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ELLE DECORATION

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A HOME FOR ALL SEASONS

With its rugged coastal surroundings, soothing interior and roaring log fires, this Danish summerhouse is the perfect place to escape to, even in the depths of winter

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Exterior Located just yards from the waterline on the Danish island of Langeland, with a stoney-hued palette and natural materials within, this rebuild strove to be as sympathetic as possible to the natural beauty of its surroundings ►



Built on a plot just yards from the beach, Vagn Hansen's summerhouse boasts an enviable location and spectacular sea views, but this angular glass and concrete house is a far cry from the quaint cottages and pretty cabins that are dotted across the Danish island of Langeland. Used as a year-round family retreat for Vagn, his wife Inge-Marie, their children and grandchildren, the house is strikingly modern and yet somehow quite at home on this stretch of rugged coastline. The interior features light-filled living spaces, numerous

cosy bedrooms and countless tranquil spots to sit and appreciate the area's natural beauty. Here, Vagn talks us through the design, the process and the result.

How did you come across the incredible location? I was born in Langeland, and I inherited the family home and the land from my parents. It's difficult to build so close to the sea now, so we are very lucky to have this plot. **Where did you get the idea for the design?** The inspiration for the new house came from the old one, which once stood in the same spot.

It had been extended countless times over the years, and always had room for one more guest! **What were your priorities?** We needed the house to be big, with lots of space for family and guests. We also wanted to make the most of the sea views and fill the house with natural light. **How does the house fit with its habitat?** We were keen to have a modern, spacious home, but we had to be careful not to create something too obtrusive. The architects broke up the house by dividing it into different levels and zones, to prevent it from overshadowing the neighbouring summerhouses. ►

Kitchen, dining and living area This open-plan space has a simple scheme of stripped pine and concrete. Two 'VP Globe' pendant lights by Verner Panton for Verpan (try Chaplins) hang above a pine table, which is flanked with 'Y' chairs designed by Hans Wegner for Carl Hansen & Søn (available at Aram Store). A 'TK8' daybed by Thomas Kastholm sits close to a roaring wood-burning stove **Stockist details on p204**



Who designed the interior? We worked together with the architects on it. We used very few materials and introduced lots of warm wood, which counteracts all the concrete and softens the overall feel of the place. We kept the palette simple, so the focus is on the view outside.

What's your favourite place in the house? I love the living room with its enormous windows that look out over the sea. I also like the guest bedrooms: they're very cosy and were designed to simulate cabins on a ship.

How do you spend your time here? As much as we love the house, we spend most of our time outside. We're always outdoors – fishing, sailing, walking or just enjoying the scenery.

What's the best thing about the house? I love the fact that we can accommodate so many people – it's a family place, just like the house that stood here before it. We always come here with our children and grandchildren, and with numerous guests in tow. One night, after a party, we had 24 people staying here... but that was a little crowded!

Study Clever interior solutions, such as a built-in desk and bookcase, keep furniture to a minimum and clutter out of sight

Hallway These corridor walls are actually concealed cupboards. They create the effect of clean, uninterrupted space

Guest bedroom A box bed provides more intelligently integrated storage. The bedspread and cushion are by Danish brand Hay ▶

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‘I LOVE THE FACT THAT WE CAN ACCOMMODATE SO MANY PEOPLE - IT’S A FAMILY PLACE, JUST LIKE THE HOUSE THAT STOOD HERE BEFORE IT’

Main bedroom Situated at the front of the house and featuring bold floor-to-ceiling glass doors, the homeowners’ bedroom is designed to make the most of the ocean views

Bathroom and spa area One of the clever design touches on the lower floors is this bathroom: a large window next to the bath slides right into the wall to create the feeling of being outdoors. A daybed scattered with cushions is the perfect spot to relax with a cup of tea after bathing **ED**