

88 ROOMS PACKED WITH DECORATING IDEAS

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Issue 8 On sale 25/6/04 £3.00



CELEBRITY STYLE
Singer Roger Whittaker at home in Ireland

'I relax here listening to the waves'

Admire pretty seaside decorating in this CORNISH BOATHOUSE

VOTE FOR THE UK'S MOST BEAUTIFUL HOME
See page 92



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THE PROPERTY

Location Cornwall
Building Former boathouse, built in the 1920s, and extended in the 1980s

Rooms Hall, sitting room, conservatory/playroom, terrace, kitchen, 4 bedrooms (2 en suite), shower room

Moved In 2002



THE OWNER

Suzy Goulding and her two sons Henry and William

Occupation Suzy is a chartered accountant

Favourite room 'The sitting room,' says Suzy, 'where I can relax staring out to sea, listening to the gulls and the rhythm of the waves lapping against the shore.'

1 The decked balcony offers breathtaking views over the bay. The furniture looks like rattan but is, in fact, weatherproof plastic. It can be bought from Emperor Furniture (020 7720 4206)

2 The sitting room faces the sea and was painted in Fern Frost 6 by Dulux (01753 550555). The Kendal sofa, covered in Melbury Biscuit, came from Laura Ashley (0871 230 2301)

For some time, Suzy Goulding had been looking for the perfect house – one that sent out a definite 'buy me' message. After viewing dozens of homes without any success, she was about to give up hope when she saw this former boathouse in Cornwall. 'I've always wanted to live by the sea,' she says, 'and when I stood on the balcony overlooking the bay, it was love at first sight.'

The house seemed particularly suitable for Suzy's two sons Henry, 13, and William, 10. 'I imagined them playing in dinghies with their friends, lighting fires and making barbecues.'

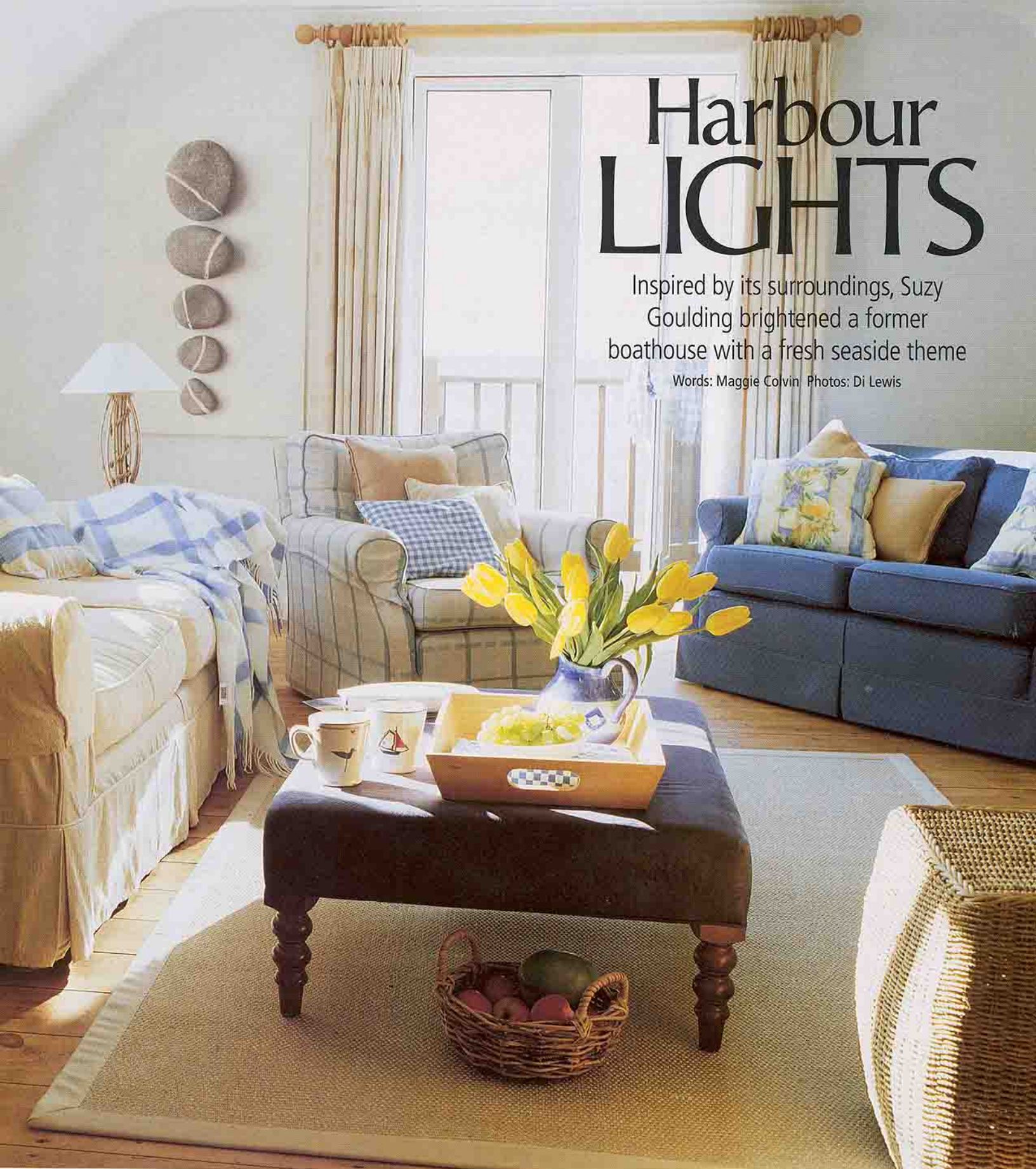
Suzy's seaside home was once a simple one-room boathouse crammed with fishing nets and lobster pots. By the time Suzy bought it, the boathouse had been converted into a family house, but it needed updating. Suzy's vision took shape over a period of four months. Her challenge was how to create two extra bedrooms and two shower rooms. 'I asked my builder to take down corridors, the water tank, the old pink and avocado bathrooms and several non-load-bearing walls,' ▶



