

Holidays in Finland inspired Bronwen's love of Scandinavian design and a pared-back colour palette. The **painting** is by artist Pauline Devaney.

A GOOD MOVE

After a clever refurb of a house she almost dismissed, Bronwen Wright created her perfect home, complete with a Scandinavian-inspired, deceptively spacious interior

Words: **Amelia Thorpe** Photography: **Paul Craig**



One look at a 1970s house in Lewes, East Sussex with its dated, gloomy interior and personal trainer Bronwen Wright knew she *didn't* want it *at all*. "I had my heart set on another property a few streets away," she recalls. "That house had just been renovated and, as I was recently separated, I wanted to move

into a home that was finished as I didn't want any extra stress in my life."

But Bronwen's architect brother, Angus Eitel of Fiftyeight Architecture + Interiors, had other ideas. He gently pointed out that perhaps she might gain more space for her money in the very property she didn't want, making a better solution for life with her sons Cameron, 15, and Max, 13. Angus persuaded Bronwen to reconsider the three-bedroom house – which was also under budget – because of its potential for a loft extension. "He made me realise that, if I went for this cheaper house, I could spend £125,000 on it and create a home to my taste and to really work for me and my boys," Bronwen says. Angus also recommended Clare Pascoe at Pascoe Interiors to design the kitchen and interiors, and together the three worked through the complete top-to-toe refurb. Here, they tell us how the plans came together...

Angus, what was your brief from Bronwen?

The two main aspects were to create an open-plan ground floor to maximise >

above A slimline dishwasher, boiling-water tank for the Quaker **tap**, tumble dryer and pull-out waste bin are all built in underneath the **sink**, from Blanco, while shallow wall units above provide storage. Tall cabinets to the left, house ovens and conceal the boiler as well as the washing machine. **Cabinetry, worktops, and splashback**. Roundhouse.

The FACTS

Who? Bronwen Wright with her sons Cameron, 15, and Max, 13

What? Total renovation of a 1970s house including knocking through and a loft conversion

Where? Lewes, East Sussex

Cost? £125,000

Time? Four months



The new **sliding doors**, from Window Wise, frame the spectacular views of the Downs. **Flooring**, Karndean.



A built-under **fridge and freezer**, from Liebherr, flank utensil and pan drawers on the working side of the island. **Hob and ovens**, Siemens; **extractor**, Westin.

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Dark blue tall cupboards offer plenty of storage, with matt black handles chosen to match the light fittings above the island. **Construction**, D Turner Builders; **sofa**, for similar, try Loaf; **flooring**, Karndean.

the sense of light and space in the living area, and to convert the loft into a master bedroom and ensuite. The existing ground floor was a series of small rooms with confusing circulation, plus an old, tired conservatory and an overgrown garden, so the view at the rear was really poor.

How did you plan the ground floor?

I took out an existing conservatory and removed internal walls between the former living room, dining room and kitchen, putting in new joists and full-height sliding glass doors across the entire rear of house. This flooded the space with natural light and opened it up to the beautiful views of the Downs.

Clare, tell us how you decided on the layout and kitchen?

The layout has a natural sense of flow between indoors and out, and includes an island as the hub of the kitchen zone. A simple run of cabinets plus the island had to house all the appliances, as well as the boiler, washing machine, and tumble dryer, so there was little room left for food and crockery storage. For this reason, I designed a full-height bank of cabinets in the living area, painting them in a dark blue. This deep colour ‘absorbs’ the cabinets, reducing

their dominance, and differentiates the living area from the main kitchen. The whole look is clean lined, crisp and practical, in keeping with Bronwen’s taste for Scandinavian-inspired design and her love for simple, uncluttered beauty.

Bronwen, how did you want the master bedroom to look?

Luckily, friends nearby put me and the boys up in their annexe while the building work was being carried out, but after months of living on top of each other, I was craving my own space. Thankfully, the loft was large enough to make a generous bedroom and ensuite for me, and I deliberately kept the look simple to enhance its feel as my retreat. Angus suggested building cost-effective plywood shelves under the eaves to provide storage, making a much better solution than bulky built-in cupboards, which would have cramped the room.

And finally, what about the bathrooms?

I went for simple, white wall-hung fittings to increase the sense of space and used the same tiles in both bathrooms to save cost, but Angus did persuade me to tile the wall in my shower in pink mosaics. I’m not usually a fan of girly colours, but Angus was right again – it gives it a subtle lift, which I love. >



The feature wall is filled in blush pink Tessellate hexagonal mosaic tiles, for similar, try Tiles Direct.



Bronwen chose a mix of greys to dress her low-height bed. Shelves make good use of the awkwardly-shaped space underneath the eaves. **Roof window**, for similar, try Velux.



EDITOR'S PICK

The PLANS

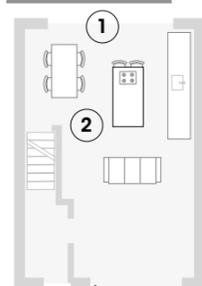
Knocking through walls and converting the loft allowed Bronwen to create a family home with a spacious feel.

1 Glazing Stretching doors across the whole rear of the house allows more natural light in and opens up the view.

2 Layout Knocking down walls created an open-plan space complete with kitchen, dining and living areas.

3 Ensuite Although the loft space was compact, there was enough floor area for a private bathroom.

GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



SOURCEBOOK

Architect Fiftypointeight Architecture + Interiors fiftypointeight.co.uk

Interior design Pascoe Interiors pascoeinteriors.com

Construction D Turner Builders 07580 226621
Kitchen Roundhouse 020 7297 6220 roundhousedesign.com

Appliances Oven, combination microwave, induction hob, dishwasher, Siemens 0344 892 899 siemens-

home.bsh-group.com; Extractor, Westin 01484 421585 westin.co.uk; Fridge and freezer, Liebherr 03330 147888 home.liebherr.com; Wine storage unit, Caple 0117 938 1900 caple.co.uk

Sink Blanco 01923 635200 blanco.com

Tap Quooker 0345 8333 555 quooker.co.uk
For full stockist information, see page 142 **KBB**



The basin, from the Concept Air range designed by Studio Levien, has finer edges and a lighter look, ideal for smaller rooms.



The simple bedside cabinet is by Danish designer Simon Legald.

design edit

- 1 Mingsu large pendant, £307, Skandium. skandium.com
- 2 Anderson extending dining table, £450, Next. next.co.uk
- 3 Holden cotton knit cushion, £25, Made. made.com
- 4 Hay AAS32 barstool, £229, Utility Design. utilitydesign.co.uk
- 5 Fusion Round boiling-water tap, £1300, Quooker. quooker.co.uk
- 6 Crypto Hexagon mosaic tiles, £197 per sq m, Original Style. originalstyle.com **KBB**