



ROOMS WITH A VIEW

FEATURE ANNABELLE GRUNDY | PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE

An idyllic location is just one of the stand-out features of Sarah and Keith Mason's contemporary home

NEW-BUILD



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Modern self-build

LOCATION Devon

ROOMS Hall, family room/kitchen-diner, study, utility room, cloakroom, mezzanine sitting room, gym, pool room, three bedrooms (all en suite)

BUILT IN 2014

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here, we lived in a modern, six-bedroom house down the road,' says Sarah.

KITCHEN-DINER

Bold black furniture and accessories provide dramatic contrast in this large and airy open-plan space.

Bespoke kitchen by Touch Design Group. Tom Dixon Beat tall black pendant lights, £285 each, Amos Lighting. Asta stackable wicker chair, £130, Netfurniture, is similar



FAMILY ROOM
A glass balustrade and white sofa enhance the feeling of light and space.

Roche-Bobois' Elixir leather modular corner sofa is similar, price on request. Walls painted in True Taupe and Mortar intelligent matt emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5 litres, both Little Greene

With their children starting to leave home, Sarah and Keith Mason were ready to downsize from their large contemporary house overlooking the River Teign in Devon. 'We were keen to stay in the same village and wanted something similar, but just a bit smaller,' explains Sarah.

The couple had been keeping their eye on the market for a while when a 1960s dormer bungalow came up for sale just a few doors away. Its waterside outlook was spectacular, but the interior was dated with an awkward linear layout. 'It was a case of wrong house, right location,' says Sarah. But the view was too special to ignore, so they decided to buy the property, demolish it and build the modern home they envisaged.

Working with architect Chris Cunningham of Harrison Sutton Partnership, the Masons drew

up plans for a contemporary, timber-clad house designed around the scenery. 'Our other must-haves were a small gym, an office and an en-suite bedroom with a dressing room,' says Sarah. Finalising the design and gaining planning permission took a year. 'We tweaked the interior, adding a mezzanine, and we had to adjust some of the angles of the roof line in order to get approval.' The couple, together with Sarah's son Harry, then 18, settled in a rented home, where they remained for two-and-a-half years.

The house spans three levels with floor-to-ceiling windows making the view a feature of all the key rooms. There are living areas and a bedroom on the ground floor; the master suite, gym and swimming pool below; and a sitting room and bedroom on top.

Sarah has always enjoyed interiors and she made good use of her time, planning, researching and

