



BEFORE

The drab Seventies bungalow lacked living space and design features

‘We got creative with timber’

Lisa Traxler and Lincoln Miles worked wonders with wood to make an ugly bungalow blend into its beautiful surroundings

After three years spent living on a houseboat, Lisa Traxler and her partner Lincoln Miles began looking for somewhere with a little more space on the Isle of Wight. ‘When we found a bungalow standing in ancient woodland just a short walk from the beach, we fell in love with its setting,’ says Lisa.

The bungalow was typical of Seventies properties on the Isle of Wight, with mock-stone walls, UPVC windows and a concrete-tile roof. ‘Lincoln’s an architectural designer and I’m an artist, so we knew we could do something really creative with the building,’ says Lisa. Lincoln (07931 721172; lincolnmilesarchitecture.co.uk) spent three years planning how to extend and personalise the property without spoiling its woodland setting.

The couple decided to keep the existing two-bedroom building at the core of their new house. ‘We’d grown to love the place,’ says Lincoln. ‘Although many people would have demolished it and started from scratch, we wanted to

build around it.’ They redesigned its layout to create a bedroom for their daughter, Ellie, plus a guest bedroom, a bathroom, a snug and a utility room.

Lincoln also drew up plans to add a timber-clad, three-storey wing on one side of the bungalow and to replace the garage on the other side with a single-storey extension to create an art studio and an office. Once planning

‘Building upwards has given us a new perspective. It’s like being in a giant treehouse’

permission had been approved, the family moved into rented accommodation and employed a building contractor. With a tight budget and a timescale of just five months, the couple saved time and money by tackling a lot of the work themselves.

Keen to add some of her own artwork to the house, Lisa (07931 617429; lisatraxler.com) designed an abstract enamel mural for the outside of the extension. Inside, the couple have teamed vintage finds with contemporary furniture for an eclectic feel. ‘Building upwards has given us a new perspective,’ says Lincoln. ‘It’s like being in a giant treehouse.’



AFTER

Wooden cladding, walnut window frames and a slate roof help the original bungalow fit in with the extensions at either end



FACT FILE

THE OWNERS Lisa Traxler and Lincoln Miles live here with their daughter, Ellie.

THE PROPERTY A four-bedroom, detached house, formerly a two-bedroom Seventies bungalow, in Binstead, Isle of Wight.

THE COSTS The couple paid £270,000 for the bungalow when they bought it in 2006. They spent £250,000 on remodelling it in 2009, drawing the plans and doing a lot of building work themselves – a similar project would cost around £600,000.

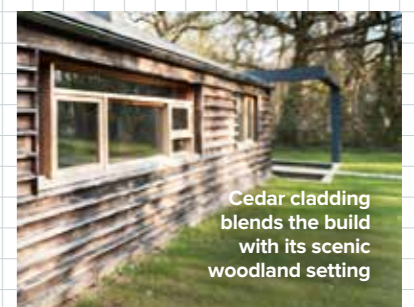


A roof light spans the length of the kitchen-diner, while sliding doors link it to the garden

FOCUS ON EXTERNAL CLADDING

For Lisa and Lincoln, blending the house into its woodland setting was an important part of the project. The bungalow and studio are clad in horizontal larch boards, while the three-storey extension has a combination of vertical cedar and agricultural cement boards.

- The original bungalow and the single-storey extension are covered in charred Siberian larch. ‘The simple horizontal timbers form ledges, which cast shadows and allow rainwater to drip off,’ says Lincoln.
- The larch boards were burnt before they were used as cladding, as the carbonising process releases



Cedar cladding blends the build with its scenic woodland setting

- resins that form a protective lacquer, making the wood resistant to insects.
- To tie in the cladding with its surroundings, the blackened surface imitates the tree bark in the nearby woodland. Lisa also coated the cement board in cow manure and live yoghurt to encourage the natural growth of lichen and moss.