

# COASTAL

## H I D E A W A Y

This calming holiday home feels luxurious and inviting, thanks to considered styling

Words: **Róisín Healy**

When we think of a holiday home, we can all conjure that familiar setting – the plain, basic, tried-and-tested set up we all have experienced. While there is nothing wrong with that, elevating the look and feel creates the magic that invites you to switch off and relax. Taking the time and care to create something special from the beginning ensures that the house becomes much closer to the dream you envisaged.

This Kerry home is just that, marrying a hotel level of luxury with a laidback homely feel. The owners of this property are a couple originally from Kerry, now based in New York. They wanted a holiday home that called to them, that they would crave to return to again and again. This spacious house with exceptional views was the perfect place to host their family and friends and to soak up some downtime in the West.

The styling of the home was not going to be an afterthought – this house was very much going to be lived in and loved from the get-go, so needed to have the allure and comfort of a high end escape. The newly built, detached dormer bungalow has an abundance of space, with a kitchen, utility, dining room, living room, four bedrooms and three bathrooms.

Following an initial consultation, plan reviews and a site visit, the homeowners enlisted Serpentine Interiors, run by Tracey Collins and Helena Grimes, to design the home. The couple liked that the concept they put together wasn't the typical holiday homes style that they predicted, and that this felt homely yet timeless.

"The couple are friends with the blogger Retroflame, she had done some work at a company I worked at so she recommended us. It quickly transpired into one of those lucky projects where the client completely trusted our creative input," Tracey says.

"As the clients lived abroad, their brief was to create a home away from home, and not a forgotten placeholder. It needed to be coastal but not too cliché, with calming tones and a touch of luxury."

The client was after an all-inclusive, turnkey design service, so Serpentine Interiors were tasked with choosing all the details and the visual story of the house, ensuring there was a continuous flow.

"It's lovely to have built a relationship with the family and to be able to call for a cuppa. For us, it is important for the client to enjoy the process and that it does not feel clinical. The work we do really reflects the clients we have, as we like to dig deep when getting to know our clients," Tracey says.



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“It’s all well and good for something to look aesthetically pretty, but they have to live there and like it. If it doesn’t reflect them then we don’t feel like we have done our job properly. We have to figure out what it is they want, and take it to the next level, to deliver their dream home.”

### RELAXED TONES

The finished design feels opulent yet welcoming, with subtle seaside textures and layers of colour. The living room is a serene space, with all details working harmoniously together.

“We wanted to focus on layering all the different textures in the room, from the wood floor, the Osborne and Little wool curtains and the muted herringbone linen sofas.

“The room has a continuous muted stripe throughout, without being too invasive. It is a homage to the traditional coastal look, in a much more modern and effortless way,” Helena says.

“It is finished with an oversized Venetian mirror and interesting, curated accessories for the oversized shelving, which was custom made and designed by us.”

The couple wanted the kitchen to feel homely: “They wanted it to feel like a traditional Irish kitchen, but they weren’t afraid to go for that electric blue on the island. The sleek Dekton worktops have a high polish that feels luxurious,” Tracey says.

### PRECIOUS PRIVACY

The bedrooms are filled with elegant furniture that fills the space, with rich fabrics creating a fine hotel-like atmosphere. The master bedroom needed to have impact, while still retaining a restful ambience.

“This room is huge, so we went oversized on everything so it all felt more balanced, full and cosy. We designed the headboard and it was made by one of our vendors with a stunning Zoffany fabric,” Helena says.

“The accent chair from Caseys Furniture and the coordinating chest of drawers and lockers give a touch of luxury.”



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A lot of attention was given to the guest bedroom, as the family wanted it to feel special. In terms of furnishing, this room required storage, as it is the only room without a walk-in wardrobe, so Helena and Tracey introduced a wood textured wardrobe.

“Often guest rooms can be forgotten spaces, so we wanted it to feel more personal. We wanted to create a room that anyone would enjoy staying in and feel well rested,” Helena says.

