

Ideal Home



TRANSFORM YOUR HOME

15 inspiring extensions & exterior makeovers



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BEFORE

The old bungalow was cramped and unattractive

‘We made a bungalow stylish’

Clare and Jim Mansell extended their bungalow, then gave it a radical face-lift with weatherboarding and timber-framed windows

Clare and Jim Mansell decided to put down roots and create a family home for themselves and their son, Theo, but the squat, 100-year-old bungalow they ended up buying in West Sussex couldn't have been less appealing.

‘We called it “the ugly bungalow”, but we knew we could turn it into something more exciting, to make the most of lovely views across Chichester harbour to the Isle of Wight,’ says Clare. ‘As a family, we needed more space, but the loft was too cramped to convert, and the garden isn't huge, so building upwards was the obvious solution.’

The couple approached Nigel Lewis, whose Hampshire-based company, Space & Style Home Design (023 9252 5100; spaceandstyle.co.uk), specialises in extension and remodelling projects. ‘Nigel was so enthusiastic that we knew immediately we'd found the right person,’ says Clare.

Nigel's plan was to completely transform the exterior of the existing

bungalow. The roof would be removed and the building extended upwards to form a timber-framed first floor with pretty dormer windows. This would create space for three new bedrooms and two bathrooms upstairs. A new veranda would shelter the front door, and several windows would be replaced. To tie the old and new together, the plans included covering the existing

brickwork with weatherboarding and pale render.

A team of builders carried out the work, which started in March 2014 and took five months. Fortunately, the existing foundations and walls didn't require reinforcement, and

scaffolding was erected around the building and wrapped in plastic to form a weatherproof shell.

‘Building upwards has almost doubled our living space, so our advice would be not to overlook bungalows just because they're unattractive – they've got lots of potential,’ says Clare. ‘We've created a family home in an area we love that we simply couldn't have afforded to buy.’

‘Everything changed so quickly – we enjoyed a new milestone each week’



AFTER

Claid in pale render and weatherboarding with a brand-new first floor, the property is now smart and spacious



Multiple floor-to-ceiling glass doors let natural light flood in while also helping to retain a cosy, homely feel

JOHN OGILVIE, MANAGING DIRECTOR, NETWORK VEKA



FACT FILE

THE OWNERS

Clare and Jim Mansell live here with their son, Theo.

THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom, detached house in West Sussex, built around a bungalow dating from 1900.

THE COSTS The couple paid £335,000 for the bungalow in 2009, and spent £170,000 on extending and renovating it.



Oak flooring and wood furniture give the living area a rustic look, while the modern wood-burning stove makes a great feature

PHOTOGRAPHS CLARE MANSELL

FOCUS ON ADDING A STOREY

Extending upwards by building an extra storey on a bungalow or above a garage can be a cost-effective way to add more living space without encroaching on the garden. Some upwards extensions can spoil the proportions and character of the original, though, so careful design is important to make sure that the building still works as a whole.

● Before adding further weight to the walls of a building, it's important to check the structure can bear

the added load, and that the foundations are suitable and stable. An architect or design professional can advise on the best design and assist with a planning application, as well as producing structural calculations.

● Timber frame is more lightweight than conventional brick and blockwork, and is a popular choice for adding a new storey to an existing building. Dormer windows, which extend out the original roof, can add extra headroom. Dormer frames are usually constructed using timber.



Dormer windows provide extra headroom, plus a handy spot to sit



BEFORE

The house had a typical Sixties facade

'We completely redesigned it'

In a street of similar houses, Lisa and Tony Short's Sixties-built home didn't stand out until they gave it a very modern face-lift

Lisa and Tony Short already knew the neighbourhood well when they bought their Sixties house in Gosport, Hampshire. Their previous home was an identical property just three doors down, where the couple had completed a massive renovation project.

'We decided we wanted to do it all over again, so when a house came up for sale just along the road, it seemed like the perfect opportunity,' says Lisa. 'In fact, we phoned up and made an offer before we'd even been inside the property because we knew we would be pulling it apart.'

Having employed him on their previous project, Lisa and Tony decided to ask local building designer, Nigel Lewis of Space & Style Home Design (023 9252 5100; spaceandstyle.co.uk), to reinvent the property inside and out. They were determined that the ordinary pitched roof had to go, and their brief to Nigel was to design a flat-roofed, contemporary-looking house. He came up with the idea of using projecting and

cantilevered cubes in contrasting materials to form a striking, highly modern exterior. Extending to the front, rear and side of the property would also provide additional open-plan living space on both floors.

'The entire back of the house came down and the roof came off, so it was completely open to the elements,' says Tony. 'Lisa and I converted the old

single garage into a temporary home, where we lived for six weeks. After that, we moved back into the house and made each of the rooms habitable as and when our budget allowed.'

Tony is an electrician and acted as the main contractor for the renovation, undertaking

as much of the work as possible and employing individual trades during the two-year project. 'Lisa and I enjoy working together to redesign a house,' he says. 'Instead of watching TV in the evening, we'll sit down with the drawings and plan out changes to the interior. Redesigning homes has become a bit of an addiction.'

'Living in an open-plan space really suits our family and is great for entertaining'



AFTER

A new flat roof and wood-clad extension have given the house an ultramodern look

FACT FILE

THE OWNERS Lisa and Tony Short live here with their son, George, and daughter, Charlie.

THE PROPERTY A Sixties detached house in Gosport, Hampshire.

THE COSTS The couple paid £260,000 for the house in 2009 and have spent around £110,000 extending and reroofing it.



A partial wall helps to define the dining and living areas in the open-plan ground floor

PHOTOGRAPHS GABRY REYN LEWIS

FOCUS ON ALTERING A ROOF

Lisa and Tony completely altered the shape and pitch of their home's roof to transform the look of the property. Changing the roof involves major structural work, which can be expensive and disruptive.

- Modifying the shape of a roof has a huge impact on the look of a house. Most period and new houses are built with pitched roofs, but flat ones are becoming more popular for ultramodern new-builds and extensions.
- Flat-roofing systems have come a long way since the

Sixties and Seventies, when bitumen and asphalt leaked and needed to be frequently replaced. Modern single-ply roofing membranes are insulated and built to last.

- Planning permission isn't usually required for reroofing your house, subject to certain conditions, but you might need approval if you want to completely change the roof's appearance. To be sure, check the government's planning and building regulations guidelines at planningportal.gov.uk.



Changing the roof is a major structural change but it can totally transform the look of a property