



SITTING ROOM
Gloria whitewashed the walls and beamed ceiling to brighten this previously dark space. Fabrics in subtle shades and vintage pieces combine with a contemporary-style wood burner to create a pared-back, restful mood. Jute! Frog wood burner, £3,500; Wendron Stoves, Innovation Dublin chair, £390; Iroka Interiors. Rasco wall rug in beige/black, from £289.95; Benuta, has this look. Dallas wall lights, £108 each; David Hunt Lighting, would work here. Berrily lantern, £7; Ikea. Pudding love seat, £1,095; Loaf. Cushions, from £7.90 each; Cox & Cox. Vintage cabinet, £200; ears, £20; all Re Loved By Me. Fish print, £20; Notonthehighstreet.com. Marine Encyclopedia Bookcase wallpaper in Cream, £10 roll; Gownalpaper. To book Gloria's holiday home, visit Saltpondhouse.com.



FESTIVE TIP 'Silver and white tree decorations suit a neutral, pared-back scheme'



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Grade II-listed cottage

LOCATION Cornwall
ROOMS Entrance, sitting room, kitchen-diner, two bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2015

PREVIOUS PROPERTY
"We also own a Georgian townhouse in Wales," says Gloria.

LIGHT FANTASTIC

Gloria Sheppard instinctively knew that an all-white palette and neutral, textured fabrics would enhance the beauty of her fishing-village bolthole

FEATURE JAHE CRITTENDEN | **STYLING** ANNABELLE GRUNDY
PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE



**DINING AREA**

'Mousehole has a close-knit fishing community and I wanted artwork to reflect and remind us of that,' says Gloria. Karen of Loddum, Newlyn down landing, £2,500, by Henrietta Graham. Hudson Living Kielder Scandi dining table, £675. Gloria's, woodwork here. Chinwig dining chairs, £330 a pair. Leaf. Try Roman numeral metal clock, £49.99, Dunelm. Original BTC 700 brushed aluminium pendant, £315, Hoxton Lights

ENTRANCE

Tongue-and-groove walls give a Scandi-style welcome. Try Vintage Crates at Notonthehighstreet.com for a sledge, £69.50

KITCHEN

Bespoke cabinetry makes use of every inch of space. Units with pewter knobs, £8,400, George Robinson, painted in Peignor estate eggshell, £64 for 2.5lit. Farrow & Ball Black Brazilian floor tiles, £39.95sq m, Mrs Stone Stone. MBI churn, £45, Didier & Dandelion



LESSON LEARN 'Always carry a note with your rooms' dimensions in case something catches your eye'



Gloria Sheppard loves bold colours but knew instinctively that she would go for white when she saw the heavy wooden beams and dark floors inside Silphonda House, a Grade II-listed fisherman's cottage just yards from the sea at Mousehole in Cornwall. 'The coastal light that spills through the windows is fantastic and nothing like the light in Wales where my husband Jon and I live some of the time with our son, Rory, who's 19,' she says.

The couple fell in love with the fishing village Mousehole years ago after regular holidays there. Keeping an eye on the harbourside cottages, Gloria desperately hoped one would come up for sale. After five years of waiting, her fortunes took a turn when she saw a listing online. 'Jon and I jumped in the car pretty much

straightaway and drove the four-and-a-half hours from Wales,' she says. 'We stood on the harbourside terrace and knew the cottage would be perfect for holidays and when we can live here full time.'

As she was between jobs at the time, Gloria was able to devote herself to managing the modernisation of the 1800s property. 'I'd waited so long for the cottage that I wanted everything to be just right,' she says. 'Being in Mousehole is like stepping back in time and I was keen for the same tranquility in our home.'

Gloria threw herself into the research for the interiors, sometimes driving for hours to confirm or reject an idea. 'I'm not a designer so this experience was completely new to me,' she explains. 'The sofa and chairs were a big purchase and I drove to London so I could see

**MASTER BEDROOM**

'I painted the vintage wardrobe in chalk paint and the rest of the room flowed from there,' says Gloria.

Waves throw, £150, Siori Rhys Handweavers. Similar cushions, £16.95, Lazy Beach. Rosalind bedside tables, £325 a pair, Laura Ashley. Lewis wardrobe, £390, Interie, has this look. Camille chest of drawers, £349, Swoon.

BATHROOM

The grey vanity unit becomes a focal point in this scheme.

Caversham Blenheim unit, £851, Victorian Plumbing. Flat White metro tiles, £184qm, Tons of Tiles. Stockholm mirror, £45, Ikea.



the quality up close and try them out.' For the overall theme, Gloria 'drew on natural Scandi-inspired colours of grey, white and pale blues, adding textures with the fabrics, furnishings and accessories to catch the eye.'

The new kitchen needed to make use of space under the stairs and a local cabinet maker George Robinson created a design that was just what Gloria was hoping for. On his recommendation, she visited a stonemason for a granite worktop. 'I thought I would have a white worktop and oak floors but a beautiful slab of white-grey-black granite blew me away,' she says. 'It looks fabulous with the black slate flooring.' Gloria also changed her mind about the colour of the cupboards. 'The grey I'd picked at home looked much darker in the Cornish coastal light. And I was surprised to find that Farrow & Ball's Peignoir, which

is a soft grey with a hint of pink, works really well.'

Upstairs, wooden floors are painted grey-white and all the rooms decorated a silvery grey, enhancing the texture and character of the beams, cladding and exposed stone walls. Charming vintage furniture and quirky finds add warmth and personality, while soft furnishings hint at Scandi style, evoking the restful ambience Gloria sought. 'I laid fabric swatches on the living room floor where the seating would go to see how they looked at different times of the day,' she says.

Now finished, Gloria can hardly believe the cottage is theirs. 'I still pinch myself,' she says. 'Christmas, especially, is a lovely time for us to relax here together. I cook with lots of local produce and then we walk off our meal on the beach with our two Labradors.' 🐾