

HOME TRUTHS**THE PROPERTY**

A new build

ROOMS Kitchen-diner/living area, three bedrooms, three bathrooms**LOCATION** Scotland

SITTING ROOM
Watery blues and warm neutrals reflect the outlook over the Isle of Mull, while furniture is placed to enjoy the views. Walls in Pebble Shore, Dulux. Chorley sofa in antique linen, Swoon, would work here

Modern RUSTIC

Low-key yet characterful schemes were the order of the day for Liz Hallam's self-build to ensure there was no competition with the amazing views

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY DOUGLAS GIBB | STYLING ALISON GIBB

One of the benefits of building your own home in a coastal location is being able to take advantage of the best views. Liz Iallam did just that, putting the panorama at the heart of her house to capture widespread vistas of the Sound of Mull – and the Isle of Mull beyond. Interiors for such dramatic seascapes needed careful consideration.

'I love the simplicity of Scandi design where colours are muted and restricted,' says Liz. 'Texture is more interesting than lots of colour; neutrals are calm and peaceful and complement rather than compete with the views.'

Liz bought the plot of land eight years ago with her ex-husband after falling in love with the beautiful landscape

in this wild and remote part of Scotland. Liz is a skilled self-builder and renovator, having built a house before and completed 15 projects over the years. For this property, she opted for a contemporary barn style.

'I'd intended to rent the house out, so my instinct was to use pared-back colours from a grey and brown palette,' says Liz. 'Once I knew I'd be living here, I wanted to keep the colour scheme, but bring in my antique furniture, which had mainly been in storage after we sold our Derbyshire cottage years ago. It was lovely to rediscover my things; it was like going shopping without spending any money.'

Liz selected favourite pieces for each of the rooms: the kitchen butcher's block; the pine Irish dresser in the dining

'THE NEAT OUTLINE OF THE WINDOW ABOVE THE SINK MAKES THE VIEW LOOK LIKE A PAINTING'



KITCHEN
'I loved the wallpaper so much, I bought the rolls before I'd even started building my house,' says Liz. Suvi wallpaper in Magnesium, Romo at WindowArt. Similar Irish dressers can be found at Antiques Atlas

STAIRCASE
Liz painted the stair runner in grey to match the concrete-effect floor. Elite Stone laminate flooring in Venetian Grey, Discount Flooring Depot, is similar. Try Oval distressed clock, Rafferty's Furniture Store

DINING AREA
This area was designed to project out with windows all around to make the most of the light and views. Edwin dining chairs, Soho House, are similar. Try Ikea's Hektar pendant lamp



area; a linen chesterfield in the sitting room. To settle her beloved old things comfortably into the new rooms, she sought inspiration from books such as *The Nordic Home* by John Arne Bjerknæs and *Imperfect Home* by Mark and Sally Bailey. 'I was also inspired by the interiors at the Kilchrean Inn near Oban,' Liz adds. 'The look is somewhere between Scandi and industrial, mixing greys, woods and plaids.'

The visit encouraged Liz to delve through her own stack of treasured fabrics. Here, she unearthed a wool plaid with threads of grey, blue and mauve that she's used for upholstering a living room chair and to make cushions, which also tie in with the main bedroom lampshades. 'I had other fabric samples in mind but I kept coming back to this

one,' she says. 'The washed-out shades look more Nordic than traditional and they reflect the coastal colours outside.'

Liz chose a pebble paint tone that was a perfect match to Romo's Suvi wallpaper on the staircase. 'The design was inspired by a 1950s Scandinavian print and the colour complements the warmth of my vintage pieces,' she says.

Alongside the furniture, wallpaper, plank flooring and architectural elements, such as the inset fireplace and corner kitchen window, add character. 'I'm pleased I kept the decor low-key as it means the views do all the work,' says Liz. 'I love coming down the stairs and seeing the huge panorama that runs the length of the house; it takes my breath away.' **25**
Liz also has a separate cabin, Naust, which is available to rent on Airbnb



BEDROOM

A vintage corner cabinet and botanical prints inject character.

Cabinet and prints, both Chesterfield Market. Country Style wooden table lamp, Chosen By Jessica, is similar

MAIN BEDROOM

Touches of grey-brown and mustard bring warmth to this space.

Try Dorma Willow Leaf duvet cover, Dunelm. Hemnes bedside table, Ikea

LANDING

The open landing creates a reading nook beneath the roof window.

Vinterior sells vintage school maps

BATHROOM

Cladding on the bath adds texture.

Walls in Craig & Rose's 1829 Harris Isle, B&Q

