

**SCOTLAND**

THE SUNDAY TIMES SECTION 8 | APRIL 11, 2010

**ingear  
INSIDE**

# home



## To the light house

How a dingy Ayrshire home was turned into a sun trap **P6**

### DUMFRIESSHIRE ROULETTE

An owner vows to let the market decide his fate **P4**

### NEW WAVE

All aboard for nautical interiors **P20**

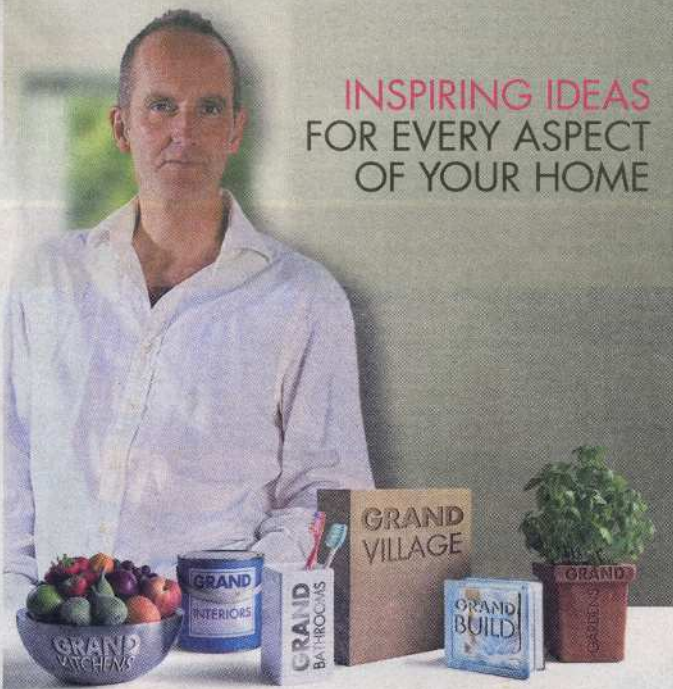


# Light at the tunnel's end

VOTED  
CONSUMER  
SHOW OF THE YEAR

**GRAND  
DESIGNS  
LONDON** LIVE  
EXCEL • 1-9 MAY 2010

INSPIRING IDEAS  
FOR EVERY ASPECT  
OF YOUR HOME



KITCHENS • INTERIORS • BATHROOMS • VILLAGE • BUILD • GARDENS • TECHNOLOGY

1 - 9 MAY 2010 | EXCEL, LONDON

BOOK NOW & SAVE £5\*

Call the ticket hotline on 0844 581 0771 or book online  
[www.granddesignslive.com](http://www.granddesignslive.com)

VELUX first direct PHILIPS Miele Cuprinol BOSCH  
Shelter Building Standards CLASSIC /M

Organised by Media 10 Ltd. Grand Designs is a trademark of Freemantle Media Limited.

Licensed by Freemantle Media Enterprises. [www.freemantlemedia.com](http://www.freemantlemedia.com)

\*£5 saving is off the door price. Advanced booking offer, book by midnight the day prior to attending. Transaction fee applies.

After years in a dark cottage, an Ayrshire family can see the sun thanks to a glass corridor and an extension, writes **Caroline Ednie**

**D**iane Young loves the way that her home sparkles. "One of the things I didn't like about the old house was that it just didn't reflect our personality at all," she says. "Now I wake up every day and feel so lucky—I can't believe that it's finally finished and it's our house. Being involved in the creation of something like this has been a great experience."

She and her husband Gordon have effectively transformed their dark and often chilly 250-year-old stone cottage in Ayrshire into a light-filled, airy arrangement — and without recourse to a wrecking ball.

Indeed, the integrity of the original, C-listed cottage has been more or less retained. The ingenuity of the design lies in the creation of a glass corridor between the old house and a new extension — a strip that provides the contemporary addition with extra light while allowing the dark, traditional rooms of the cottage to benefit from light coming through the original south-facing window openings.

"I've seen a lot of extensions that create problems the moment they're built," says the Glasgow-based architect Peter Welsh, of Peter Welsh Studio, who designed the extension.

"Often extensions don't take into account the spaces in the existing house. And once they're built, suddenly you end up with rooms that don't get daylight and that nobody wants to use any more."

