

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Semi-detached
Victorian cottage

ROOMS

Kitchen-diner/living
area, four bedrooms,
two bathrooms, snug,
shower room

LOCATION

Dorset

EXTERIOR

'The enhanced grain and sharp detailing of the extension gives the extension its striking, contemporary look,' says homeowner Lewis Donoghue. Shou Sugi Ban cladding, Kebony. Construction, Level Construction

MODERN love

Gemma and Lewis Donoghue bought a two-up, two-down period cottage at auction and brought it into the 21st century

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY FRENCH + TYE



LIVING AREA
 'We really like the demi-rustic texture of the natural clay plaster wall, which is pigmented with an earthy tone,' says Gemma. Wall in NUD 02 clay plaster, Clayworks. Crescent corner sofa in Gypsum, Camerich, is similar. Ikagi shaggy rug, The Conran Shop. Humbug striped stool, Sweetpea & Willow, is a good alternative

KITCHEN
 Integrating the handmade design into the staircase creates a striking look that also maximises space. Bespoke kitchen, Huxtable Joinery. White Corian worktop, Dorset Seamless Surfaces. Revolver bar stools by Hay, Holloways of Ludlow



Design enthusiasts Lewis and Gemma Donoghue were drawn to a Dorset house project during lockdown with the intention of relocating with their children, Rocco, nine, and Phoenix, seven. From the outset, the couple envisaged an ambitious modern rear and side extension on the two-up, two-down home, located close to Gemma's parents.

'The property was up for auction and it had a really beautiful outlook backing onto protected heathland and a clay quarry,' explains Lewis. 'Our design goal was to be as architecturally interesting as possible using local Purbeck stone and timber to be sympathetic to the surroundings – the house is in an area of outstanding natural beauty and close to a site of specific scientific interest.'

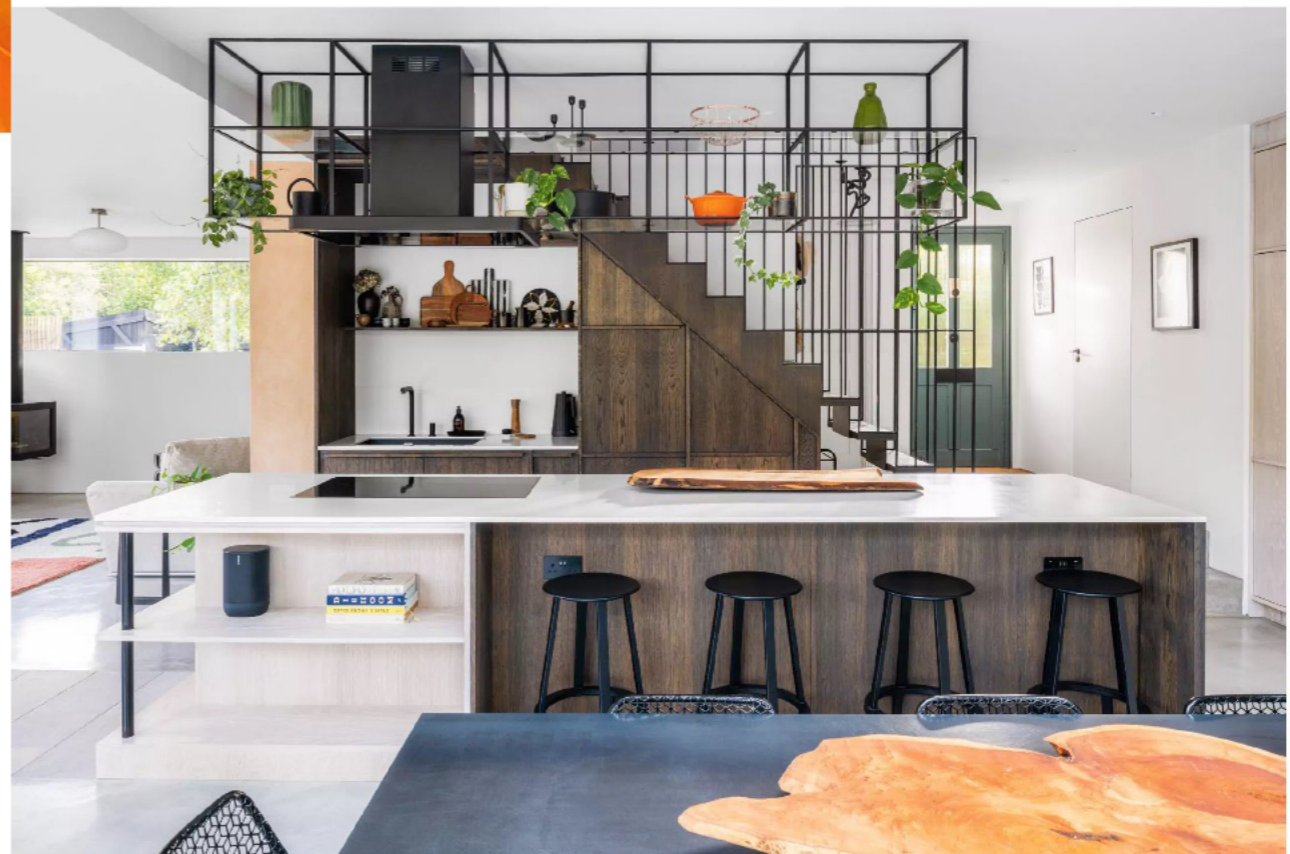
Lewis and Gemma own Lewel Construction and have years of experience working on high-end

