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25 Beautiful HOMIES

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Inspiration inside...

STUNNING HOMES

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*Pretty
decorating*

Simple linens and painted
furniture in this Kent semi



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467367





DINING AREA Architect Frank Burstow [01599 534040] designed this entertaining space to flow effortlessly between the kitchen and sitting room. The chairs and bench came from Scumble Goose [01453 731305], and are all available ready to paint. Nordic Style [020 7351 1755] supplied the upholstery fabrics, while Russwood [01540 673648] sells similar oiled-pine flooring

tired of the constant upkeep it required and, realising we couldn't afford to retire and carry on paying the mortgage, we started looking for a new home that would leave us debt-free.'

Also, Adrienne and Tim had always wanted to live by the water. 'We both enjoy orienteering, and had visited the Scottish Highlands many times,' says Tim. Knowing they would get more for their money in the region, not to mention the possibility of a lochside location, they looked further and further north until they discovered this plot.

'We'd seen so many dismal houses that, in the end, building from scratch seemed the ideal solution,' says Adrienne. 'And finding a piece of land next to the water – with planning permission to boot – was too good an opportunity to ignore.'

The couple have friends in Sweden and love the architecture there. So when they were deciding

how they wanted their new home to look, Adrienne and Tim visited Skansen, an open-air museum in Stockholm, which contains 150 historical buildings moved there from every part of the country. They then commissioned Frank Burstow – an architect with experience of designing Swedish-style houses in Scotland. 'We stayed in Manchester during the build, so Frank managed the project for us,' says Tim. 'I'd have loved to have been more involved, but made do with frequent visits to the site.'

As the building stands four metres above high-tide level, flooding wasn't a concern, but the exposed site meant that good insulation was vital. Painted clapboard cladding provides an extra layer of protection, as well as giving the property its archetypal Swedish look. Then, at the back of the building, long banks of glazing allow the couple to enjoy the breathtaking views of the loch. The ►