

no. II

Changing tides

Andy and Laura Lock started from scratch to turn their single-storey home into a three-floor one in order to make the most of the sea views

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HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

New-build house

LOCATION West Sussex

ROOMS Kitchen-dining/
living area, cloakroom,
three bedrooms

(one en suite), bathroom

BUILT 2020

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We were living in a two-bedroom flat in Hove before we moved here,' says Laura.

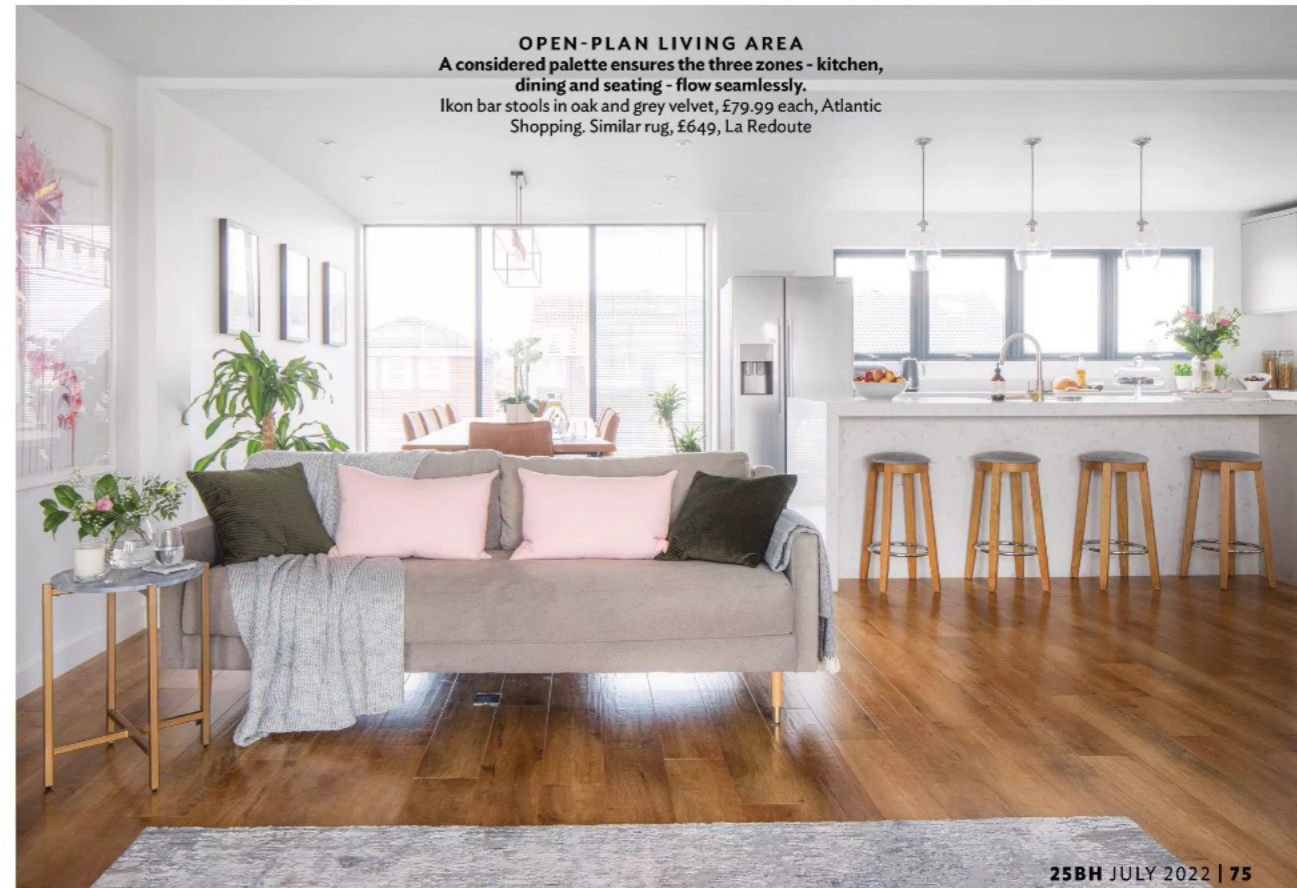
KITCHEN
Wood-look flooring brings warmth to the scheme.
J Pull kitchen, £3,000, Wren Kitchens. Karndean's Art Select vinyl in Spring Oak, £48.99sq m, Flooring Supplies