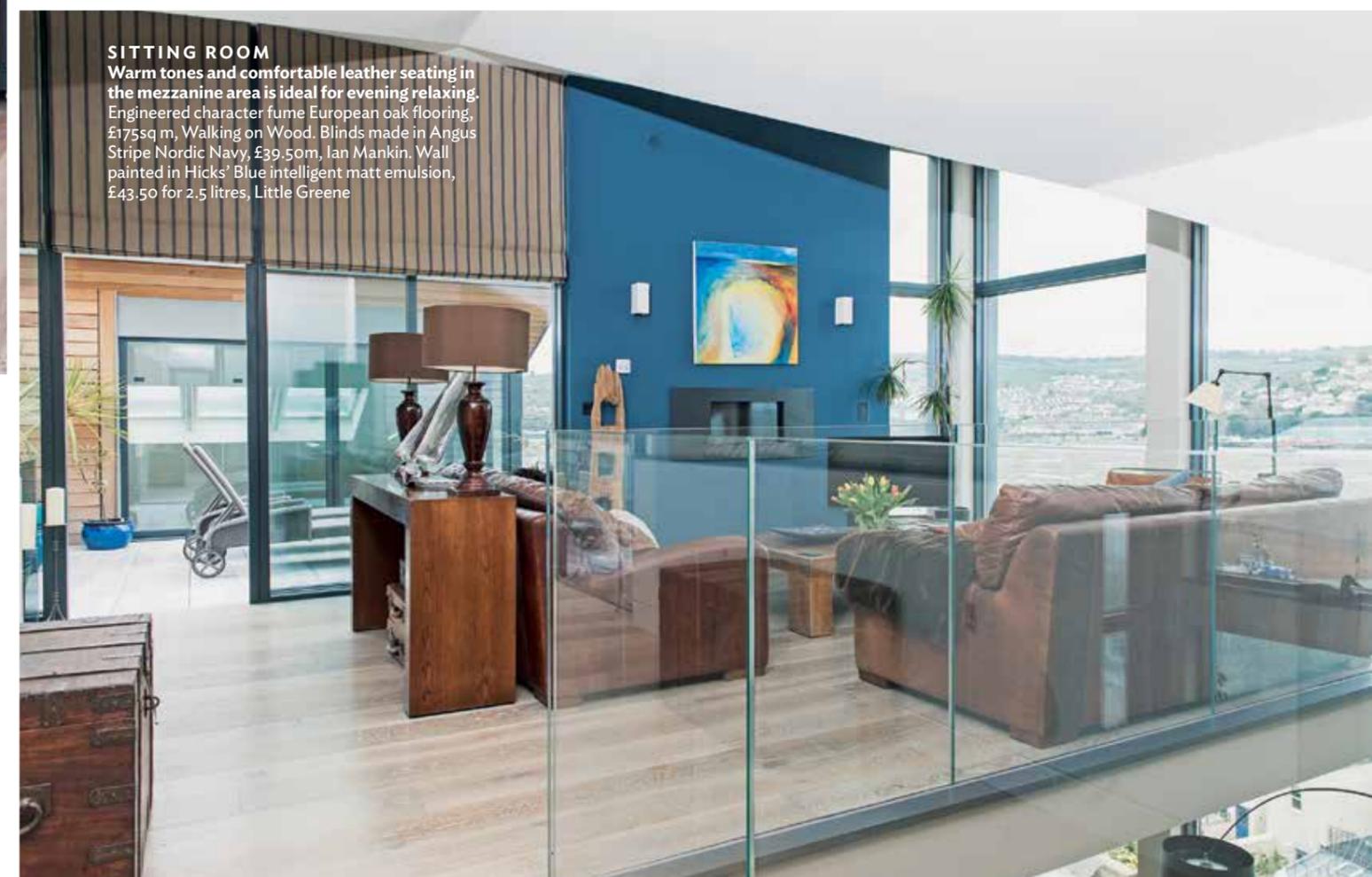


POOL ROOM
The turquoise and grey theme is more prominent in this lower-ground floor area. Bespoke swimming pool by Harris Pools. Black Slate Maxi Splitface wall tiles, £39.99sq m, Mandarin Stone

FAVOURITE ITEM 'My Quooker Fusion kitchen tap is fantastic. It's a mixer tap that also dispenses boiling water for tea and coffee, so there's no kettle cluttering up the worktop'

SITTING ROOM

Warm tones and comfortable leather seating in the mezzanine area is ideal for evening relaxing. Engineered character fume European oak flooring, £175sq m, Walking on Wood. Blinds made in Angus Stripe Nordic Navy, £39.50m, Ian Mankin. Wall painted in Hicks' Blue intelligent matt emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene





MASTER BEDROOM

The multipurpose partition wall cleverly sections off the wet room and wardrobes.

Walls painted in Charleston Gray modern emulsion, £42 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Curtains in Orsoglio Noir fabric, £56m, Designers Guild. Betsy Grey Shagreen bedside table, £395, Shropshire Design



HARRY'S EN SUITE

A pale palette and off-the-floor fittings make this room seem larger.

Calacatta honed marble tiles, from £39.80sq m, Mandarin Stone



WET ROOM
This elegant marble-clad double washstand was designed to Sarah's specification.

Bespoke washstand by Touch Design Group

sourcing everything from flooring and doors to fabrics and furniture. She browsed design books and magazines, and visited numerous shops and showrooms, picking up ideas and developing her individual style. 'I like a clean, clutter-free feel, but I still want to see the ornaments, pictures and items that mean something to us,' says Sarah. 'I'd love to be a bit more minimalist, but I can't quite do it!'

Located in the heart of the open-plan living area, between the seating and dining zones, the kitchen is the pivotal space, and Sarah had a clear idea of how it would look and function. 'I wanted understated black units and a hidden larder so I could keep the surfaces clear,' she explains. Tracking down what she had in mind at a reasonable price proved tricky, however, so



HARRY'S BEDROOM

White furniture and striped bedlinen contrast crisply with a deep-blue wall.

Seasalt Cornish Stripe bedding, £15 for a pillow, John Lewis, is similar. Wall painted in Hicks' Blue intelligent matt emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene

Sarah was delighted when she discovered Touch Design Group, who supplied the simple, stylish units and slimline black granite surfaces. They also created the roomy larder neatly concealed behind a glass splashback that gently reflects the gorgeous scenery.

To echo the location, Sarah chose a tranquil palette of neutrals, greys and blues. The colours unify the living zones, and extend through to the comfortable bedrooms and cosy mezzanine sitting room.

Having visualised so much of the house in her head, and after waiting almost three years for it to finally materialise, Sarah is thrilled with the unique home she and Keith have created. 'We have everything we could want, in the most fantastic location,' she says. 'We feel incredibly lucky to live here.' 25