

Open house

A beautiful mix of antiques and vintage finds gives Janie Tennant and Jeremy Woolfenden's cottage its laid-back appeal

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRENCH STYLING MARISHA TAYLOR



DINING AREA
 'I've never been a matching sort of girl,' says Janie, which is reflected in this mix of dining chairs. Oak round seat dining chairs, £124 each, Turnbull & Thomas, would work well here



LIVING AREA
 Having a fireplace as the focal point in a room really comes into its own at Christmas time. Sofa, £2,200; Mexican chair, £1,200, both Covelli Tennant



KITCHEN
 Removing the door emphasised the depth of the old walls. Vintage kilim, £40, Mo Logan Antiques Salcombe

DECORATING TIP *'Go for seagrass carpet in coastal homes because it stays looking good even with sandy feet, messy children and dirty dogs!'*



MASTER BEDROOM
I painted the joinery blue to contrast with the white walls after seeing the idea in a friend's house,' says Janie. Joinery in Hague Blue interior wood and metal paint, £64 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

17th-century cottage

LOCATION Devon

ROOMS Living/dining area, kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2015

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We also have a Georgian house in London,' says Janie.

Janie Tennant took a relaxed approach to decorating her 17th-century holiday cottage near Salcombe, surrounding herself with pieces she loves rather than conforming to a style. As Janie is one half of Covelli Tennant – an antiques-sourcing business she set up with her friend Sara Covelli – it's no surprise that she opted for vintage furnishings and antiques. 'I didn't have a vision – most of my decisions were accidental and thrown together, and I'm not even sure that anything really matches,' she says. 'I'm drawn to pretty things that catch my eye.'

Relaxation is exactly what Janie and her husband, Jeremy Woolfenden, were seeking when they bought the cottage. Seaside simplicity is the perfect antidote to the couple's busy lives in London, encouraging them to dash down at weekends with Janie's daughter, Tallulah, 10, and sometimes Jeremy's three adult sons, Jake, 26, Buster, 23 and Douglas, 22.

For Jeremy, the motivation for buying a property here came from memories of childhood holidays. The couple were delighted when Buckley Cottage, right next door to where Jeremy used to stay all those years ago, came on the market. 'It's lovely to have that connection,' says

Janie. 'We walked into the big living and dining room with a small kitchen off to the side and liked it straightaway. We replaced the kitchen and painted all the orange pine white to give the cottage a sense of light and space.'

Janie chose key pieces for the main living area, finding a reclaimed wood dining table in a London antiques shop and the chesterfield sofa on eBay, which she upholstered with a Twenties French linen sackcloth. 'We customise sofas like this for Covelli Tennant and each piece is unique depending on the sackcloths that are available,' she says. 'The red, white and blue running through this textile became the threads of colour that repeat throughout the cottage.'

Early 20th-century kilim rugs appear in many schemes, alongside lampshades made from vintage sari fabrics and mementos from the family's travels. Cushions are also made from linen sackcloth, while an Edwardian chair, by the fireplace in the living area, has been upholstered with blue linen, red piping and a bold panel of Mexican Otomi embroidery. 'I love the colour and detail in antique fabrics, especially 18th-century Turkish, Indian and Mexican embroideries,' says Janie.

But it is her easy-going mindset that gives this cottage its charm. 'Christmas is full of family fun, and during the rest of the year friends often pile back here after a day at the beach for an impromptu dinner,' says Janie. 'It has such a good feel – it's what a holiday home is all about.'

BATHROOM

Janie was delighted to discover the pretty and practical arched alcove after the boiler was removed.

Similar Turkish tiles, from £4.80 each, Otto Tiles. Brass marine bulkhead wall light, £60, Trinity Marine, has this look. Vintage mirror, £150, Honeybunch

TALLULAH'S BEDROOM

The wall beside the bunk bed is covered in a coastal print as a nod to the cottage's location and to bring a little fun to this scheme.

Try Sanderson Sail Away wallpaper, £64 a roll, Fashion Interiors

MASTER BEDROOM
Buckley Cottage is available to rent through sunrisecottages.co.uk

