

Home for good

With the coast and countryside within easy distance, pretty blues and greens suit Amanda and Oliver Wilson's forever home

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HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Double-fronted Victorian semi

ROOMS

Sitting room, reception room, family room, dining room, kitchen, five bedrooms, three bathrooms

LOCATION

East Sussex



no. 24

Amanda and Oliver Wilson live in the East Sussex town where Oliver, who works in finance, grew up. With no prior renovating experience, the couple didn't know where to start with the interiors of a grand but dated Victorian semi and sought guidance from interior architectural designer Emma Capron from Bean Interiors. 'Emma was great at prompting us with image boards to get us thinking,' says Amanda, a stay-at-home mum to daughters, Anna, eight, and Chloe, five. 'We soon realised our home was all about our love for living in this location – it's where Oliver and I met, we had our children and built our life. With the sea and the countryside around us, Emma suggested we take design cues from here.'

When the couple bought the property it had been empty for two years and needed a complete overhaul. Friends recommended Archangels Architects, who designed a loft conversion and replanned the ground floor. The laundry room was relocated to the first floor, allowing the downstairs rear utility to be rebuilt and

DINING ROOM

The bespoke dresser – in a style that matches with the adjoining kitchen cabinetry – houses crockery and cutlery for ease at mealtimes.

Dresser design and build, Bean Interiors and Square One Design Workshop. Seashell Strip Herringbone floor, Build My Home. Glimps extending dining table and Albert Kuip chairs, Zuiver

KITCHEN

The modern take on Shaker cabinetry offers a twist on the traditional, with blue and white reflecting the coastal location. The window-seat upholstery nods to beach deckchairs.

Kitchen design, Bean Interiors. Shaker kitchen in tulipwood, Square One Design Workshop. Seat fabric in Ian Mankin's Devon Stripe in Bluebell, Malthouse & Summer





extended to the side to create a large kitchen. 'We needed hand-holding the whole way and while talking to Emma, we discovered space planning was an important part of her strategy, too,' says Amanda. 'She worked closely with Archangels Architects, designing a hallway cloakroom and moving the wall of Anna's big bedroom to give Chloe more space.' The couple also wanted a large corner sofa in the family room at the front of the house but it was too narrow. 'We didn't want to retain the fireplace so Emma solved things by suggesting we take out the chimney breast,' Amanda continues.

Archangels Architects handled the couple's planning application, put together the tender documents and recommended three contractors – they chose Build My Home. 'We liked owner, Michael Ford, who was keen, personable and friendly with a quiet confidence,' says Amanda. 'He understood the design concept and the finished quality of his previous projects was really high.'

Meanwhile, Amanda and Oliver had been talking to Emma about the interiors. 'Style prompts helped brainstorm ideas and

FAMILY ROOM
'We discussed having a navy sofa but Emma felt we needed contrast with the blue kitchen so we went for pink,' says Amanda.

Jasper sofa in Linwood's Omega velvet in Pink, Love Your Home. Cushion in Harlequin's Kismet fabric in Canvas/Fluoro/Brights, Malthouse & Summer. Try Gallery Interior's Hudson set of two nesting coffee tables, Olivia's

CLOAKROOM
Pink accents continue here courtesy of a statement botanical wallpaper.

Linwood's Bamboo Garden wallpaper in Dusky Pink, Bean Interiors. Woodwork and panelling in Inchyra Blue; ceiling in Setting Plaster, both Farrow & Ball



SITTING ROOM
'Benjamin Moore's Smoke paint deepens or brightens depending on how the light falls,' says Amanda.

Walls and joinery in Smoke, Benjamin Moore. Bloomsbury sofa in Linen Sky; Aubrey footstool in Soft Blue velvet, both Love Your Home. Cedar table lamp, Heathfield & Co. Antique Victorian writing desk, Etsy

OFFICE
The look is inspired by a gentleman's club and the couple chose the yellow seat for a pop of colour. 'Oliver spotted the sofa in the showroom and immediately loved it,' says Amanda. Shelving design, Bean Interiors. Wall painted in Mouse's Back, Farrow & Ball. Colca wool rug, West Elm. Isaac bench in Dijon velvet, Love Your Home



Oliver and I unlocked what we couldn't previously articulate – our love for living in this location,' says Amanda.

A simplified base of neutral walls and floors runs throughout the house, infused with furnishings and decoration in tonal sky blues, sea and silvery blue-greens with pops of pink. Repeats in lighting, wood textures and fabrics draw the three floors together for a cohesive look. 'One of my favourite things is the Ian Mankin striped fabric that's like a fun deckchair print,' says Amanda. 'We've used it in the kitchen window seat cushions, the family room and the girls' bedrooms and although the pink, blue and mint colourways are not the same, I really like how the matching pattern co-ordinates the different rooms in the house.'

The finished house is definitely a forever home for the family. 'Our home is perfect – it looks exactly like the concepts. There's no way we could have achieved any of this without the expertise of the design and build team behind us.' 25

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MAIN BEDROOM
Silvery blue-green tones give the space a feeling of tranquillity. Percy weathered oak bedside table, Julian Chichester. Vivienne Clear table lamp with Moonlight silk lampshade, Heathfield & Co

Blind made with Osborne & Little's Butterfly Meadow, Malthouse & Summer. La Rochelle bath, The Cast Iron Bath Company; painted in Blue Ground, Farrow & Ball

Girls' Bathroom
The blind is in the same print as Chloe's wallpaper but in a green colourway to go with the bath.

ANNA'S BEDROOM
'Anna's bed configuration sleeps five and is perfect for sleepovers with their cousins,' says Amanda. Lifetime family bunk bed, Cuckooland

