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THE FAMILY

Juliette Byrne and her daughters, Bonnie, 13, and Celia, 16, enjoy spending time at their holiday cottage in the seaside village of Bosham, in West Sussex.

SMALL WONDER

Juliette Byrne's compact waterside home is filled with a treasure trove of vintage and nautically inspired pieces that add a real sense of character

WORDS DENISE ELPHICK | PHOTOGRAPHS DAN DUCHARS



LIVING ROOM

By opting for a simple colour scheme and a minimal window dressing, Juliette has ensured this room feels bright and inviting.

For a similar double-width armchair, try Chester compact sofa in Natural, £899, Habitat, 0844 499 1144, habitat.co.uk.

H&G SEASIDE COTTAGE

As a keen sailor, Juliette Byrne loves nothing more than to escape from London to Bosham in West Sussex and potter about on the water. "The village has a sailing club, a pub and a beautiful Saxon church, which are all very close to hand. I have always loved this area – as well as being by the sea, it takes just fifteen minutes to get to the South Downs where there is some fabulous walking," explains Juliette.

It was not surprising, therefore, that Juliette, an interior designer, ended up buying a cottage in the village. Centrally situated and just 12 feet wide, the property comes into its own in the summer, when she declares "open house" and it is brimful

with children and bikes that spill out into the garden. Her daughters, Celia, 16, and Bonnie, 13, are also keen sailors and horsewomen, so Bosham is a perfect base for the whole family.

It was during a torrential thunderstorm five years ago that Juliette noticed the cottage was up for sale. "It was completely unmodernised and painted in canary yellow and burgundy and had a staircase down the middle of it," she says. "I could see it had potential, though. My mobile was not working at the time, so I went to the nearby craft centre and asked to use its landline to put in a bid."

Once her offer had been accepted, Juliette discovered the cottage had the most wonderful garden with a stream at the bottom, as well as



KITCHEN

To create additional space, Juliette enlarged the original galley layout with a side extension.

For similar seating, try Three-Seater Backless Bench, £188, Wealden Fine Furniture, 0800 298 5488, wealdenfinefurniture.co.uk. **Titan pendant lamp** £210 each, The Conran Shop, 0844 844 4000, conranshop.co.uk. **Bird figurine** £70, Alasdair Brown Antiques, 0783 672857, alasdairbrown.com



LIVING ROOM AND KITCHEN

The open-plan layout of the ground floor allows natural light to flood in through the kitchen's new conservatory roof to the dining and living areas.

ABOVE For similar leather sofa, try Hudson, Andrew Martin, 020 7225 5100, andrewmartin.co.uk.

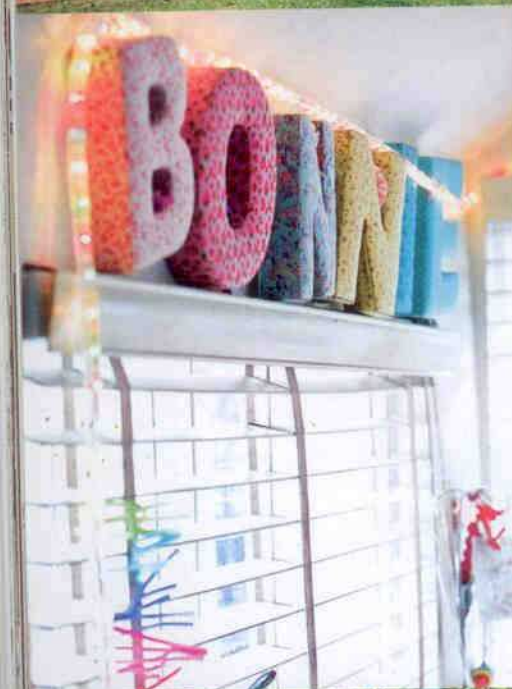
For a similar limed oak coffee table, try Lucy Willow, 0845 803 0988, lucywillow.co.uk. **Blue cushion fabric,** £149m, Kravet, 020 7795 0110, kravet.com.

For similar striped cushion fabric, try Volga Linen, 0844 499 1609, volgalinen.co.uk.

Fishing boat, £250, Alasdair Brown Antiques, 07836 672857, alasdairbrown.com. **RIGHT**

Wooden dogs, Alice's Antiques, 020 7229 8187. **BELOW** Vintage apple boxes, £20 each, Hibbitt of Oswestry, 01691 656152, hibbitt.co.uk. **Storm lanterns,** £15 each, Alasdair Brown Antiques, 07836 672857, alasdairbrown.com. ▶





BONNIE'S ROOM, BATHROOMS AND GARDEN

Juliette has used vintage finds, some of which were gifts from her father, for small decorative displays around the house, while outside she has chosen to create a simple English country-style garden.

ABOVE LEFT For similar table and chairs, try Alasdair Brown Antiques, 07836 672857, alasdairbrown.com. **Gingham PVC tablecloth** in Acqua, £20, John Lewis, 0845 604 9049, johnlewis.com. **ABOVE CENTRE** For similar stool, try DeJa, The Conran Shop, 0844 848 4000, conranshop.co.uk. **ABOVE**

mirror, try Baltique, Bleu Nature, 0033 3201 12528, bleunature.com. For similar basin, try Stone Productions, 020 8871 9257, stoneproductions.co.uk. **RIGHT** Shed painted in Forget-me-Not, Cuprinol, 0844 481 7817, cuprinol.co.uk. **BELOW** For similar vintage suitcases, try India Jane, 0870 220 8991, indiajane.co.uk.



views over a nature reserve towards the sea. "It was a wonderful and unexpected bonus," she says.

As the cottage was so small, Juliette removed the internal spine walls and moved the staircase to one side. This opened up the space and created a large area for storage under the stairs. She also turned a ground-floor bathroom into a study and a side extension was added to the kitchen, "which has now become the hub of the house".

Upstairs, two small but practical bathrooms were added and a box room was turned into a compact bedroom for Bonnie. Juliette then added a narrow staircase leading up to the pitched loft that was once used by Victorian fishermen to dry out their sails. Juliette shiplapped the ceiling to create a nautical air and added a skylight to make the most of the views over the harbour and beyond. This is now Celia's room. Here, and throughout the

cottage, the walls are painted white. And, to create a relaxed and unpretentious look, Juliette has used a mixture of natural materials, such as driftwood and distressed leather. There is a distinct nautical feel to the cottage's decorations: a flag, a ship's clock, barometers and models of old yachts; all mainly gifts from her father, a keen sailor, too.

"Life here in the summer revolves around the garden," says Juliette. "We have barbecues with long trestle tables and lanterns hanging from the apple tree. The garden leads to the village stream, which is full of wildlife - ducks, moorhens, herons, egrets and water voles - and the children play poohsticks in the stream or croquet on the lawn.

"The cottage may be on the small side, but it is a wonderful weekend escape and the garden is a magical place for entertaining exhausted adults and teenagers after a day's sailing." ■

MAIN BEDROOM

This space has an American East Coast feel thanks to its white painted floorboards and a shiplap-effect feature wall, which adds interest to the otherwise plain scheme.

Interior design Juliette Byrne, 020 7352 1553, juliettesyrne.com. **MDF shiplap sheets**, Covers Timber & Builders Merchants, 01243 785141, covers.biz. **Cableknit cotton throw**, £250, Calzeat of Scotland, 01899 309211, calzeat.com. **Driftwood lamp**, €287, Bleu Nature, 0033 3201 12528, bleunature.com.