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# COASTAL CLASSIC

Sara and Toby Newton revived an Arts and Crafts property to create a family seaside home

FEATURE ROS CONNELLY PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON

## SITTING ROOM

Original wooden features, such as the window frames, have been restored, instead of being painted.

Durbar Hall rug, £3,910, Rug Company (020 7229 5148, rugcompany.co.uk). Two **Dama** sofa units, covered in Sunset 11, £18,500, by Seven Solotti. **Mondrian** coffee table, £1,950, by Dora Living, both from Sipschi Furniture (01462 433130, sipschifurniture.co.uk). **Hortense Gooseberry** curtain fabric (FW012/02), £91 per metre, Designers Guild (020 7893 7400, designersguild.com)



■ **THE OWNERS** Sara, a housewife, and Toby Newton, a businessman  
 ■ **THEIR HOME** Listed Arts and Crafts property, built in 1928

■ **LOCATION** Suffolk

■ **ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, snug, conservatory, seven bedrooms (five en suite), bathroom

■ **PURCHASED** 2008

■ **PREVIOUS PROPERTY** "We also have a place in East Sussex," says Sara.



**HALL**  
The stunning table creates a dramatic first impression.  
**Aegean console table** in brushed nickel, £6,428. Villiers Brothers (01799 516680, villiersbrothers.co.uk)



**CONSERVATORY**

'For this space, we chose furniture that can be used both indoors and outdoors.'

**Marine table (T.01)**, £1,560; **Marine sofa (P1/2)**, £2,115, plus fabric, both The Design Net (020 7820 7771, thedesignnet.co.uk)



**KITCHEN**

The kitchen is full of light, thanks to pale paint and French windows.

**Bespoke units**, about £10,000, At Home; **Fuchsia S1 lights**, £120 each, Fios (020 7258 0600, fios.com); **Bespoke Median Geese mosaic**, about £6,000, Red Mosaic (00 34 678 174415, realmosaic.com); **Curtain fabric** by Nanking (2058/06), £66 per metre; **Fox Linton** (020 7368 7700, foxlinton.com)

**DINING ROOM**

The curtains suit the Arts and Crafts style of the building perfectly.

**bespoke dining table**, £18,000. At Home (01223 832429, [at-home-interiors.com](http://at-home-interiors.com)). **Chairs**, from £510 each, plus fabric, Whitehead Designs (0115 972 5056, [whiteheaddesigns.com](http://whiteheaddesigns.com)). **Curtain fabric**, Persian Tulp in Emerald (ZVECO1004), £120 per metre, zoffany (0844 543 4600, [zoffany.com](http://zoffany.com))

### DECORATING TIP 'MAKE THE MOST OF ANY PERIOD FEATURES – WE RESTORED THE ORIGINAL NARROW OAK FLOORBOARDS IN THE DINING ROOM'



Sara and Toby Newton were searching for a contemporary seaside home when they came across this impressive Arts and Crafts property in Suffolk. 'We love this part of the country, particularly the coastline,

and when we saw this place, we knew it would be perfect for all the family to use, as and when they wanted,' says Sara.

Their delight with the house was hardly surprising – it sits majestically within beautifully manicured gardens. It boasts a large piece of land with an outdoor swimming pool and pool house, stunning views to the sea and even its own private path to the beach. 'When we bought the property in 2008, it was in a good state of repair, but a little dated,' recalls Sara. 'Also, we wanted to reconfigure a couple of the spaces to make them more user friendly, which meant requesting planning permission.'

Once this had been granted, they were able to tackle the first step of their work. 'We had already thought of removing a

dividing wall in the kitchen to open it up into a single large room with a breakfast area at one end,' says Sara. 'But to avoid doing anything we might regret, we enlisted the help of designer Hugh Jamieson. He came to have a look, made some recommendations, and we really felt we shared the same vision. For instance, he agreed with us that opening up the kitchen was a good idea.

