

COASTAL FLOW

A tired 1960s house has been reconfigured internally to create a spacious, open-plan beachside holiday home where the view is visible from every angle.

WORDS: **LOUISE PARKIN** PHOTOGRAPHS: **CAMELLIA INTERIORS**

Ask any homeowner what is the greatest advantage of a house by the sea, and the answer will be a resounding chorus: the views. So when a family found a 1960s three-storey holiday home all but built into the cliffs in the coastal Cornish town of Looe, they hoped that the disappointing configuration of rooms could be changed to provide panoramic sea views from anywhere in the house. A long dark corridor spanned each floor, with rooms positioned next to each other in a linear layout. This was not only disjointed, it also meant that the view of the ocean was only visible once the occupants were inside the rooms.

Interior designer Elaine Skinner was commissioned to create a scheme that would allow the owners to entertain in large numbers, reveal the views, open out the interior, introduce more daylight and harmonise the flow of the living spaces

“The layout of the house was working against itself, so we have made larger spaces and improved the way the property flows.”

while still providing the privacy essential in a house that accommodates 12 people.

Elaine removed the internal corridors on the first floor where the main living areas are located. This is now one large space in the centre of the house and contains the kitchen/dining/lounge area, where views out to sea are available from every angle.

At both ends of the first floor, relaxing retreats have been created. On one end

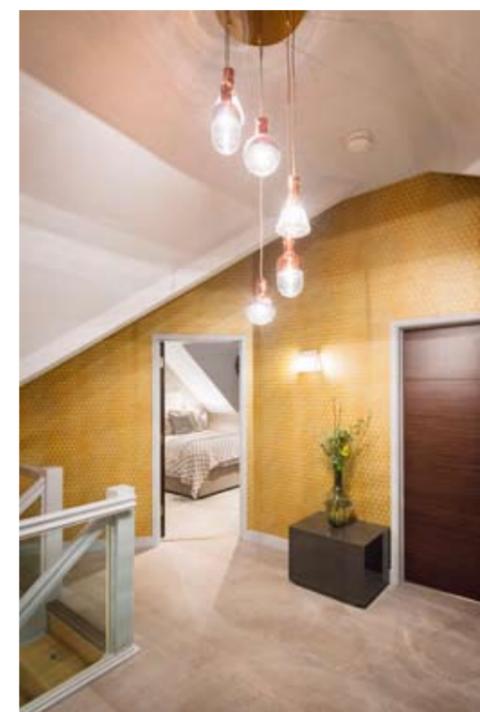
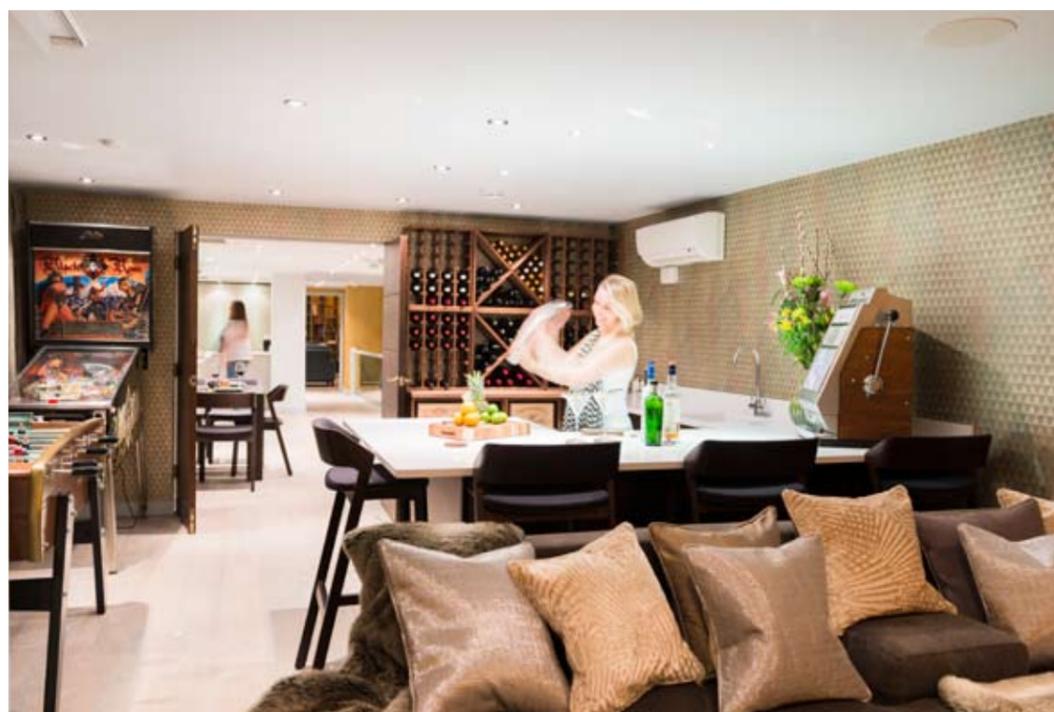


