

# old MEETS NEW

A VICTORIAN HOUSE GETS A SYMPATHETIC STONE  
EXTENSION AND A CLEAN, MODERN INTERIOR

Words by **Alice Westgate**,

photographs by **Chris Potter**

"You can barely see where the old house ends and the new extension begins," says Hayley Golly, looking at the exterior of her home near Newquay. "The architects were brilliant and the stonemason was a genius." There are touches of genius all over this house, which Hayley shares with her husband Bob and their two daughters. Vintage furniture and lighting merge seamlessly with modern art and contemporary furniture, and, despite its old shell, the interior is a warm and practical space designed with a young family very much in mind.

Writer Hayley, and Bob, who works in the music industry, moved here in 2005. "Half the house was an old Victorian manor built in 1886 for the unmarried daughter of the landowner," explains Hayley. "The other half was an unsympathetic addition dating from the 1970s."

They lived in it for four years before deciding they needed more space: "We opted to stay and extend the house rather than look elsewhere. We felt very settled here because it is a great community," she adds.

The family decamped to a nearby holiday chalet for eight months while the builders, Dune Construction, brought to life

a clever design by Wadebridge architects Atelier 3. They planned that the new wing, which was to house a living room, master bedroom and en suite bathroom, should mirror the old part of the house for continuity's sake, with all its walls built from reclaimed stone. "It was important for that aspect of the build to be completely sympathetic to the original," says Hayley.

Inside, meanwhile, the couple chose a completely different look: "We wanted the interior to feel clean and modern," says Hayley. "We moved the staircase, made the old sitting room into an entrance hall and extended the kitchen, adding a conservatory as a playroom. We even excavated a creepy and unpleasant cellar and made it into an underground cinema room. Then the whole place was replastered, re-plumbed and rewired. Nothing is the same; even the windows are new."

They called on the expertise of Steve Coombe, of Truro-based interior designers 3idog, to give the space some ➔







panache. "I came on board to look at interiors," says Steve, "but also to make sure certain important elements were in place from an early stage. Decoration can change over time, but you have to get all the structural things right from the outset. In this case, we were able to pick up on key things straightaway, such as lighting and the plans for the bathrooms and kitchen." The latter – a simple but effective combination of white cupboards with oak and granite worktops – was designed by Falmouth-based ChristianPaul and made by Rozen Furniture of Helston.

"The whole project was a collaboration," says Steve. "Everything was co-designed with the client; I merely gave them some options along the way."

A huge fan of Pinterest, Hayley was not short of ideas and had collected numerous pictures of interiors that inspired her: "I knew the kind of look I wanted, but Steve helped us bring it to life," she says. "He suggested lots of new things, too, such as the highly patterned floor tiles from Fired Earth that we used in the entrance hall and the lighting installation that hangs above them." These make a fabulous statement as soon as you set foot in the house.

Another part of Steve's role was to incorporate several pieces of existing furniture into the new design. "Much of Hayley and Bob's furniture was significant as it had been bought in a certain place or at a certain time in their lives," says Steve. "I felt it was important not to lose those connections."

The Gollys' dark oak dining table, for example, was revived by sanding its top and painting its legs to give it a paler, more coastal style. "Steve teamed it with designer chairs by Verner Panton, and they all look great together," says Hayley.

The bar stools in the kitchen also had a makeover: "They had been outside for years when we acquired them, and were in a very sorry state," remembers Hayley. "Steve suggested powder-coating them in a range of bright colours and now they are amazing."

Also at Steve's suggestion, sofas were recovered and curtains were repositioned. "Simple, inexpensive touches made such a difference," says Hayley. "Better still, Steve's ideas were supremely practical and child-friendly, with no glass coffee tables anywhere in sight."

Though most walls are white – another practical consideration – strong colour does crop up, mainly via pieces of artwork that were selected by Art Eye, a creative consultancy formed by Jen Larkin and specialising in bringing the right piece of artwork to any location. "Jen came up with some really brilliant suggestions, and knew instantly what pieces would work well in which settings," says Steve. "Her dramatic oil painting is perfect for the sitting room, while bright relief prints by Henry Garfit enliven several white walls."

Best of all, there is still lots of scope to add more furniture, decorative objects and artwork, as the Gollys see fit. "No home should ever be finished," says Steve. "Houses should evolve slowly over time, so we deliberately left areas for the family to make their own. I hope that Hayley, Bob and the children will all love using the spaces we have created and will continue to develop them in the years to come."

#### ADDRESS BOOK

- ▶ 3idog, 01872 264899, [www.3idog.co.uk](http://www.3idog.co.uk)
- ▶ Art Eye, 01872 858650, [www.arteye.co.uk](http://www.arteye.co.uk)
- ▶ Atelier 3, 01208 895536, [www.atelier3.co.uk](http://www.atelier3.co.uk)
- ▶ ChristianPaul, 01326 211843, [www.christianpaul.co.uk](http://www.christianpaul.co.uk)
- ▶ Dune Construction, 01637 872226, [www.duneltd.co.uk](http://www.duneltd.co.uk)
- ▶ Rozen Furniture, 01326 290100, [www.rozenfurniture.com](http://www.rozenfurniture.com)
- ▶ Art Eye Consultancy and 3idog Architectural Interior Design are members of The Cornwall Design Guild, which was set up to promote local design expertise. For more details, visit [www.thecornwalldesignguild.co.uk](http://www.thecornwalldesignguild.co.uk).



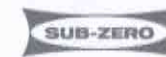
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