in Green Smoke estate emulsion, £52 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



project evolved from a straightforward guest bedroom above the garage, which has become a mini house for visiting family and friends, and can now be rented out (norskilifestyle.com). 'It suddenly dawned on me, why not design the garage like a traditional Norwegian summer house?' says Cathrine. 'We used weatherboarding and painted the inside wood cladding white then decorated in layered neutrals to encourage light and space.'

Turning their attention back to their own home, the couple wanted to add more bedrooms and to improve the downstairs layout, so decided to convert the loft and extend to the side. The changes made space for a staircase, a new front entrance hall and a bigger kitchen. 'We removed the doors downstairs too, creating a more open-plan feel though rooms retain their distinct space,' adds Cathrine. 'Then we extended again, creating a sunken sunroom on the back with floor-to-ceiling glazing, which unconsciously hints at 60s and 70s architectural style like the original bungalow.'

Wood textures and tones layer rooms with depth and warmth with reclaimed scaffold boards



DINING AREA
 'Oak cladding conceals storage and adds texture and warmth alongside the polished concrete floor,' says Cathrine. The pleated curtains almost look like an architectural feature.
 Brass LP lamps, £190 each, NORSK



OFFICE
 Customised vintage school desks fit the landing nook beneath the new roof dormer. Similar Original 1930s Anglepoise lamp, £475, 1stDibs. Vintage 1950s Tolix stools are similar, £580 for a set of four, Vinterior



LANDING
Painted wood cladding is a Nordic look and Simon's love for music and photography is illustrated in bold black and white photos.

Twiggy, 1966 by Barry Lategan, £400, King & McGaw

MAIN BEDROOM
'The blue-grey tone is calm and cocooning so it made sense to paint the ceiling the same colour as the walls,' says Cathrine.

Walls and ceiling in Juniper Ash absolute matt emulsion, £52 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Bunad blanket in Norland, £240, Really Well Made



used as wall cladding and, upstairs, wood panelling painted white like the summer house. 'I grew up holidaying in our island summer house, which was rustic and basic and the complete opposite to our family home decorated in Laura Ashley prints,' recalls Cathrine. 'I love the textural look of raw materials and it's what I look for when I'm buying homeware for NORSK. I'd never choose anything I wouldn't want to have in my own home.'

Furniture and lighting are mostly classic vintage, delivering the loved and lived-in look that Cathrine values, but has been careful to balance with new pieces that impart the same artisan qualities.

'I look for timeless pieces with standout designs and quality craftsmanship, whether I'm searching eBay for an old school desk or designing the new coffee table with the builder,' she says.

Simon's black-and-white photographic collection showcases iconic British artists and makes a striking impact against walls decorated in earthy greens, taupes, golden yellow. 'I love these warm tones as they help to create a relaxed feel,' says Cathrine, 'and that is partly why we both love living here.' 25

BEDROOM

Blending the shelf into the wall keeps eyes on the black-and-white framed prints.

Sunnmore Bunad cushion by Andreas Engesvik, \$199.95, Sweater Chalet. Anglepoise 90 Mini Mini desk lamp, £109, Heal's



EN SUITE

'I took the cupboard out of my friend's skip to make the vanity,' says Cathrine.

Picasso countertop stone basin, £198, Lusso Stone, has this look

