



# HOMeward BOUND

*Jacqueline Bolt's return to her childhood town was perfectly timed and richly rewarded*

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRENCH



**1 SITTING ROOM**  
Removing a set of stairs and adding a window created more space and light. Steptoe vintage leather two-seater sofa, £1,545, Alexander & Pearl, would work. Prestigious Autumn Leaves in Red Berry Roman blinds, £92, Blindsuk.net

**2 SNUG**  
This is a great spot for Jacqueline to go online and check her emails. Prestigious First Class in Charcoal Roman blind, £38, Blindsuk.net

**KITCHEN-DINER**  
Jacqueline designed the country-style cabinetry herself and had craftsman Dan Bailey build it. Handmade freestanding units, £3,300, Black Barn Crafts; painted in Bone estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Stenstorp kitchen island, £200, Ikea. Rag slate wall clock, £45, Roger Bolt



**SITTING ROOM**  
An original wooden lintel is the standout feature of this cosy reading corner. Woodwarm Fireview multi-fuel stove, £1,221, The Stove Shop. Stripy cushions, £10 each, Dunelm. Boat print photo art on canvas, from £52, Jacqueline Bolt



2



UNIQUE

## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY**  
18th-century detached stone and cob cottage  
**LOCATION** North Cornwall  
**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, snug, utility room, three bedrooms (one en suite), dressing room, two bathrooms  
**PURCHASED** 2009  
**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**  
'Before moving here, I lived in a 300-year-old thatched cottage in Devon,' says Jacqueline.

When a cottage in a familiar hamlet in North Cornwall came onto the market in 2009, Jacqueline Bolt was desperate to buy it. 'I lived in the area as a child, and my mother and siblings are all still there. So I've known the property all my life, and grew up with the three sisters who owned it,' she explains. 'I had always admired the house because it's so quintessentially Cornish, and the timing of its sale couldn't have been better because I was looking for a home nearer my family.'

Although pretty, the cob-and-stone cottage wasn't habitable as it had been neglected for many years. In fact, a surveyor advised Jacqueline to knock it down, which was the proverbial red rag to a bull. 'Demolition wasn't an option!' she states. 'I was determined

to retain as much of the original cottage as possible, because I was worried that if the integrity of the building was lost, I wouldn't love it anymore.' Instead, she asked an architect to help revive the three-bedroom property.

The biggest challenge was replacing the early 1900s lean-to with a two-storey side extension, which would create enough space for a kitchen-diner downstairs and a master en-suite bedroom with dressing room above. But the west cob gable collapsed during its demolition. 'It was a big shock, but fortunately no-one was injured,' assures Jacqueline. Then later an internal cob wall fell down, and more problems were uncovered leading to all the walls being stripped right back and the roof being completely removed.

Undeterred, Jacqueline stayed true to the fabric of the building. 'We rebuilt



**STAIRCASE**  
This was custom-built by local craftsmen to complement the cottage's rustic nature. Try the hessian-lined log basket, £36, Amazon





**GUEST BEDROOM**  
 This harmonious scheme is designed around Jacqueline's own photo artwork. Mauve Union Jack crewel cushion, £13, Dunelm. Prestigious Serenity in Lavender Roman blind, £66, Blindsuk.net



**LANDING**  
 Recycled floorboards make characterful wall cladding.

the walls in the original materials and we refitted as much of the Delabole rag roof slates as we could, and sourced others locally,' she explains. 'And to recapture the rustic feel inside the cottage, I reused the flagstone flooring in the kitchen and porch, and recycled a small window we'd taken out and refitted it above the kitchen sink.'

The old floorboards were also put to good use, after Jacqueline removed many layers of paint. 'Whatever didn't come off stayed on,' she says. 'Then my carpenter made a window seat, extractor fan housing and wall cladding from them.'

Her heavy investment into the shell of the property forced Jacqueline

to be inventive and creative with the finishing touches. Much of her furniture is sourced from auctions, antiques shops or donated by friends, and she's kept the walls neutral with just splashes of colour via nature-inspired window treatments and her own photographic art, which she sells. 'I've always liked a naturally relaxing environment,' says Jacqueline.

She is thrilled with how the project has turned out and is even happier to be back in her home town. 'My close family is nearby, and the sitting room brings back fond memories of playing here with my friends as a small child,' says Jacqueline. 'It's a very special place, and I'm so glad I made the move.' 🍷



**EN SUITE**  
 This simple design looks clean and fresh. Slipper freestanding bath, £329, Bathrooms.com. Driftwood heart, £80, Etsy



**MASTER BEDROOM**  
 'I love any kind of needlework so I enjoyed making the cushions,' says Jacqueline. Bed canopy crown and drapes, £132, Lavender & Sage



**GUEST BATHROOM**  
 The baroque-style mirror adds wow factor to this small room. Feature wall painted in Bowler Hat matt emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5 litres, Dulux