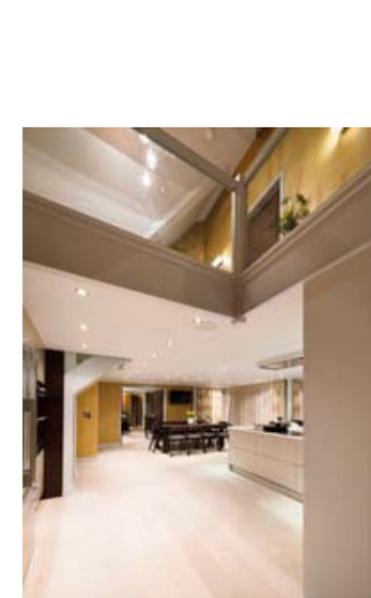
EXTERIOR

Around 70 per cent of the external façade is glazed, which provides maximum light and allows enjoyment of the view.

GAMES ROOM

A purpose-built bar and wine cooler in the games room make this a perfect place to unwind over a game of pool or table football.





**KITCHEN/
DINING/
LOUNGE**
Several walls were removed to create one large space, ideal for entertaining and family dining.



The kitchen/dining/lounge area has views out to sea from every angle.

is a games room containing a pool table, pinball machine, table football, a media space, purpose-built bar and a wine cooler, while at the other end is a peaceful library complete with wood-burning stove.

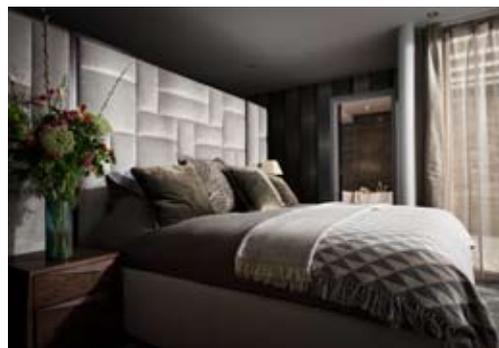
The ground floor corridor was also removed, and now comprises three generous en suite bedrooms and a sun room, all of which enjoy the coastal view. This floor is designed for the family to have a living area away from the hubbub of the main house, while the top floor is designed for guests. Here two en suite bedrooms have been created on either side, with a galleried landing offering sea views and a view to the living space below. The main entrance is also here, and previously opened up onto a bathroom door. By moving the bathroom and putting en suites in each room, the door now opens onto the expansive views.

The front façade of the house has an unusual shape, staggered back at right angles from the central point. The architecture makes for interesting shapes inside which required bespoke storage solutions and furniture. Elaine explains: "Taking out the corridors and walls meant losing the definition of each room, and so we needed to use furniture and storage to define each space. The challenge for a designer is to create harmony where before ➔



LIBRARY
Created to provide a retreat away from the main living areas, the library has a wood-burning stove and blue grey upholstery and decoration to mirror the sea's colour palette.





there was none. The layout of the house was working against itself, so we have made larger spaces and improved the way the property flows.”

Around 70 per cent of the front façade consists of glass, and this was originally framed in aluminium. These windows were replaced with wooden sliding doors and floor to ceiling glazing. The walls of glass act as a sun trap, allowing in warmth from the sun as well as the stunning views of the beach below and the sea beyond.

The colour palette of blue, sand and grey was chosen to reflect the shades of the surrounding rocks, sea and beach, with golden yellow tones flowing through the centre of the home from the top guest area, through the main living spaces to the sun room on the ground floor. Contemporary Italian furniture and additional bespoke furniture are made in a dark wenge wood, and internal doors are also made in the same material, tying it together for a harmonious home.

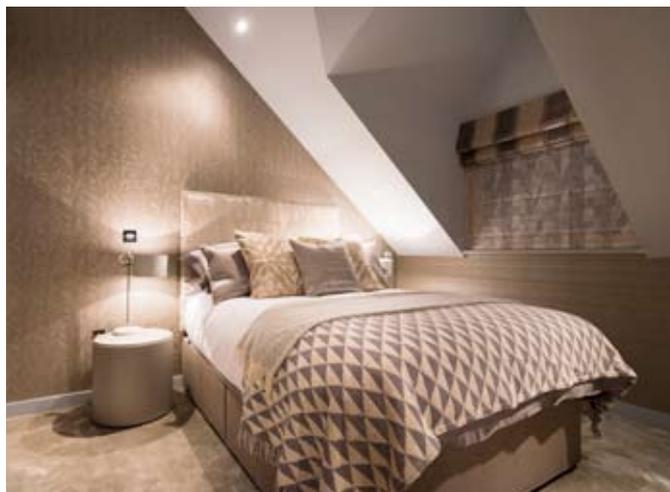
Outside the project is ongoing. The beach that belongs to the house is not yet accessible, and so Elaine and her team are creating a number of zoned gardens designed so that there is always somewhere to escape from the wind, and wide teak steps that will sweep all the way down to its own private beach.

BEDROOMS

There are five bedrooms all with very different designs using fabric from Zoffany and Villa Nova.

BATHROOM

Each of the five bedrooms has a luxurious en suite bathroom.



Camellia Interiors: camelliainteriors.co.uk

