

Coast

March Issue

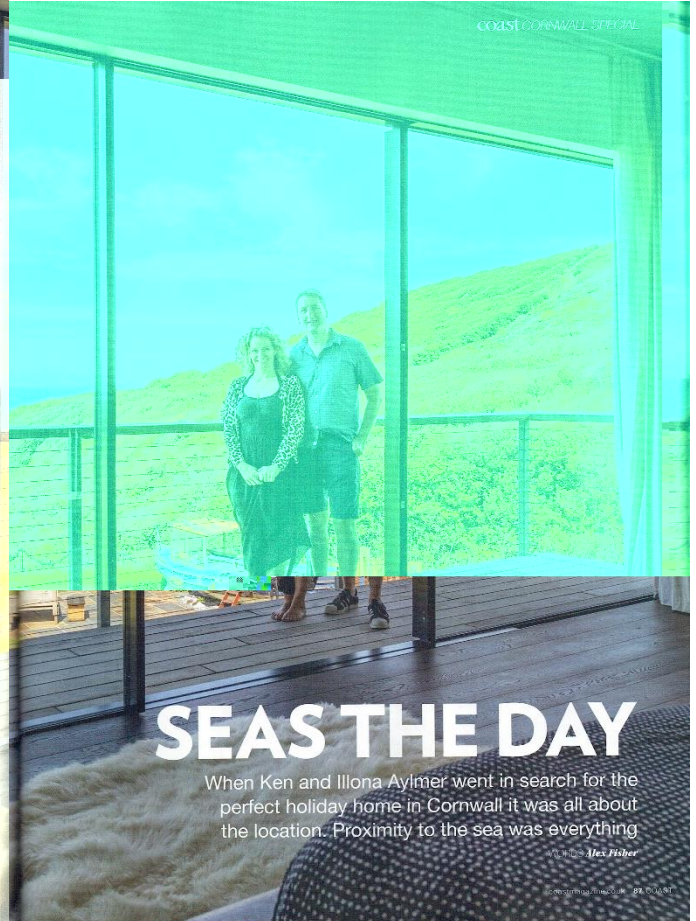
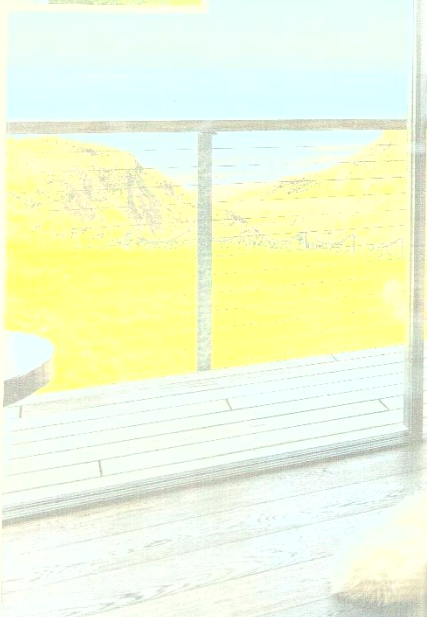
coast CORNWALL SPECIAL



Ken and Illona

The most important thing when it comes to building a holiday home is the location. Ken and Illona wanted a house that was close to the sea, but also had a view of the sea. They found the perfect spot in a beautiful location, and they built the house to suit their needs.

When the couple came to the house, they found it was a bit of a mess. But they loved the location, so they decided to build a new house. They wanted a house that was modern, but also had a nautical theme. They wanted a house that was close to the sea, but also had a view of the sea. They found the perfect spot in a beautiful location, and they built the house to suit their needs.



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SEAS THE DAY

When Ken and Illona Ayler went in search for the perfect holiday home in Cornwall it was all about the location. Proximity to the sea was everything

by Alex Fisher

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CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Ken and Illona wanted a dining room table big enough to seat all of the family at Christmas; the big windows in the atrium mean the area is heated naturally by the sun; the couple collected items from junk yards and antique sales around Cornwall; the living room can be separated from the dining room and kitchen with sliding doors; a subtle nautical theme runs throughout the house



'The DESIGN of the NEW property HAD TO REVOLVE around the SEA VIEWS'



was that when as I filled the kettle to make tea in the morning, I could look out to sea. Whether it was raining, or the water was crystal clear or there were amazing waves, it was always mesmerising. I was very protective about my moment in time, she laughs. 'I didn't want my back to the sea when I was boiling the kettle. The design of the new property had to revolve around the sea views.'

