

BOATHOUSE BOLTHOLE

Clever design and smart craftsmanship
have transformed the ruins of an old garden
building into a quirky waterfront home

PHOTOGRAPHY BRENT DARBY WORDS SUSY SMITH
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MOOD INDIGO

The little house perched above a creek near Kingsbridge in Devon has one large open-plan area downstairs. Leading off a small hallway, a dining area and kitchen is part-divided by an old Irish dresser base with an added hardwood surface, while a living area is demarked by an inky-blue emulsion (Dulux Azure Fusion 1) that owner artist Miranda Gardiner says was inspired by old Quink bottles



NAUTICAL NOTES

The planked walls in the living area were painted and then ragged off to allow the grain to show through – a French oak barrel is perfect for storing logs for the woodburner. A dustpan and brush and a barometer hang alongside a bundle of old coloured floats found over the years by Miranda's father-in-law on beaches where he lived in the Shetland Islands



BLUE MOOD

The Kingsbridge Estuary is technically called a 'ria' - a 'drowned' river valley. It floods twice a day with seawater and its combination of expansive mudflats and eelgrass support populations of wading birds, fish, seahorses and even otters. Not surprisingly, it is classified as both an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Site of Special Scientific Interest





ARTISTIC VISION

One of Miranda's paintings hangs over the dining table and picks up the blues from the seating area. The cabinet below belonged to her husband Diggory's father and was given a new lease of life in pale grey paintwork. Miranda found the set of shutters at a local bric-a-brac emporium called Two Rooms - they originally came from a French café and give privacy in the bedroom upstairs but allow a view out to the water and nearby Bowcombe Bridge



SHORE THING

Miranda sits on the 'loveseat' she designed around a length of carved wood also found at Two Rooms. A window inset in the wall behind the shower allows a view straight through and out of the bedroom window to the water beyond. The black and white tiles (Kerion Neocim Décor Fleur Noir) are Portuguese porcelain and provide a rare element of pattern in the interior. The little blue house set among evergreen holm oaks was inspired by a simple New Zealand beach cabin known as a bach. *The boathouse is available for rent through canopyandstars.co.uk - search for Bowcombe Boathouse*