STAIRCASE
Laura came up with the idea to make a feature of the staircase with 'floating' oak treads and a glass balustrade.
Try Kandla side table with gold base, £109.95, Roseland Furniture



OPEN-PLAN LIVING AREA
A considered palette ensures the three zones - kitchen, dining and seating - flow seamlessly.
Ikon bar stools in oak and grey velvet, £79.99 each, Atlantic Shopping. Similar rug, £649, La Redoute





BATHROOM

'Andy took the legs off a sideboard to make the vanity unit,' says Laura.

Lagos slate-effect floor tiles are similar, £30.95sq m, Walls and Floors. Kennet Carrara marble tiles in herringbone, £120sq m, Neptune. Mathis gold mirror, £230, Maisons du Monde



MAIN BEDROOM

'Travelling as part of my job inspired our hotel-style bedroom with the bath,' says Laura.

Bari freestanding bath is similar, £600, Appliances Direct. Walls in Ammonite estate emulsion, £52 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

When builder and property developer Andy Lock laid eyes on a house with sea views his focus was to maximise its potential – and sell on. Then he met Laura and life took an unexpected turn. 'About a year into the project we got married and wanted to start a family,' says Laura. 'As the house took shape, I realised how emotionally invested we were and we decided to make it a home for ourselves.'

The original single-storey property had been poorly built and made little use of the stepped site. At street level, the ground floor was used for parking and storage with all the accommodation squeezed on to the first floor, level with the back garden.

Andy decided to demolish everything except the foundations and build a high-end home. 'I liked the look of a stacked box design with a flat roof, which over three floors would make the most of the views,' he

says. 'A mix of double-storey glazing, wood cladding and render adds a modern look.'

Andy planned the layout around the original floor levels so the elevated main living space would still be in line with the back garden. Above, the new second storey would have bedrooms and bathrooms and above that a roof terrace, while the ground level would stay as it was for the time being.

Laura was first to view the house in a different light. 'I came over one day and Andy had built the bathroom walls and it suddenly hit me,' she says. 'I began to picture what life would be like living here as a family.' Taking a steer from Andy, who'd already envisaged a contemporary scheme to reflect the architecture, Laura started to plan the interiors. 'I work in the ski industry and like the luxury ski chalet look of natural wood, greys and whites, and I'm drawn to Scandi styles, too,' she says. 'We both like clean lines and calm spaces that aren't

overfilled.' Andy had also been keen to use wood, stone and marble, which gelled with Laura's own taste for minimalist styles.

When it came to the main living spaces, getting the right shade of white proved a challenge. 'I was concerned a standard white could make the house look boxy and cold, like a bland developer home,' she says. 'But in the end, with all the natural light, Dulux's Pure Brilliant White was the answer because there were no colour undertones.'

Warmer tones were used upstairs, where marble, wood and rattan feature in bathrooms and bedrooms. Leafy green plants add a natural colour touch with a hint of pink in cushions and art to complement the property's waterfront location. 'We love living here by the water with the views and it's ideal for bringing up our newborn son, Rolan,' says Laura. 'There's something very special knowing that Andy did all the work himself for us, it's perfect.' 📍

DESIGN TIP 'Don't underestimate the effectiveness of spotlights in the bedroom, they can be put on different circuits for different moods and dimmed'



BEDROOM

An oversized window was put in to make the most of the sea views.

Feature wall in Green Smoke estate emulsion, £52 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Diamond Monsoon blanket, £50, Weaver Green. Areca cushion cover in Blood Orange is similar, £65, Oka