residential projects with Gruff Architects. The couple talked through their ideas, wanting to retain the original features of the cottage but add two further bedrooms, a bathroom and create a larger open-plan ground floor.

'We had a decent amount of garden on the side so it made sense to extend here as well as the rear but we weren't sure if we'd get planning permission,' Lewis explains. 'Gruff Architects led the way with the design and later the planners commented on it with high regard.'

Like the planners, the couple were won over by the black-timber-clad side addition with its pitched roof that contrasted with the stone single-storey rear. 'We particularly liked the sharp wood detailing in the design,' says Lewis. 'We researched a range of timber cladding samples and found Kebony to be more superior for its aesthetics,

LIVING AREA
 'The bright orange sofa grounds the lighter tones in this space and is a great colour choice for sitting and enjoying the sunset with a drink,' says Gemma. Arbor sofa in Amber by Matthew Hilton for The Conran Shop. Theoline coffee table, La Redoute. Nevo pendant light by Arturo Alvarez, Heal's. Iris lounge chair by Huw Evans for The Conran Shop. Garden design, Alladio Sims



'THE STAIRCASE WAS MOVED TO THE MIDDLE OF THE HOUSE TO GAIN MORE LIVING SPACE AND DEFINE AREAS'



BEDROOM
Graphic textiles and a rustic mirror add interest to the simple monochrome scheme. Vintage mirror, Sunbury Antiques Market. Bellingdon lamp table by Ercol, John Lewis & Partners, is similar. Sokobe abstract linen cushion covers, La Redoute

CHILDREN'S BEDROOM
The couple reinstated the fireplace here, using one from another room. Skandi White Two Tone wardrobe, Habitat



density, longevity and cost.' Defined architectural details continued inside the cottage where Lewis' idea to move the staircase towards the middle of the property led to a new black steel and wood design. 'I wanted to maximise upstairs space and streamline the layout,' he explains. 'It made sense to integrate the kitchen beneath the stairs and we used the same black metal framework idea in the hanging feature above the island.'

Interiors were inspired by the contemporary architecture and setting. A feature stone strip of paving runs across the polished concrete kitchen floor echoing the detail on the terrace. A clay plaster wall in the living area nods to the nearby quarry and the bricks used to construct the Victorian cottage. Textured woodgrain in the oak kitchen cupboards reflect the exterior cladding. 'We didn't want bold colours or patterns

to fight with the architecture or beautiful views so we used earthy materials and subtle undertones of orange and pink,' Gemma explains. 'Varying textures of fluted glass, limewashed walls, waterproof microcement and polished concrete all give definition to the new parts of the house without feeling overpowering.'

A splash of orange from the sofa and curves in the hanging egg chair lighten the mood and soften the architectural elements. Mixing charity shop treasures with designer lighting plays into the all-important blend of old and new. 'There's something magical about the cottage and its incredible views, which makes it a wonderful, calm place to be,' says Gemma. 'All credit to the quality of the build, we feel very lucky to have got planning consent for our project.'

lewel.co.uk; gruffarchitects.com; kebony.com

MAIN BEDROOM
'The tropical artwork is a blanket, which I had framed without glass so you can appreciate the texture,' says Gemma. Kimbie textile by Maite Garcia at Slowdown Studio, Made In Design. Walls in Serene limewash, Bauwerk Colour

EN SUITE
'Microcement walls are hardwearing, seamless and waterproof,' says Gemma. 'We like the earthy, textured finish.' Microcement in El Alamo, Relentless Microcement. Munich fluted shower screen, Bathroom Mountain, is similar



'TEXTURED LIMEWASH IN NEUTRAL BEDROOMS MAKES STARK NEW WALLS LOOK WARM AND INVITING'