

NEW LOOK!

25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

More real homes than any other magazine!

See inside
166 real rooms
Packed with inspirational ideas

VISIT GORGEOUS
HOMES ABROAD

Belgian château
Swedish retreat
Bermudan bungalow

THE DECORATING
STORIES BEHIND...
Flats, farmhouses
and family homes

PLUS

- Restored vicarage
- Country cottage
- Riverside house

'We wanted to create
a soft and pretty home'

The transformation of this Victorian terrace

March 2003

£2.90



STYLE FROM... BERMUDA

Words: Gøril Abelvik Photos: Di Lewis

Barbara and Chris Fullerton's ocean-side cottage in Bermuda is an idyllic backdrop for their collection of family heirlooms

Paradise found

THE PROPERTY

Location Southampton Parish, Bermuda
Building Colonial cottage, built in the 1970s
Rooms Living room, dining room, study, kitchen, 4 bedrooms (1 en suite), bathroom
Moved in 1987





THE OWNERS

Barbara and Chris Fullerton

Occupations

Barbara works with special needs children on a riding for the disabled project and Chris is a reinsurance executive

Favourite room

'The view from the kitchen window makes it the best place in the world to wash up,' says Barbara. 'I really love watching the blue whales migrating during March and April.'



1 & 2 The wooden parquet floor, colonial window shutters and beamed ceiling are all traditional features in Bermudan cottages. For tartan upholstery fabric, like that on the sofas, try Tartan Time (01361 810384)



Barbara and Chris Fullerton's beautiful cottage has a stepped roof in the local 'cake-icing' style, pale walls, a cedarwood stable-style front door and plantation shutters. Surrounding the couple's home, there is a prize-winning garden planted with 48 varieties of roses. 'It's amazing they have grown so well really, considering our closest neighbour is the Atlantic Ocean!' says Barbara.

When the couple moved into the property over 15 years ago, they were keen to make the most of the available space. So they called on Barbara's friend, interior designer Pattie

Crouch, for help. 'Barbara wanted to create more space for the family, which includes their three children, Marc, now 22, Matt, 20, and Melanie, 16, plus a black cat called Kitty,' says Pattie. 'As building restrictions wouldn't allow us to expand outwards, we had to open up the interior and do some creative space planning.'

Pattie suggested switching the dining room and kitchen around and opening the whole space up. She then created a bay of windows on the south wall where the dining room was originally situated. The kitchen is now a practical space decorated in white with pretty floral



3 With light streaming in from three sides and a fabulous view from the windows, the kitchen is the heart of the house. The white-painted units were made by local carpenters. For similar rustic floor tiles, try Stoneware (0116 223 2883)



4 The dining room table is an old Dutch piece, as are the rush-seated chairs. The floral chintz curtains were bought locally. For a similar fabric, try Osterley by Zoffany (020 7349 0043)



fabrics. The mini island has been decorated with green tiles and the stools at the breakfast bar are stained the same shade.

There was a lot of 'historical luggage' from Barbara's ancestors to display and incorporate into the renovation – she is a descendant of Hezekiah Frith, a legendary 17th-century privateer, whose importance to the island of Bermuda is such that his life story is required history-book reading on the island. A lot of thought has gone into displaying these precious pieces. The living room required an air of elegance to house the heirlooms, yet it had ▷

1 Cool tones of grey and white, and a large mirror above the sink, create the illusion of space in the main bathroom. The worktop is made from granite

2 The beautiful wooden bed and camphor chest in the master bedroom are family heirlooms. For a similar style bed, try Toute-bagai (020 7610 6868)



Barbara and Chris's style secrets

LIVING ROOM

Fabric blinds have been teamed with painted shutters for a colonial look. For a wide selection of plantation shutters and other window treatments, try Betta Blinds (01636 700654)



KITCHEN

Picture tiles add interest to a simply decorated kitchen. We like the 12-tile tree panel from the Natural History range at Fired Earth, priced at £225 per tile. For details, call 01295 814315.



BEDROOM

The dark wood chest at the end of the Barbara and Chris's bed is perfect for storing bed linen or clothes. If you would like a similar piece in your bedroom, try Lombok (020 7736 5171).



'Burgundy and green aren't typical of Bermuda – the cottage has more of a Scottish feel'

to be kept practical for the family's casual lifestyle. Although the main walls have been painted white, one is in forest green. The ragged finish works well with the exposed beams in the ceiling and the wooden shutters. 'The colours we have used, burgundy and green, aren't typical of Bermuda,' says Pattie. 'The cottage has more of a Scottish feel.' The fireplace and tartan sofas reinforce the theme. White corner units with glass shelves allow the integral lights to glow at night, highlighting the glass, crystal and silver inside.

The guest bedrooms and bathroom are grouped at one end of the cottage, and are connected by a corridor that opens up into a study and leads to the master bedroom at the other end. 'In Barbara and Chris's bedroom,

the windows and patio doors open on to a pool deck, and this caused a problem,' explains Pattie. 'The antique bed had to be positioned on the same wall as the main windows and doors, which made the scheme look too fragmented. The solution was a pelmet covered in trellis-patterned curtain fabric and fitted along the length of the wall. With integral lighting, it ties the look together nicely.'

With Bermuda's subtropical climate, the Fullertons spend a lot of time outside. 'The pool has adjacent decking and a large lawn area that faces the ocean, providing lots of space for relaxing and entertaining,' says Barbara. 'It's a charming spot. We don't need to bother with potpourri in the bedrooms during flowering times – we just open the window.' **BH**