CAPTURING THE COAST

Ken agrees: 'The entire design was about maximising the views. I worked with a great firm of architects, Trewin Design, in Holworthy, Devon. We included floor-to-ceiling windows on both storeys, and a long balcony on the first floor. We also landscaped the garden - which is accessed via the ground floor - as there used to be a lot of steps, making the space less usable, and we knew we'd want to spend as much time as possible outdoors. We even added a northline

can see the sea from our bath.' The resulting property is a stunning modern construction of wood and glass that nestles comfortably in the green valley overlooking Winton Mouth. The view is enhanced by an old fishing boat that was used in Luke Jerram's art installation 'Withdrawn' in Leigh Woods in Bristol and re-purposed for children to play on in the garden, and a wood-fired hot tub, that, of course, looks out to sea. The environmental aspects were important to the couple and Ken, an eco-developer, made sure that the new house had an excellent energy rating by added insulation and a mechanical heat recovery system.

FUTURE-PROOFING

'We knew that we wanted somewhere that would accommodate our family for the rest of our lives,' says Ken. 'I have family connections in Cornwall and we love it here. To that end, we made sure the design would create when the children were older.'



TOP The master bedroom has its own kitchenette, bathroom and table and chairs BELOW A disused fishing boat from an art installation has become a place for the children to play



I found an artist who wanted to turn the summer into a day-long make-over. She had a lot of ideas for the bedrooms. For the master bedroom, she wanted to use a disused fishing boat from an art installation. The children had made the idea of a secret room, and she had a plan to turn it into a secret room.

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HOLIDAY HOME HEAVEN

Now the whole family feel like they have their perfect holiday home. 'I'm so glad we're able to give our children a taste of what I had,' says Ilona. 'As a child we lived deep in the country and would spend all our summers by the sea. Our children are often reluctant to get outdoors, but somehow when we are at Barford, whatever the weather, a step out of the door is a step in the right direction, and walking' ➔➔



CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE The other double bedrooms open out onto a balcony that looks out to sea; all of the other double bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms as the couple wanted to make sure the house would work for when the children were older or when the family has guests



the dog (and the children, of course) on the beach is one of life's simplest and best pleasures.

For Ken, it's the chance to go walking and body-boarding that he loves. 'There are the most amazing cliffs around here, and it's a great place to go walking and body-boarding with the kids at Widemouth Bay, along the coast. You feel a wonderful connection to the land as well as the sea, here. We always visit Warren's Butchers in Launceston, one of the best butchers in the country, and the Wet Fish Shop at Widemouth Bay is fantastic. The first time I went in there they were selling sea bass and it looked so fresh I asked the fishmonger when it was caught. He looked at his watch, then looked me and said, "bout an hour-and-half ago". It was line-caught in the bay that day. You just don't get that in the city.

Barford Beach House is available to rent when the Aylmes are not staying there. For details, go to tregullandandco.co.uk



Ken and Ilona's favourite things to do in Cornwall

FALL TURF AND

Warren's in Launceston (philipwarrenbutchers.co.uk) for meat and a visit to the Beach House Wet Fish Shop in Widemouth. Warren's is an amazing butcher's with boards saying which local farms the meat is from and they now supply several top restaurants in London.

EATING OUT.

We always go along to the Widemouth Manor (thewidemouthmanor.co.uk) for a family meal – perhaps partly because it's only a five-minute stumble down the hill back to the house, but mostly because it's run by

a lovely, local family who serve well-cooked proper pub food: fish and chips is always excellent. Add sunset views and a big garden with a kids' playground and mini golf and life feels easy. For a high-end culinary experience further afield we have had amazing meals at Nathan Outlaw's Fish Kitchen in Port Isaac (nathan-outlaw.com/outlaw-fish-kitchen) and Jamie Oliver's Fifteen at Watergate Bay (fifteen.com/watergate-bay).

WALKING.

We also always do the walk over the hill from Barford to Widemouth Bay to go boogie boarding and

spend a day on the beach. The Black Rock end is also dog-friendly. For longer walks we recommend any stretches on the coast path from Crackington Haven to Tintagel.

GET ACTIVE.

Our neighbours are Outdoor Adventure (outdooradventure.co.uk) and we have been rock climbing, kayaking, surfing and coastering (our favourite) with them.

A DAY OUT.

Bosccastle is lovely for a mooch, make sure to visit the Museum of Witchcraft & Magic (museumofwitchcraftandmagic.co.uk). It's packed with quirky brilliance.



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP The aerial view of the house and its proximity to the sea; Ken and Ilona on the outdoor daybed; groundworks were needed outside to create flat areas for the children to play on

