

Houseboat living

GEORGINA MOORE'S HOLIDAY HOME IS A STYLISH FLOATING HAVEN FILLED WITH VINTAGE FINDS AND RETRO TOUCHES



Isle of Wight houseboat



Kitchen Pops of colour
liven up the 'galley'.
Table, chairs, Zinc
& Co. Glasses, bottle,
napkins, throws,
John Lewis. Lights,
tapas jars, board,
canisters, Garden Trading.
Onshore Georgina
paddling with
her children, Sonny
and Daisy. >>

Isle of Wight houseboat



At home with...

Owners Georgina Moore is a communications director and her partner, James, a psychotherapist and film producer. They stay on board with Sonny, four, and Daisy, three.

Houseboat A new-build with four bedrooms.

Georgina Moore and her family live on a houseboat on the Thames, so when they go to the Isle of Wight to stay at their seaside retreat on the island's east coast it's little wonder it feels like 'home from home' – because it's a houseboat, too!

The idea of having a holiday place by the sea had long appealed to Georgina and her partner, James. 'Everyone said we would love the Isle of Wight with its beaches that are great for kids,' she says. James made enquiries, heard about a newly built houseboat over there and went to look at it first, then he took Georgina to see it.

Situated in a scenic harbour, it has spectacular sea views. 'As soon as I saw the houseboat I felt there was something about it,' says Georgina. 'It's in a special spot that's colourful and eccentric. We felt as if we'd been there before.'

The houseboat itself was beautiful – newly built on a 1970s Thames lighter hull (a type of sailing barge) and freshly painted. Designed with a large open-plan space that makes the most of the sea views, it has bedrooms and bathrooms downstairs. Outside, metal stairs lead to the open upper deck.

'Wow! We knew we could enjoy it with the children and let it out for holidays, too,' says Georgina. 'We know what living on a houseboat is like so it was easy to think of taking it on.'

After a bit of to-ing and fro-ing, the sale went ahead. Having attained their dream holiday home, Georgina was keen to ensure the interior was exactly to her taste. 'Houseboats don't have issues with period detail. It was a blank canvas, so we »

Houseboat Safely moored, the *Sturdy* enjoys views of the harbour and the Solent beyond.

Hallway Simple storage keeps the area uncluttered. Blind fabric, Nicholas Haslam.



Living area Maritime blue anchors the open-plan space, while industrial-style furniture adds a modern twist. Sofa, Loaf. Lamp, coffee table, Made.com. Striped cushions, French Grey Interiors. Bulldog cushion, Gardenarium.

What makes this house a home...
 'The paintings. We commissioned them from local artists who have become good friends, and that makes it feel personal'



Guest bedroom
Soft pastels create a cosy feel. Shelf unit, Urban Outfitters. Bed, Loaf. Bedside chests, Made.com. Settle (below right), The Cowshed.

What we love most about living here...

'It's all about the sea for us. We wake up to a constantly changing view'

Viewing deck
The rooftop area is ideal for sunbathing, weather permitting!



Bathroom

Georgina has used an all-white palette as a fresh backdrop and added jaunty sea-themed accessories. Cabinet, Oasis. Painting by Penelope Walford. Towels, John Lewis. Bag, Cath Kidston. Model prawn, Pomegranate. Small ships, Pomegranate, Beachcomber.

could do what we wanted. I love the rustic industrial look but wanted it to feel friendly, so I created lots of moodboards to make sure I got it right.'

Georgina enlisted the help of local interior designer Gabriele Langer, who introduced her to The Cowshed, in Carisbrooke, a great source of antiques and hidden gems. 'We needed help, and Gabi has a wonderful ability to track things down.' The result is a stylish and eclectic mix. A zinc-topped table and chairs in different colours add a fun element in the kitchen, while industrial-style furniture, quirky cushions and statement floor lamps bring a modern nautical touch to the living area. Downstairs, the bedrooms have a shabby chic feel with French-style beds and furniture with a distressed finish.

'We really enjoyed the decorating – it was such fun to be able to start from scratch,' says Georgina. 'We upcycled lots of things, including a desk that had once belonged to James's mother, which works well in the living room.'

It seems holidays are decided for many years to come. 'We love the boat and really miss it when we're not here – the children keep asking when we are next going to the holiday boat. The ferry journey makes it feel like we're going somewhere special. It's an outdoor life, with beautiful beaches and lovely walks. When they're older, the children will learn to sail here, too. It's an idyllic place to be.'

To rent Georgina's harbour houseboat, book through Canopy & Stars at theharbourhouseboat.co.uk. »

On our doorstep...

Visit... 'Queen Victoria's holiday home, Osborne House (01983 200022, english-heritage.org.uk) and walk down to the beach from there.'

Shop at... 'Captain Stan's fishmonger's (01983 875572) in Bembridge for its sea bass and crab. Also try The Farm Shop (01983 874236), especially for local cheeses. I've bought lots of pretty things for the houseboat in Pomegranate (01983 875009), also in Bembridge.'

Go for a meal at... 'Dan's Kitchen (01983 872303, danskitcheniow.com), St Helen's, known for its fish. Also The Taverners (01983 840707, thetavernersgodhill.co.uk), Godhill, for island produce.'