



door was traded in for a simple wooden replacement and one original wooden casement window was replicated over the whole house with new ones made to the same proportions. "Sue chose Stiffkey Blue from Farrow and Ball for the exterior windows and door paintwork, which looks wonderful alongside cream lime render," says Geoff.

The kitchen is now in the old dairy and scullery extension to the back of the house, where the Edwards were able to save money with a surprisingly frugal approach to making the kitchen units. "They are all made from pallet wood, which we dried out for ages, then painted in Farrow & Ball colours," says Geoff. Steve Rawlings, from Rawlings Joinery of Plymouth, undertook all the carpentry and the building work was carried out by

RM Builders and Contractors of Tavistock, who specialise in restoration and renovation projects.

Initially, Sue and Geoff lived in the tiny attached cottage at the side of the house, which soon became known in their family (they have five children) as "The Hovel". But when the cottage

was incorporated back into the house they had to move out altogether for a while. "We thought at first the renovation would take eight months, then a year – in the end it was 15 months of work," Geoff says.

The roof, which was 1970s asbestos, was replaced with Welsh slate and broken ceilings were restored using traditional lath and plaster techniques. In places, the original plasterwork had been painted over with gloss paint in the 1970s, which all had to be replaced. "I think it was 22 tons of lime we used in all," says Geoff.

In the upstairs ensuite bathroom, a new product allowed Geoff and Sue to have a stone floor

without its heavy weight causing issues. "A company called Devon Stone, based in Exmouth, has a real stone veneer attached to an acrylic resin base. It's a little bit flexible, so it could cope with our walls and floors not being straight." Another find was Castrads radiators of Frome, who made all the old-fashioned school-style radiators for the property: "and were really reasonable price-wise," says Geoff.

The lighting plan is by Lucy Gibson of Exeter's Amos Lighting. "In our previous house, we used to go off to B&Q and bung in lights here and there. We never really got it right. Lucy worked wonders. We bought a lot of the lights from The Antique Lighting Centre on Exeter Quay."

When it came to furnishings, Sue used much of the family's own furniture from their previous home, a smallholding in the Camel Valley, reupholstered and repainted. An old Cornish China Clay metal box ("bought for about a fiver") became a coffee table with wheels on its base and a sheet of reinforced glass over the top. Fish Belly Antiques in Tavistock provided a Georgian cupboard which is now a bathroom vanity unit, topped with a basin from Mandarin Stone and a splashback made from an old marble tabletop.

Today, the house is a warm and welcoming base for the whole family. "Our grandchildren love it here and are busy creating memories," says Geoff. "As far as Sue and I are concerned, this is it, we will live here for the foreseeable future.

We have future-proofed it with a downstairs wet room with shower and we certainly have no intentions of ever taking on another project like this again! For us, the house is a one-off and we are delighted with how it has worked out. This is home."

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