"We wanted to create a building that was light and airy throughout, not only in the extension. And the answer was to create a light corridor, which was achieved by dropping the extension to garden level and



keeping the roof as shallow as possible."

This "light corridor" is central to the success of the clever traditional-meets-contemporary ensemble but it's by no means the whole story of the project, which began when the couple bought the original cottage 10 years ago.

"We had spent years thinking about what we wanted," says Young, who alongside husband Gordon runs the Carnyx Group, an independent communications company. "As our family got bigger, we needed more space [for children Alistair, 6, Rhona, 3, and Eilidh, 1]. We both wanted a big, open-plan space at the back. Since our house was really quite dark, we were keen to bring light in and also to see our garden."

The couple also wanted to simplify the convoluted route through the house, which had limited access. It became clear that the change would require the moving of the front door. Due to the sensitive nature of the site, in a conservation village, and the property being listed, Young decided to approach a local planner for advice.

"I was told that as long as the extension didn't have a flat roof it would be considered, and that moving the door shouldn't be a problem, because the entrance had already been moved during a previous conversion," says Young.

"Our house used to be the home of the village nurse — the main part was her house and the addition at the right hand side was the surgery. When the previous owners converted the loft into two bedrooms, they had to move the front door from the original house to the surgery door in order to get a bathroom and staircase in, but this meant that access to the back of the house involved going through the main rooms. It wasn't ideal."

The solution was a new central entrance and corridor in the cottage, leading directly down into the new extension, which comprises an open-plan space containing a living area, dining space and kitchen. Having the extension at the same level as the south-facing rear garden — which sits 3ft below the level of the cottage — means the living space opens onto the garden via a new timber deck.

Introducing a central gutter allowed the creation of the light corridor between the old and new structures. Beyond the gutter the zinc roof rises, supported





The family, with Gordon's father Noel, enjoy the view from the dining area, which opens onto the garden; left, the bathroom



The heavily glazed corridor that has transformed the house; below, high-gloss units make the most of light



**"THE QUALITY OF LIGHT ENTERING THE BEDROOM IS BEAUTIFUL"**

hadn't wanted to for a long time, as my previous kitchen was unusable. I bought most of the fixtures and fittings, which allowed me to control the £150,000 budget a bit more and also allowed me to have quite a lot of fun."

Indeed, Young admits that the uplifting effect of the light-filled extension has filtered down to her choice of finishes, including the kitchen's glossy units and dining table, which complement the simple white walls and engineered oak floors. "I have gone for so many reflective materials," she says. "Coming from a dark house, I realise how much I'm enjoying the light bouncing off everything. I've just discovered this sparkliness."

www.peterweishstudio.com

on an external steel structure that maximises the window area looking onto the garden. A band of high windows lets the sun stream into the upper storey. "The quality of light entering the bedroom is beautiful," says Young.

In the existing house, a family

bathroom is reached from the new central corridor, the previous entrance area has been turned into a storeroom, and the kitchen has been transformed into a laundry room. A fourth bedroom replaces the former living area on the ground level.

Refining the design proved to

be the lengthiest part of the project, taking almost two years. Construction, which took a few months longer than the six months foreseen, also had its moments. Young, however, is adamant that she'd "much rather have this fantastic house after a few years than a

design-and-build that was delivered on time".

"The construction was originally going to be six months, but when it started on site in December 2008 it rained the whole time. Digging the foundations was like the trenches of the first world war. And there was no

access to the back of the house, so everything had to go through the house. I think we took away 27 skip loads in total."

Although Young did not manage the project, she was involved in creating the interior. "I designed and sourced the kitchen," she says. "I like cooking but

## Cadgers Brae Plean, Stirling

Take advantage of the incredible savings on this stunning 4 bedroom detached property at Plean on the outskirts of Stirling.

Plot 55: **The Dochart**  
4 bed detached villa with integral garage was ~~£195,000~~  
**NOW £179,950**

**SAVE OVER £15,000**  
**PART EXCHANGE OR SPECIAL INCENTIVES ALSO AVAILABLE**  
subject to June 2010 entry.

**Telephone**  
01786 445133.

Marketing Suite located at New Park Gardens development, Stirling. Open Thurs-Mon 11am-5.30pm. Viewing by appointment only.

Head Office 01786 811811  
[www.ogilvie.co.uk](http://www.ogilvie.co.uk)

**ogilvie**  
leading the way home

An Ogilvie Group company.