

ANGLESEY CLAPBOARD HOUSE

The family love the far-reaching view, out over Rhoscolyn's bay, Borth Wen, towards Snowdonia.



Keeping memories alive

HALCYON DAYS SPENT HOLIDAYING IN NORTH WALES
INSPIRED SARAH CROSS TO BUILD A SPECIAL HOME THAT
STRENGTHENS FAMILY TIES WITH A BYGONE ERA »



The house has been thoughtfully designed to make the most of its unique coastal location. **Cedral weatherboarding**, Marley Eternit.



Sarah exploring on the beach with Lottie.



Harry reads a story to Lottie. **Globo swinging chair**, Simply Hammocks.



Hot tub The hot tub and handy outside shower have been a hit with all the family. **Hot tub**, Urban Cedar. **Cushions**, in Chevron and Stripe from the Sea Breeze collection, Osborne & Little.

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What makes this house a home...
 ‘The area is jaw-droppingly beautiful – and we are making irreplaceable family memories’

Dining area Floor-to-ceiling windows make the most of the exquisite view and fill the space with light. Stripy **seat pads**, Romo. **Pendant lights, table, bar stools**, Neptune. **Chairs**, Ikea.



Living room Situated on the first floor, this relaxed space has panoramic views. Worn Ash **flooring**, Amtico. Curlew **cushion**, Buy The Sea. **Floor cushions**, in Peony & Sage’s Seahorses in Amalfi Blue (top). **Chair**, Oka. **Rug**, John Lewis. **Pendant light**, Ian Mankin. >>

Porch A jaunty anchor sets the coastal tone. **Anchor**, Anderson Gallery. **Cushions**, Peony & Sage. Striped **bench seat pads**, Romo. **Baskets**, Neptune. **Walls**, painted in Salt by Neptune.



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If it hadn't been for an incredibly stormy night back in 1882, it's unlikely Sarah Cross would ever have built a stunning New England-style home in a magical, coastal spot in north Wales.

'At the time, my great-great grandmother had travelled from London to Holyhead, with the intention of sailing to Dublin,' says Sarah. 'However, when rough seas meant the crossing was cancelled, she ended up staying in nearby Trearddur Bay.'

Having spotted Rhoscolyn across the headland, Sarah's ancestor was enchanted by the view, and made a point of visiting there the following year. Her tales of this carefree coastal village piqued the interest of Sarah's relatives. Soon, great-great aunts and uncles also began holidaying, and then building properties, in Rhoscolyn.

'As a child, I was lucky enough to spend every summer here, staying with my extended family, in the house my grandparents bought,' says Sarah. 'I've such fond memories of playing in rock pools, lobster-potting and exploring with my brother, sister and cousins – just as previous generations of our family had done.'

When Sarah met and married David, the pair, who live in Cambridge, continued the tradition of holidaying here. 'As our own children came along, we wanted to find a house in Rhoscolyn,' says Sarah. 'I yearned to create a little oasis where our family and guests could feel stress-free – a relaxed home-from-home.'

After searching for six years, the couple finally found a property they felt would be perfect to remodel. Just a 10-minute walk from the beach, the house has spectacular views over the fields and across Rhoscolyn's beautiful bay, Borth Wen, towards Snowdonia.

Having snapped up the house in May 2015, the family spent that summer living there. 'Familiarising ourselves with the light and orientation of the property helped me formulate the design for our new home,' says Sarah. 'I knew that the main living spaces had to be on the first floor to maximise the views and felt that a large glazed balcony would create the indoor/outdoor living we wanted.'

After liaising with an architect and gaining planning permission, building work began in January 2016. 'I've always admired New England homes and believed this style would look great, as well as being a nod to the coastal location,' says Sarah.

She took on the mantle of project manager and worked tirelessly for many months. 'I was living and breathing the project remotely,' says Sarah. 'When the children were asleep, I'd often work late into the night, emailing the builders and suppliers. It was hard work but I loved every minute, and it was fantastic to see it all coming together.' Because of the distance, Sarah could only visit the house about once a month. 'The builders, AK Developments, were brilliant. I was so grateful for their positive "can-do" attitude.'

The holiday home is everything the family could have hoped for – and more. 'When we arrive here, it's amazing how quickly we all slow down,' Sarah says. 'We savour the simple pleasures – just as my great-great grandmother would have done, many moons ago.'

📞 **Little Fish Escapes, visit littlefishescapes.com. For Sarah's interior design business, Little Fish At Home, visit littlefishathome.com. Alternatively, call 07979 861483. >>**



Kitchen The island has been painted in Bone China Blue Deep by Little Greene. **Island**, Neptune.

AT HOME WITH...

Owners Sarah Cross, an interior designer who runs Little Fish At Home and Little Fish Escapes, a luxury property letting business, and her husband, David. The couple's five children are Oliver, 12, Jonny, 10, Eloise, eight, Harry, seven, and Lottie, four.

House A six-bedroom, detached new build. The family bought the original property in 2015 and built their new home on the site the following year.



Harry's bedroom Sarah adores the fabric used for the curtains and cushions, so much so that it inspired the names of her businesses. **Curtains and cushions**, in Little Fishes by Olive + Daisy. **Throw**, John Lewis.

ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'South Stack Lighthouse (01255 245156, trinityhouse.co.uk). Located on a small island, it's reached via 400 steps down the mainland cliffs and a bridge. You can tour the former engine room before climbing to the top to enjoy the amazing views.'

Shop at... 'Anderson Gallery (01407 741831, anderson-gallery.co.uk) in Four Mile Bridge. As well as paintings, you'll find a range of goods, from home accessories to one-off gifts. I've bought quite a few pieces for our coastal home from here.'

Go for a meal at... 'The White Eagle Inn (01407 860267, white-eagle.co.uk), Rhoscolyn. It is very family-friendly, the home-cooked food is tasty and the views from the rear terrace are wonderful.'



Main bedroom A modern four-poster bed takes centre stage. **Wardley four-poster bed**, Neptune. **Chair, table**, Anderson Gallery.



What we love most about living here...

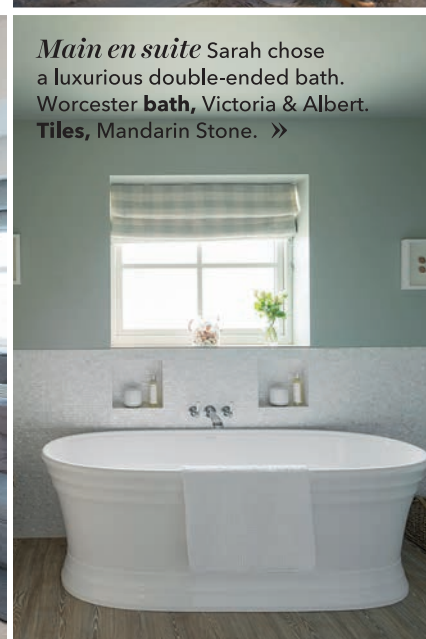
'The house flows extremely well. It's an easy and very practical layout. Even with our relatively large family, we never feel on top of each other'



Oliver (left) and Harry shrimping on the beach.



Boys' bedroom When designing the bunk beds, Sarah wanted them to have a proper staircase and portholes. **Bunk beds**, painted in Bone China Blue Deep by Little Greene. **Sofa bed**, Ikea.



Main en suite Sarah chose a luxurious double-ended bath. **Worcester bath**, Victoria & Albert. **Tiles**, Mandarin Stone. >>

FEATURE JANET MCKEEN PHOTOGRAPHS JEREMY PHILLIPS