



## Coastal Hideaway

EARTHY, NATURAL AND FULL OF INTERESTING TEXTURES, THIS SEASIDE HOME IN KERRY RADIATES COMFORT WITH LOTS OF MAGIC INGREDIENTS THAT BRING IT FROM FINISHED TO FABULOUS.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY **SERPENTINE INTERIORS**



THE owners of this detached dormer bungalow in Kerry are a professional couple who live in New York with their two children, and this is their covetable holiday home. They tasked Tracey Collins and Helena Grimes of Serpentine Interiors, a creative design studio based in Limerick and Galway, with a turn-the-key service to ensure that their thrice-yearly visits to the Kingdom are stress-free. "The clients' brief," explains Helena, "was for a frequent holiday stay that felt like a home away from home; a cosy, quiet and tranquil escape from their busy lives."

The property, which was built in 2018, has 12 rooms – a kitchen /dining zone; utility; hallway/landing; living room; guest bedroom, two children's rooms; main bedroom; two en suites; one main bathroom and a music room.

"It was a new build of finished plastered walls and concrete flooring – a blank canvas for us to create a beautiful home," Tracey says. "They wanted a family space that dialled down their pace of life from busy New York and transition to a coastal property that naturally asks for a slower tempo. They wanted it to feel luxurious, while also being



FARROW & BALL SHADES BRING THE KITCHEN TO LIFE – THE ISLAND IS PAINTED STIFFKEY BLUE AND THE REST OF THE KITCHEN IS IN POINTING.

hardwearing and with minimal maintenance as they have two small kids. The clients were only over in Ireland a handful of times and needed someone to handle the project for them in their absence," she adds.

Throughout the home, neutral shades and natural materials have been used to provide a base layer upon which the rest of the interiors could be built. All the walls were painted Skimming Stone by Farrow & Ball for a fresh continuity, while the flooring is a solid engineered flooring from Kahrs, running throughout the main floor – excluding bathrooms – to create an open flow. "It was important for a solid floor to be installed to anchor the natural elemental influence on the design," Helena explains.

Helena and Tracey used a mixture of natural materials, such as wool and linens, in all the window dressings. Some of the fabrics within the spaces have a subtle vertical stripe or line. "These tactile materials used in this way lean into the coastal aesthetic without being a nautical cliché. The Osborne & Little wool curtains in the living room are one of our favourite elements within the project," says Helena.



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In the kitchen area, Silestone Ariel was used to great effect throughout the countertops, balanced with a crisp ceramic Belfast sink matched with classic chrome fittings. “It was important for the client to have bright, airy materials that would not date in this space as they wanted to get many, many years out of it,” she says.

Farrow & Ball shades bring the kitchen to life – the island was painted Stiffkey Blue and the rest of the kitchen is in Pointing. In this busy area, it was critical to have enough layers of task lighting for prepping dinners after days at the beach. The lights over the island are pendants made from recycled glass, while ambient lighting throughout features the use of rope and wood. “Repeating organic materials in a variety of ways within the home evokes a natural harmony in the spaces,” Tracey reflects. Aesthetically, the living room needed to be luxurious,

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calming and timeless. “The main function of the space was to provide enough seating for the whole family and some guests. It is the main TV room in the home so it needed to be comfortable for rainy days filled with movies and games,” Helena outlines.

The main bedroom space is expansive and inviting with its standout headboard. “We aimed to create a hotel suite feel, a quiet space to escape from all the goings-on within the home, if needs be. We opted for oversized pieces of furniture to fill the space and for the room to feel more in proportion and comfortable. The soft blues are inspired by the coast and teamed with natural colours in cushions, window

dressings and bed linen for restful sleep,” Helena says.

For the children's slumber spaces, the clients wanted rooms that would grow with them. “We aimed for a timeless approach with the furniture and we went for fun with the inexpensive items like the dinosaur bedding and wall art to reflect their current ages,” Tracey points out.

Spare rooms can often be forgotten spaces, Tracey observes. However, that certainly wasn't the case here. “We wanted to make sure that if our clients had guests, they would thoroughly enjoy their stay





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and never want to leave. A statement headboard in a beautiful Andrew Martin fabric, teamed with subtle dusty pink elements, makes for memorable stays and repeat visitors."

The client has a preference for bathrooms that are timeless, crisp and white. "We wanted to add some texture by laying subway tiles in a herringbone tile with contrasting grout. This allowed for a touch of character, while still being a very practical space. We complemented this with a marble hexagonal mosaic on the shower floor, while recessed shower fittings allowed for a clean, modern finish," says Tracey.

The runner on the stairs is whipped edge sisal by Alternative Flooring. "This is a very practical, low-maintenance material for a busy stairway and it adds a beautiful natural texture to the space," Helena remarks. The textural, basket-like accessories are a great way to add texture throughout the space to create unity among the rooms, as well as practical spaces for storing shoes and toys," she adds.

"The first time the clients entered their new home away from home, they were blown away. Everything was set up and styled for them; they didn't have to waste a moment of their holiday preparing the house. Everything was ready for them to cook their first family meal in Kerry. This meant they could focus on planning their future breaks to Ireland instead of stressing over a property fit-out."

Source Directory

- Interior design: Serpentine Interiors, Limerick and Galway, [serpentineinteriors.ie](http://serpentineinteriors.ie)
- Headboards: designed by Serpentine Interiors, made by its bespoke vendors, covered in Zoffany (blue headboard in master bedroom) and Andrew Martin fabric (guest bedroom)
- Parker Knoll sofas in living room and blue chair in main bedroom: Casey's, Limerick, [caseys.ie](http://caseys.ie)
- Curtains in living room: Designed by Serpentine Interiors, made by its bespoke vendor in Osborne & Little fabric, [osborneandlittle.com](http://osborneandlittle.com)
- Stairs runner: Alternative Flooring through Casey's, Limerick, [alternativeflooring.com](http://alternativeflooring.com)
- Rug in the living room: Katherine Carnaby Rugs, [rugs.ie](http://rugs.ie)