

# COMFORT & JOY

A delightful colour palette brought renewed joy to this much-loved coastal holiday cottage, thanks to designer Melissa Hutley's impeccable style

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## UNDERSTAIRS BAR

'The mirrored bar is a fun and unexpected addition and the colour it is painted in has a beautiful golden quality to it during the evening,' says Melissa.

Bar painted in Gamboge, Paint & Paper Library. Stairs painted in Malachite, Fired Earth

## DINING AREA

'The client wanted to keep the captain's chairs from his childhood,' says Melissa. 'They are sprayed in a crimson raspberry lacquer to pop against the green tones.'

Banquette upholstered in Christopher Farr's Lost and Found CF109-02, Hutley & Humm. Dining table, Sussex Antiques and Interiors



## HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY  
A fisherman's cottage

## ROOMS

Sitting room with dining area, kitchen, three bedrooms, two bathrooms

## LOCATION

Devon

**HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED WITH THIS PROJECT?**

The fisherman's cottage in Devon had been the childhood home of the client husband and when his parents decided to move, they decided to buy it as a holiday house to keep in the family. We'd already worked on the clients' London home and they asked us back to modernise the property. It's in an incredible location looking out across the sea. We find clients are braver and more open to exploring ideas when it's not their primary home, so we knew it would be a fun project to work on.

**WHAT WAS THE CLIENTS' BRIEF?** Our clients wanted to bring the old terrace back to

life with a completely new look and feel. Our objective was to bring in personality and create spaces that would comfortably accommodate them, their two teenage children and their friends on family holidays. We turned a narrow double bedroom into a cool bunk room with four beds and a TV for rainy days. On the open-plan ground floor, green tones connect the different spaces with colour pops and lighting to give them their own atmosphere during the evenings.

**WHERE DID YOU SEEK INSPIRATION?** The clients were thinking about blues and whites because of the coastal location, but even in summer, the air becomes

'The key to mixing pattern in the living area was sticking with one colour family in the same tone and upholstering larger furniture in plain fabrics'



**KITCHEN**

'The compact space allowed us to take a leap with a bold marble pattern for maximum impact,' says Melissa.

Arabescato marble worktop and splashback, Luxmoore & Co. Cupboards painted in Invisible Green; panelling painted in Celadon, both Edward Bulmer Natural Paint



**SITTING ROOM**

The clients' artwork slots into the doors of a bespoke TV cabinet. 'Now you see me, now you don't' TV unit; bobbin chairs upholstered in Pierre Frey's Opio in Prussiana, all Hutley & Humm. Ottoman upholstered in Sporty Stripes in Green, Ottoline. Artwork, from clients' collection



damp and cool in the evening so we thought this might feel too stark. We often begin with a statement textile and build a scheme around it. Here, we put together a warmer palette inspired by a Pierre Frey fabric with a butterfly and leaf print for the sitting room curtains. We loved the emerald, eau de Nil, shots of yellow, deep burgundy, raspberry and cobbled blue, which gave us so much colour to work with.

#### HOW DID THE SCHEME DEVELOP?

We pulled out the green from the fabric because we see it as a calm neutral that also brings warmth to an evening atmosphere. Mostly, Edward Bulmer's Celadon threads throughout the cottage,

providing a coastal feel that blends with the darker and richer green tones. Furniture draws on bold jewel colours – navy, aubergine, raspberry – while the golden yellow bar pops. Touches of the nautical are nuanced in the wood panelling, TV cabinet coral art, striped blinds and metallic wall lights.

#### WHAT DO THE CLIENTS THINK?

The clients put their trust in us to push them with colour and we must have hit the right notes as they say they get so much joy staying here. We're delighted, particularly as the property has been in the family for so long. – it's a new chapter for the cottage and everyone who comes here. 25

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'We wanted the cottage to feel like it belonged to its coastal environment, but also feel cosy when the curtains are pulled and the fire is lit'



#### MAIN BEDROOM

'For this calm space, we took colour inspiration from the beautiful headboard fabric,' says Melissa. Upholstery in Fern Stripe in Lime Green/Blue JM-931, Turnell & Gigon. Panelling painted in Green Blue, Farrow & Ball. Avalon bedside table in Ecru, Trove by Studio Duggan



#### EN SUITE

'We made a feature of the sloping ceiling with a bold wallpaper, which has a design inspired by a 19th-century French quilt,' says Melissa. The green colour is continued on the vanity unit. Vintage Bird Trail wallpaper in Pink/Green, Barneby Gates. Bespoke vanity painted in Breakfast Room Green, Farrow & Ball



#### BUNK ROOM

'We maximised space by building four bunks along the length of the narrow room,' says Melissa. Walls and bunks painted in Vert de Mer, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint. Roman blind made in Paolo Moschino's Melba Stripe in Teal, Hutley & Humm. Natural cane side table, Hadedra