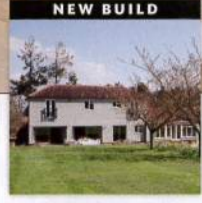




SITTING ROOM
The coffee table was cut from an oak tree and matches the dining table.
Bespoke coffee table, price on request, Sharewood Designs. Vintage Bollywood posters, from £25, Kananda. The house is available to rent. Email thewestring@gmail.com



NEW BUILD

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY 1920s bungalow with later extensions

LOCATION Suffolk

ROOMS Hall, sitting room/ kitchen/diner, snug, conservatory, utility room, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, cloakroom

PURCHASED 2009

PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We lived in a Victorian house in north London and prior to that on the East Coast of the United States,' says Lyndsay.

Culture CLUB

International influences, glorious colour and quirky accessories have brought Lyndsay Griffiths and Marc Sands' weekend retreat to life

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN | PHOTOGRAPHY ROB SANDERSON



DINING AREA
This light-filled space makes the most of the garden views. Delta leather dining chairs, £89 each, John Lewis, are similar



HALL
Splashes of colour create a striking first impression. White sideboard, £700, Habitat

When Lyndsay Griffiths and Marc Sands went in search of a weekend retreat, they were looking for a different way of living. 'We wanted a contrast to our tall, thin Victorian terraced house in London,' says Lyndsay. 'Also because we had both lived in the States we had in mind their open, light-filled living spaces.'

The house the couple eventually bought near the Suffolk coast has given them the chance to experience that way

of living again, and it's the perfect place for them to relax at weekends and during the holidays. However, after they'd first viewed the house, friends told them that the layout was too strange, the property was too large, and the façade too unattractive. But with active teenage boys, Aldo, 17, and Emil, 14, the idea of a spacious holiday home with a large garden was irresistible, especially with exquisite beaches and chic seaside towns just a short hop away. 'Suffolk is an easy escape from north London where we live during ▶

SUFFOLK BUNGALOW | 25BH



KITCHEN
Guests tend to gather around the central island at weekend parties. Tolix bar stools, £255 each, Graham and Green. Joseph Joseph sells a similar set of colourful mixing bowls, £39



SNUG
The red wall adds warmth to this cosy room. Feature wall painted in Atomic Red absolute matt emulsion, £32.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene



DESIGN TIP 'This house allowed us to mix treasures collected on our travels with modern classics. I don't really like a carefully matched look'

MASTER BEDROOM
A mix of vibrant colours and ethnic style lend a quirky look. Cushions, £75 each, Graham and Green. Anthropologie has colourful bedcovers from £48

the week,' says Lyndsay, 'and although the front of this house did have fairly ugly red brick, we knew that it would be possible to conceal it under timeless American clapboard.'

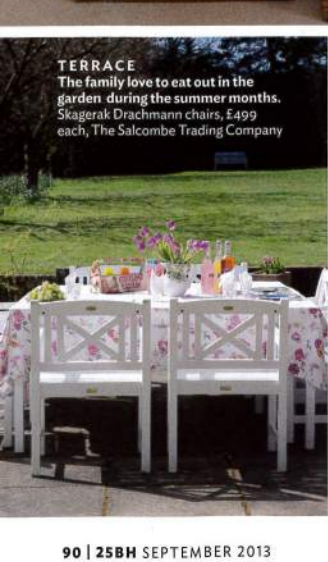
NEW ORDER
Having worked out how they wanted to reconfigure the house, the couple found a local firm, Charles Clarke, to put their plans into action. This involved pulling down the walls of four small rooms to form one big living space with a top-of-the-range Italian kitchen at the heart of their new home. Double doors were installed between the snug and the main living room to allow the space to flow better and to maximise light. With cosy winter weekends in mind, the couple chose two new woodburning stoves to replace the faux-Victorian fireplaces.

The previous owners of the property had been keen gardeners, and Lyndsay wanted to make the most of the outdoor space with its ornamental cherry trees, mature flower beds and manicured lawn. 'The garden is such a star turn, so we made sure most of the living spaces are orientated around it,' she says.

When it came to furnishing the new house, Lyndsay was excited about being able to start from scratch. As there was no furniture to accommodate, they started collecting, mostly mid-century and contemporary classics. Ercol and G Plan pieces, sit alongside modern leather and bespoke wood furniture.

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL
As Marc and Lyndsay have worked overseas, the house has a distinctive international flavour. 'We have collected avidly from all over the world,' says Lyndsay pointing to a line of Nigerian head dresses in the hall. Expressing her love of exuberant colours, she has picked out several feature walls in bright colours, red in the hall and terracotta in the snug.

The love affair with colour has influenced their choice of paintings and accessories; American flags decorate one bedroom and quirky textiles add vitality in other places. 'It's all part of the fun of doing up a weekend house,' smiles Lyndsay. And, as the guest book proves, they have created a perfect retreat that their friends can't wait to come back to. 55



TERRACE
The family love to eat out in the garden during the summer months. Skagerak Drachmann chairs, £499 each, The Salcombe Trading Company



BATHROOM
This bright poster is a humorous touch. Tate Give Picasso a Chance poster, £30, Dorothy