

A 1950s house in Yorkshire

By Frances Ambler

Photography Marcus Peel

Talk

**of
the
Town**

Imagine sitting in your Eames chair, looking through your glass-fronted home, to the blue sea beyond. Chances are you're picturing some balmy Californian fantasy, rather than the East Yorkshire coast. But the Bridlington home of Stephen Banks and Natalie Musgrave proves that the Modernist dream can work just as successfully by the North Sea as by the Pacific.

This home is a true one-off. Spotting the butterfly roof and upper level of the glass façade rising from behind the hedge offers a sharp shift in aesthetic from the surrounding interwar villas and typical British semis. Steve tells me of a local who remembers it being the talk of the town when it was built in 1954. It probably still is. It was for this house that Natalie and Steve, both designers, returned to their hometown of Bridlington after living in London, New York and Hong Kong. What was intended as a short-term move has turned into ten years, and the house has transformed the way they live and work.

The house was commissioned by a local coal merchant, who approached the then recently qualified architect Tim French with a brief consisting of just two stipulations: the house should be modern and it should exploit the sea view. And it still succeeds on both counts. The show-stopping living space on the upper floor proves the point. A double-height panel of windows runs its entire length, providing a scenic vista across the sea to where the cliffs of Flamborough Head curve into sight. That alone would sell the house to many, but there are plenty of equally inspiring details in the interior – the contrast between the wood panelling and the concrete shelving around the chimney breast in the main



Above: kitchen with 1950s freestanding unit; ceramics include: Arabesque mugs by Gill Pemberton for Denby Pottery; Zodiac mugs by John Clappison and 'Heirloom' coffee pots and mugs, both for Hornsea.

Following: kitchen and dining space, with inbuilt table; sofa bed from eBay; Quadrifoglio table lamp by Guzzini; Ercol rocker and dining chair; cushion based on a Hornsea Pottery pattern designed by Natalie.

'With a house like this, you have to do justice to it'