'Hugh also suggested we remove one of the walls upstairs as well, to give the house a better sense of proportion. It meant sacrificing another room but, as a result, we now have a lovely big master bedroom with a double-aspect en suite. We then turned the existing, small bathroom into a walk-in wardrobe, which is absolutely wonderful and feels like a real luxury,' says Sara.

Once the major structural changes had been made, Sara and Toby turned their attention to the interior decor. 'Although the house is on the coast, we felt it was too big for a seaside theme throughout,' says Sara. Instead, they chose a classic contemporary look. 'Thanks to the renovations, the kitchen and bedroom were now lovely and light, but for the rest of house we were keen to retain its Arts and Crafts character,' says Sara. 'Most of the work involved restoring the woodwork, panelling and original doors, which meant some heavy-duty cleaning and French polishing. ▶



**MASTER BEDROOM**

There's a hidden TV at the foot of the bed!

Bespoke bed, \$12,000, At Home (01223 832429, [at-home-imitations.com](http://at-home-imitations.com)). Brighton bedside tables, \$931 each, Julian Chichester (020 7622 9928, [julianchichester.com](http://julianchichester.com))



but it was well worth all the effort in the end,' she says. 'Additions we made to the house included rewiring, heating and hearths.'

When it came to choosing colours and fabrics, Hugh presented his scheme to the couple and recalls: 'They went along with pretty much everything I suggested – they really were the perfect clients.' One of his ideas was to use the dramatic Zoffany fabric in the dining room. 'I had seen this some time before and completely fell in love with it, but stored the idea away in my memory bank to use another time – this dining room was perfect for it,' says Hugh.

Also on the ground floor, there is a cosy snug and a beautiful conservatory. Sara and Toby needed to get planning permission for the row of French windows they installed along the back of the house, but the couple now have pretty much uninterrupted views of the garden from the kitchen, dining room and conservatory.

The house was finished last year and Sara is delighted with the results. 'We love it here – the style of the property, the fabulous views, the location, everything. And I can honestly say that were we to start again from scratch, we wouldn't do anything differently.' **1**

**MASTER EN SUITE**

The two windows let plenty of natural light in.

Lavasca Mini bath, \$7,000, Via Arkadia (020 7351 7057, [via-arkadia.co.uk](http://via-arkadia.co.uk)). Giacosa blind fabric (F1523/05), \$70 per metre, Designers Guild (020 7893 7400, [designersguild.com](http://designersguild.com))

**DRESSING ROOM**

Structural renovations allowed space for this.

Wardrobe, \$6,000, At Home. Favola mirror (2685.252), \$695, by Deknudt at Enid Huff Gallery (01592 643227, [enidhuffgallery.com](http://enidhuffgallery.com))

**WALK-IN-WARDROBES**

Sara and Toby's wardrobe is both luxurious and practical. Here are a few pointers to help you achieve a similar space:

- 'One option is to build an area across the bedroom, from wall to wall, with concealed doors for a sort of Namia experience. This gives you a dedicated space behind it for dressing and storing, keeping the bedroom clutter-free. It also provides the room exact proportion by squaring it up.' Richard Baker, Director, Richard Baker Furniture (020 8336 1777, [richardbakerfurniture.co.uk](http://richardbakerfurniture.co.uk))
- 'Include pull-down hanging rails, shoe carousels and as many shelves as you require to create a tidy and organised space (see below) that is designed to suit your lifestyle.' Gary Hunt, Bedroom Planning Expert, Sharps (0800 988 7768, [sharps.co.uk](http://sharps.co.uk))



- 'Use all available space in your walk-in-wardrobe by hanging shorter clothes such as tops above drawers. Include bespoke tinker drawers (shown below) and jewellery hooks.' Simon Meyrick, Designer, Neville Johnson (0161 873 8333, [nevillejohnson.co.uk](http://nevillejohnson.co.uk))

