

20th ANNIVERSARY BUMPER ISSUE

SELF BUILD & DESIGN

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- Hand-crafted homes
- Eco houses
- Foreign imports
- Traditional styles
- Grand designs
- Ingenious creations
- Budget builds
- Low-maintenance abodes
- Beautiful family homes

Your legal
& planning
questions

**BARN-STYLE
NEW BUILD**

Spectacular cliff-top retreat Built for just £220,000

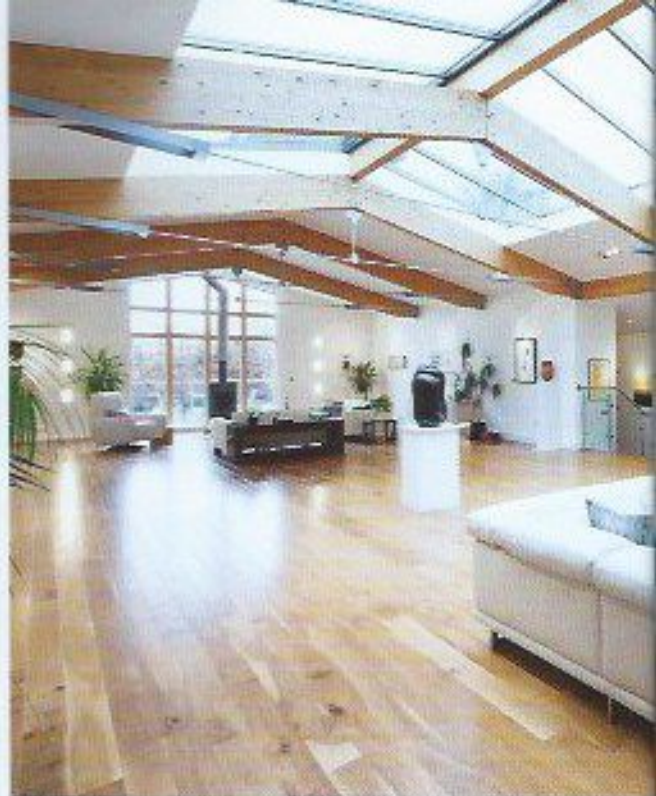


- Open-plan eco house in Dorset
- Reverse-level coastal home

**Amanda
Lamb's**
RENOVATION
TOP TIPS

**SHOWCASE
RADIATORS &
WALL LIGHTS**





INTERIORS GOING MINIMAL

Barbara Genda Bespoke Furniture was commissioned to undertake the contemporary minimalist refurbishment of a four-bedroom property in Bedfordshire.

The house was attractive, with high ceilings and lots of light, but the key issue was a lack of storage, along with poor-quality fittings. The brief was to create plenty of new storage, within a £70k budget.

The first action was to replace the window in the kitchen with one almost double the size to increase the natural light level. The colours of the doors in the original kitchen were mismatched, but instead of installing new fittings, Barbara suggested updating them - replacing dated walnut panels with satin lacquered handleless doors - and reconfiguring the kitchen cabinets to full height.

The kitchen layout was also in need of a change, prompting Barbara to redesign the entire back

wall to include internal storage. A modern lacquer finish adds a contemporary feel, enhanced by chrome storage baskets, a new extractor hood and brushed-steel kick boards, all of which contrast with the tiles. A section of the kitchen was also portioned off to create a separate utility space.

The existing MDF furniture in the bedroom did not complement the space, which is long, with high ceilings. To maximise the space, partitioned walls were built with synchronised pocket doors. Cleverly designed his-and-hers wardrobes feature clean lines enhanced by alcoves with lights and glass shelves. Two further bedrooms are fitted with bespoke wardrobes in a modern white lacquer, which streamline the rooms.

“Lighting was carefully chosen to create atmosphere, with arrow and star lighting pieces introduced for a fun feel.”



In detail

LIVING ROOM

Side: [nature.com](http://www.nature.com)

Paint: Farrow & Ball

[farrow-ball.com](http://www.farrow-ball.com)

KITCHEN

Handleless door panels, storage and panels: Barbara Genda

Bespoke Furniture: barbara-genda.com

Extractor: Luxair

luxairhoods.com

Splashback: Life

the-little.co.uk

BEDROOMS

Electric blinds: Silent

glass-blinds.co.uk

Blinds: Fabric World

fabricworld.co.uk

Carpet: Jaxaranda

jaxarandacarpet.com





The completed redesign includes bespoke living furniture for a cinema space, along with built-in wardrobes for the guest and children's bedrooms.

The owner wanted extra space in the bathroom, where the existing sub-standard cabinetry had been water damaged. Key elements such as the toilet, tap, sinks, vanity unit and worktops were all replaced, creating a practical space with additional storage. Wall niches were made for new mirrored vanity cabinets, which were sprayed with a contemporary, metallic finish. More units were created and installed for the property's two further bathrooms.

A former bedroom, featuring an impractical steel post, was turned into a home office, for which Barbara designed and fitted full-length bespoke storage cabinets to create space and conceal the post. LED lighting added a modern and inviting touch.



In detail

SANITARYWARE

Tap Tre Mercati:

tremercati.co.uk

Lighting Astro

Lighting:

astrolighting.com

Under-counter

basin Vitra:

vitra.com

Worktop

Chilren Marble:

chilrenmarble.co.uk

Towel rail Bentan's

Bathroom Products:

bentans.co.uk

Meet the designer

After studying Law at Wroclaw University in Poland, Barbara Cenda completed her degree at Dundee University. Despite being passionate about design and architecture, she instead chose a more commercially focused degree. She later became frustrated with her job as a tax consultant and decided to embark on a career in furniture design. In 2000, she began producing designs, and found a freelance furniture technologist online to develop technical drawings. Together, they selected two companies to create their prototype and began selling the products via a mail order catalogue. Bigger projects were commissioned, with clients admiring her contemporary yet versatile design angle, and now more than 90 per cent of the furniture commissioned is bespoke. (barbara-cenda.com)

