

# STRAIGHT minds think alike

A busy couple buy their second property on the edge of Looe, with the vision of an idyllic, coastal holiday home. Interior design practice **Camellia** were brought in to realise their dreams...

A classic design story in Cornwall. An out-of-county couple bought their three-storey property on the edge of Looe with the intention of having a second home for their family, where they could escape their busy city lives and live the relaxed, coastal lifestyle during their holidays. Their vision was a space for large groups of friends and family to stay, as well as for hosting parties. Bespoke wine storage was a must, alongside a purpose-built bar, with room for a pinball machine and a football table. For relaxation, the couple requested a beautiful library space and to reinstate the woodburning fireplace for them to warm up next to after a winter's day on the beach. They viewed several properties in Rock before deciding that they wanted Looe to be

their Cornish paradise. They purchased their new home via local estate agency Jackson-Stops in Truro, and after a couple of dead-end conversations with builders, Ben Standen of Jackson-Stops recommended Camellia to realise their vision. Design director Elaine Skinner visited the house with the couple and listened to what they wanted for their new home. "After taking me through the whole house, I asked them if I could tell it to them straight. I told them they needed to reconfigure the layout to make the most of their property. The kitchen needed to be moved and new bedrooms with en-suites needed to be installed. We offered them a better solution from day one and as a result, got the job." The property itself is seafront facing and

is almost built in to the cliff face above the beach. The challenging architecture and huge potential drew Camellia in – they wanted this perfect project for their portfolio. Elaine and her clients were very open and honest with each other from the start. By being transparent, the designer-client relationship worked, and they understood each other perfectly. "I get on with you because you talk straight to me and because you care. We see your passion for our project and it inspires us," said the client. They wanted a home-from-home that brought their family together over the holiday seasons. They planned to spend their first Christmas in Cornwall at the end of 2014; enjoying the coastal views, having festive meals in their new kitchen and being the perfect hosts on their wrap-around decking.



Camellia scheduled and planned effectively around this deadline. "We understood that our clients will only be using their property a couple of times a year, but when they are here, they need it to be ready for them. So we made sure we planned all the work around their holiday time." As busy, time-poor people, the couple didn't have time to oversee their project and needed a practice that could manage the entire process for them. "After speaking with Elaine, we were reassured that everything would be taken care of. We could then go back to our busy lives in order to pay her!" Camellia managed the entire project for them; from knocking down walls to buying cutlery, the hassle of their project was taken away. Camellia designed around the unusual architecture, with their clients' vision in mind and to their budget. "We understand that just because our clients have bought an expensive house, it doesn't mean they have lots of money to throw at it." Elaine says. "We want to make sure all our clients have a return on investment. We are revenue aware, business minded and design around your brief and budget. We do charge for our advice and we're not the cheapest, but we don't mind stating this either, because we do give you a return on your investment." Elaine and her team fulfilled the clients' needs and wishes of having a fun holiday home by the lavish south coast of Cornwall. Camellia met their brief and design challenges and as a result gave the couple the South West investment that they were looking for. The clients were so pleased with the outcome that Camellia are beginning phase two of the project – the family's personal beach house. [www.camelliainteriors.co.uk](http://www.camelliainteriors.co.uk)  
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