



# Eye on the horizon

The designer Amelia Wilson took views of the Solway Firth as her inspiration to create a calm and relaxing home near Maryport with more than a dash of Hamptons beach house

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Wallpaper from Anthology was chosen to echo the sky, horizon and shoreline seen from the windows





**T**he showstopping and ever-changing views over the Solway from a newly extended home near Maryport inspired its distinctive interior.

A feature wall created from rippled tiles that resemble waves, a blue and sand colour scheme and the use of horizontal lines to echo layers of sky and sea on the horizon, all relate to its coastal location.

The interior, including layouts for the newly extended rooms, lighting and decor, was created by designer Amelia Wilson, who is based at Asby near Workington. She liaised closely with her client, local builder Richard Welch, to create the look.

Richard, who owns and runs Matterhorn Homes and RGW Plumbing and Heating, built the property himself in 2013. When he decided to extend the house, he brought Amelia on board to give the interiors the wow factor, with his companies carrying out the work.

Amelia took her cues from the landscape, using the sea view to Criffel as inspiration. The house is decorated in shades of blue and sand and horizontal lines are a recurring feature. The light oak look floors, in Karndean luxury vinyl tiles, are a nod to a Hamptons-style beach house.

Amelia chose Farrow & Ball Elephant's Breath for most of the walls, which is a warm, sandy colour that she says is more 'beach' than beige.

The kitchen, from Modern Homes at Workington, was already installed but has been revamped to tie into the coastal theme. Amelia replaced black granite tops and splashbacks with a Silestone worktop and wood-effect laminate splashback to give it a lighter look that



**The kitchen was revamped with a new splashback and work surfaces; below: a new island, with the hob taken out, provides a view from every seat**







**A wall of rippled tiles is a striking feature at the end of the dining room**



**A Wayfair rug and Farrow and Ball wallpaper add to the nautical theme**

***‘It’s the same kitchen units, we’ve just changed the worktop. It looks like a brand new kitchen but it’s not’***

works with the rest of the house.

“It’s the same kitchen units, we’ve just changed the worktop,” she says. “It looks like a brand new kitchen but it’s not.”

She says that laminate is an unusual but practical solution for a splashback: “The Germans do really good ones where it’s edged properly, which means you can do effects like this and it doesn’t look cheap.”

A kitchen door was removed and Amelia re-used cupboards from a central island to fill the gap. She replaced the island with a larger, square version, which has a Corian top.

A kitchen island is often fitted with a hob on one side and seating on the opposite side. Amelia’s preferred arrangement, which she used at the Maryport house, is to take out the hob and have seating placed so that everyone has a view.

The hob was moved to the main kitchen worktop.

“It means no one sat there has steam in their face,” she says.

The striking light fitting is from Wayfair and beach-themed octopus and lobster accessories add an injection of fun.

The dining table and chairs are by contemporary retailer Danetti.

A blank wall at the end of the dining area presented Amelia with a design challenge. She says that fitting inexpensive tiles from Topps Tiles is a stylish and creative solution to making the most of the space without cluttering it up or spending a lot of money on art.

The rippled tiles were chosen to resemble waves or ripples on a beach.

“I needed to do something here; I didn’t want it to put a piece of furniture in”





**A child's bedroom can be easily converted into a space for guests**

because it would feel like a big hallway," she says. "It's a cheaper way of doing something really striking."

The sitting room wallpaper, Elements by Anthology, was chosen for its horizontal design and blue and sandy colours which reflect the sky, horizon and shoreline outside.

"When you look at the sky and the layers and layers of the blue and white and the colours of the water, that's what this wallpaper is supposed to look like," she says.

The sitting room is eight metres long and Amelia knew that one standard sofa would be lost in such a large space. The solution was a modular sofa from DFS: "It means we could buy as much of it as we wanted."

An easy chair and side tables are from

Danetti and a coffee table from Cult Furniture. A television is housed in a 'media wall' made to Amelia's design by Cumberland Interiors in Cockermouth.

The one-metre diameter lampshades were made by Sonja Tilleard of White and Green in Cockermouth using Clarke and Clarke fabric. Blinds and a selection of some of the cushions were made by Di's Soft Furnishings, also in Cockermouth.

Carpets throughout the house are from Nixons of Maryport.

Rugs in the sitting room and entrance hall, both from Wayfair, continue the blue scheme and horizontal lines.

The hall has a replica Barcelona chair and contemporary glass units filled with a selection of glass and ceramic accessories.

"When you've got a lot of contemporary furniture it does tend to be glass and

***'When you've got a lot of light in a room like this, a dark colour is more warming and cosy'***



**The master suite headboard was made by upholsterer Stephen Ball from Cliburn**



**Spare bedroom**

plastic and metal," says Amelia. "The ceramic and glass soften everything up a little bit."

The wallpaper on the mezzanine landing is Farrow & Ball's Shouchikubai, which Amelia chose for its blue and gold colours, nautical look and for the hexagonal design which echoes other hexagons used around the house.

The master suite headboard was made by upholsterer Stephen Ball, based at Cliburn near Penrith, in a neutral coloured faux leather. It was made off site in two pieces and put together in the room. The striking bubble-effect orb pendant bedside lights are by Schuller from online retailer ideas4lighting.

The walls, which are covered with Architects Paper Raw Silk paper in midnight blue, from Wallpaper Direct, are a feature which Amelia particularly likes: "When you've got a lot of light in a room like this, a dark colour is more warming and cosy."

A blue velvet ottoman from Marks and Spencer and curtains made with a Clarke and Clarke fabric complete the room.

The en-suite bathroom furniture is from Horizon in Workington and Amelia chose matching tiles from Topps Tiles which have rose gold and copper accents.

A guest bedroom has a bed and bedside tables from UK Bed Store and a blue velvet chair from online retailer First Furniture. Art work from Perch & Perrow and cushions pick up the hexagonal theme. Lamp bases are from Dunelm and the shades from Homesense.

Richard's step-granddaughter has her own room, painted in Dulux Chic Shadow,





Amelia designed the open garden to allow the eye to wander; below: spraying a white bath to match the furniture made it a focal point



with a four-poster bed from Maison du Monde and a chaise longue from Ikea. Amelia points out that the Feather Cloud lampshade from Laura Ashley, lights from Hurn & Hurn and paper pom poms can be swapped for more grown up accessories over the years.

“It looks very much like a child’s bedroom but if you take away the pom poms and lights and feather lampshade you can make this into more of a simple bedroom, so it becomes more of a guest bedroom.”

The main bathroom furniture is from

*‘We wanted to make more of a feature of it and a white bath is a bit bland. Now it matches the furniture’*

Cumberland Interiors in Cockermouth and tiles - including some in a hexagonal design - are from Topps Tiles. The polished porcelain floor tiles are from Walls and Floors.

Amelia reused the existing freestanding bath and had it sprayed by a car body sprayer to complement the existing décor and bathroom furniture from Nixons of Maryport.

“We wanted to make more of a feature of it and a white bath is a bit bland. Now it matches the furniture.”

Outside, the composite decking is designed to be low maintenance. An easy-to-maintain garden design by Amelia includes grasses chosen to resemble those found on sand dunes. The outlook over the garden has been kept open to allow the eye to wander.

“I wanted it so that when you’re looking out, you’re not looking at the garden, you’re looking at the view,” says Amelia.

The project took about 18 months in all, and Amelia worked on the house for approximately 12 months.

She says she’s loved bringing the outside views into the house.

“It’s been a pleasure doing it. The whole point is for it to be simple, uncluttered and to reflect the coastal location. It’s not ostentatious.”

Amelia Wilson Interiors

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