Harbour LIGHTS

Inspired by its surroundings, Suzy
Goulding brightened a former
boathouse with a fresh seaside theme

Words: Maggie Colvin Photos: Di Lewis





'When I stood on the balcony overlooking the bay, it was love at first sight'



1 Suzy explains. 'This allowed me to see exactly what space I had to play with.'

Rearranging the resulting space gave Suzy the extra rooms she wanted. A shower room was fitted below the stairs and another was created by placing a shower in one narrow cupboard and a basin and toilet in another. Ugly modern doors with frosted-glass panels were replaced with tongue-and-groove boarded doors. 'It's extraordinary how dramatically the character of the property changed when the new doors were installed,' Suzy says.

Suzy was determined to create an interior in natural textures to reflect the character of the

house's surroundings. She kept to a simple seaside theme and chose summery colours. 'My mother took me to lots of Swedish-style furniture shops to inspire me,' she says. 'I've also refrained from hanging lots of pictures – the idea is that the windows are pictures.'

Suzy sourced seagrass furniture, rope and driftwood lamps and natural rush-seated chairs for the kitchen. 'I had a bit of fun laying pebble floors in the bathrooms, too,' she says. On a shopping trip while visiting her sister in Boston, Suzy came back with lots of china – mugs decorated with lighthouses and jugs with blue fish. She also used blue and white ▷



2 The bright master bedroom's valance and headboard were covered in green fabric from Jane Churchill's Treasure Chest collection. The rosy bedcover was made from an Ikea (020 8208 5601) curtain. Try GP & J Baker (020

7351 7760) for the Emma curtain fabric by Parkertex. The white wicker bedside tables were given to Suzy by her mother. Try Chic Shack (020 8785 7777) for white-painted furniture. Melin Tregwynt (01348 891644) sells checked blankets

3 Different wooden hues mix with blue and white accessories to create a seaside feel in the sunny hall

3 Different wooden hues mix with blue and white accessories to create a seaside feel in the sunny hall





'The sea view is ever changing'

stripes to great effect with cushion covers and tablecloths, creating a classic maritime look.

A lot of care went into selecting the right blue for the living room walls. 'We had five different test patches on the wall,' says Suzy. 'Finally, I chose a duck-egg blue, as it's the closest blue to the sea on a summer's day.' Suzy's biggest challenge in this room, though, was the arched window. 'It was dressed with

curtains and they kept slipping. The shutters were a brilliant solution as they're much more in keeping with the character of the house.'

Suzy now realises she has acquired much more than just a new home 'We have landed ourselves with a whole new lifestyle,' she says. 'The light is amazing, the sea view is ever changing and the birdsong is out of this world. There is so much to be grateful for.' **BH**



1 Greenfingers (0845 3450728) sells canvas director's chairs like the one in this twin guest bedroom. If you would like to stay at the boathouse, visit www.theboathousegillan.co.uk or contact Suzy on 01749 814883

2 For Michelangelo flooring by Karndean, similar to that in the cream bathroom, try flooringsupplies.co.uk

3 Chartley Bedrooms (01959 533676) sells painted furniture like this bedroom chair

Suzy's style secrets



KITCHEN
For a seaside feel, you can't beat a nautical blue and white colour scheme with natural materials, such as sisal or wicker.

BEDROOM

Give your bedroom a classic feel with white Scandinavian furniture, such as the Kristian chest of drawers, £1600, Gustavian (020 7724 6444).



BATHROOM
Jazz up your bathroom with the funky Silver Star toilet seat, £44, from Next (0845 600 7000).