



Curated choices

'We didn't want everything to be brand new for environmental reasons as well as our love of old things,' says Kate. 'When we did buy new, we chose things we'll love for a long time.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES Similar vintage teak shelving, £450, Pedlars. Vimle five-seater corner sofa in Grasbo Black-Blue, £1,025, Ikea

Love
KATE'S STYLE?

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to shop the look

'We made an eclectic mix work'

Kate and Ross Moerel mixed together second-hand, inherited, reused and new things to give their blank-canvas house unique style

Stylist's Note

'Large-scale pieces of furniture effectively define the zones in an open-plan space'

Ruth Corbett,
Houses Editor

Welcome to my home



Kate Moerel lives here with her husband, Ross, and their children, Josie, seven, and Finn, four. Kate is a marketing consultant and Ross works for a software company.

THE PROPERTY

A four-bed renovated chalet bungalow in Ringwood, Hampshire.

THE VALUE Bought for £385,000; now worth around £780,000.

“We kept the bones of the old bungalow but started again to create a house that suits us”



Take a quick tour...



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

Kate and Ross Moerel relocated from Brighton to the New Forest for a fresh start in the countryside. ‘We rented until the right project came along,’ says Kate. An ugly, dilapidated chalet bungalow on the road where they were renting turned out to be exactly what they were looking for. ‘The one-acre garden was amazing, filled with mature trees and plants,’ says Kate. ‘We couldn’t save the original bungalow, so we redesigned the property to suit us.’

The couple roughed out a design for their new home and an architect friend, Joe Moorhouse, produced drawings to rework the upper floor and add a rear extension. When the project began in July 2017, the family moved into a caravan they’d parked in the garden. That Christmas, they moved into their new, but undecorated, home. ‘Living in a caravan for months meant we learnt to live with less stuff. We had to manage in a small space with few belongings and although we now have space, we still don’t want to

clutter the rooms,’ says Kate. Anxious not to waste anything, the couple reused what they could from the bungalow, with Ross, who enjoys carpentry in his spare time, using salvaged wood for all the shelves in the house, as well as the dining table and bench. The couple scoured car-boot fairs, charity shops and second-hand websites for interesting furniture. ‘I set up alerts on eBay, Gumtree and Facebook Local to seek out mid-century furniture – I found some real bargains. When we did buy new, Instagram was helpful in sourcing cheaper alternatives to designer products, such as the bar stools from The Range and planters from Matalan.’

The couple had started bargain-hunting before the house was even finished. ‘We had to buy things as and when we found them. The bathroom basin was stored underneath the caravan for seven months! It’s lovely now to properly appreciate everything we’ve found, bought and made for the house. The journey has been an incredible experience for the whole family.’

Mixed sources

‘We combined vintage things, like the rattan shelving I found in a second-hand shop, with inherited family furniture and stuff from Ikea,’ says Kate.

BUY THE KEY PIECES Abberton three-seater sofa in Natural is similar, £749.99, Argos. Find similar shelving on eBay or Etsy. Nogu rattan sun mirror, £28, La Redoute, is a match. Daggruta cushion cover, £4.50, Ikea



Stylist's Note

‘Touches of blue in the sitting area visually connect this space to the adjoining kitchen-diner’

Nicky Phillips,
Decorating Editor



Extending the splashback up and topping it with a shelf creates a feature wall



'Our mid-century sideboards remind me of my mum and granny'

Salvaged table

'We're fond of the table and bench because Ross made them from wood we salvaged from the original bungalow,' says Kate. 'The egg chair was a second-hand find, which we removed from its frame and hung from the ceiling instead.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Tri table and bench, price on request, Design Shack Interiors, are a match. Rattan hanging chair, £320, Nordic House, is similar

Display wall

'I'll use anything visually engaging - I've used floristry wreath rings and prints on one wall and woven place mats on this one in the sitting area.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Ekenaset armchairs, from £170 each, Ikea. Persian rug, £34, HomeSense

“Using pot plants is a simple, cheap way to decorate and add colour”



Stylist's Note

'Kate and Ross's wood-look flooring and raw-wood furniture adds warmth to this blank white space'

Michela Colling, Style Editor



IDEAL HOME loves
Wood-effect tiles
Hard wearing, easy to keep clean and effective with underfloor heating, while having the texture of timber



'We debated the blue because it's so on trend, but went for it as we love the colour, rather than to make a fashion statement'



WHAT I'VE LEARNED

“It’s easy to become consumed by what you see on social media and lose sight of what you want your own home to look like. I learnt to trust my instincts and appreciate what other people were doing without copying it”



Arranging spaces

‘We drew chalk marks on the floor to plan the layout of our kitchen and brought in an old table to get a better handle on the scale. I agonised over it and did a 3D drawing, but wasn’t sure until the units were fitted!’

BUY THE KEY PIECES Sheraton units in Oxford Blue, £10,000, Sydenhams. Loko bar stools, £120 each, Wayfair, are this style. Try Foto pendant lights, from £10 each, Ikea

Stylist’s Note

‘The block-colour blue kitchen works to define the cooking area in this big, white, open-plan living space’

**Ruth Corbett,
Houses Editor**





Painted motifs

Josie's chest of drawers has been upcycled with a rainbow stripe and Ross used masking tape to paint a dramatic lightning bolt on Finn's bedroom wall.

BUY THE KEY PIECES Feature wall painted in Mazarine, £43.50 for 2.5L, Little Greene. Robots bedding, £24 for a single set, Dunelm, has a similar pattern to Finn's

Tile pattern

'Metro tiles are brilliant because they're cheap and can be laid in different ways,' says Kate. 'We went for a basketweave pattern with a bold tiled floor for maximum impact in the all-white bathroom. Then we made the tree stump side table from a tree we had to cut down in the back garden!'

BUY THE KEY PIECES Chalk Farm tiles, £19.95sq m, Walls and Floors. Vives Guell floor tiles, £29.25sq m, Tiles Direct



“Living in a caravan for months, we learnt how to live with less stuff”

Stylist's Note

'Kate's round, gold-framed mirror and plants soften the bathroom's hard lines and edges'

Nicky Phillips, Decorating Editor

Treasure display

In the main bedroom, shelves cut from old roof rafters bring an industrial touch to the calm space.

BUY THE KEY PIECES Similar handmade shelf, from £46, Eighty Five Carpentry at Etsy. Deacon bed, £599, Dreams

