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New homes grand slam

Wimbledon 4

Hooray Henley Out of town 6

At home with Cherie

Area watch 10







30 COVER STORY: INTERIORS



Clockwise from above: the elevated living room, with its own balcony, is borrowed from the original bungalow; the kitchen is where the family congregate, says Annabel Agace; the white décor in the family area is broken by a colourful painting; the kitchen is positioned so that the whole house can be seen from it

California dreamin'



Chris Agace (left) heads for nearby Guildford in his Mark II Jaguar

In the bedroom (below) rich elm wardrobes make the room

feel warm

REATHING in the serenity of Chris and "Chris was here on business and spied the original with a playroom for the children. "The kitchen is where rolling Surrey countryside, it is quite a leap to hill where a Sixties bungalow once stood, this villa-style home centres around a courtyard. our new-build," Annabel says. She and Chris, a barrister-turned-property developer,

For Chris and Annabel it is a long-cherished dream come true. "Our first builder went bankrupt halfway as Modernist Californian homes, and this was the basis through, so the costs rose and it took more than a year of their brief to architect Elspeth Beard. "A to complete," says Annabel. "But we've ended up with exactly what we had imagined."

The Agaces and their children, Matilda, 11, Luke, nine, and Kitty, five, moved to Surrey nearly five years ago from Islington. "We came to Guildford on a whim really," says Annabel, a former chartered surveyor.

Annabel Agace's home, with its views of the bungalow with a good plot of land up for sale. It's close we all congregate," says Annabel. She chose the purity to town yet set in the countryside - on the edge of the remember it is only five minutes from the middle of busy Guildford. "It's so quiet because gated extending the bungalow. "Sadly it wasn't worth we're fairly high up," says Annabel. Set on a salvaging but we had no problem getting permission for

Evening Standard Homes & Property Wednesday, 27 June 2007

had long admired villa-style courtyard designs, as well single-storey design around a courtyard allows light in and makes the best use of interior and outdoor space," says Annabel.

an open-plan living/kitchen/dining and study space them a bird's-eye view of the rest of the house — as well

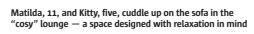


house," she says.





As with the kitchen, the bathroom has been kept in neutral white, with colour provided by pictures





INTERIORS 31

A love of Hollywood and villa-style courtyards gave one couple inspiration when they demolished a Sixties bungalow and built a glass-walled Californian-style family home — in the heart of Surrey. By **Emma Kilbey**

of glossy, stark white units from German company Systemat and Corian worktops to reflect the light that filters into the house through the glass doors. "I wanted a streamlined space with everything tucked away, that echoed all the light bouncing around the

The elevated living room, which has its own balcony and steps, is borrowed from the design of the original bungalow. With floaty curtains and a wooden floor, it has a softer feel than the rest of the house. "We wanted one room where we could be cosy, and this is where display of Papua New Guinean bows and arrows -Chris and I relax together when the children are in

as feeling almost as if they are sleeping on the decked

terrace outside. "I can see what the kids are up to

without getting out of bed," says Annabel. A glass-roofed section, the "elbow" of the house, is

where the two corridors connect and where Chris's

collected on his student travels — takes pride of place.

on a new career, opening a gallery space, Chalkhill

The main open-plan living areas are the perfect environment to showcase the abstract art. "Buying and

collecting is my passion. I especially love the St Ives

School: Ben Nicholson, Barbara Hepworth and Alfred

Wallis, plus their contemporaries, Terry Frost and

Patrick Heron — and their ability to convey light and

A clever balance of inside and out is struck with two

'A glass-roofed section is where

Chris's display of Papua New Guinean

bows and arrows take pride of place'

courtyard, there is a lawned front garden, with spectac-

With all rooms facing the courtyard, the Agaces have

taken great pains to create an eye-catching vista. Architectural planting, including olive trees and phormiums, provides strong shapes against the white walls. A waterfall is lit from behind at night and projects swirling pondweed against the walls. "It's like a moving picture,"

Ultimately, the Agaces have created a stunning sanctu-

ary from the outside world, despite being so close to town. "We're so lucky," says Annabel. "It feels as if

This feature appears in the July 2007 issue of

garden zones - as well as the decked and limestone

Contemporary Arts, within the house.

ular views of the North Downs.

we're on a constant holiday.'

Livingetc, on sale now.

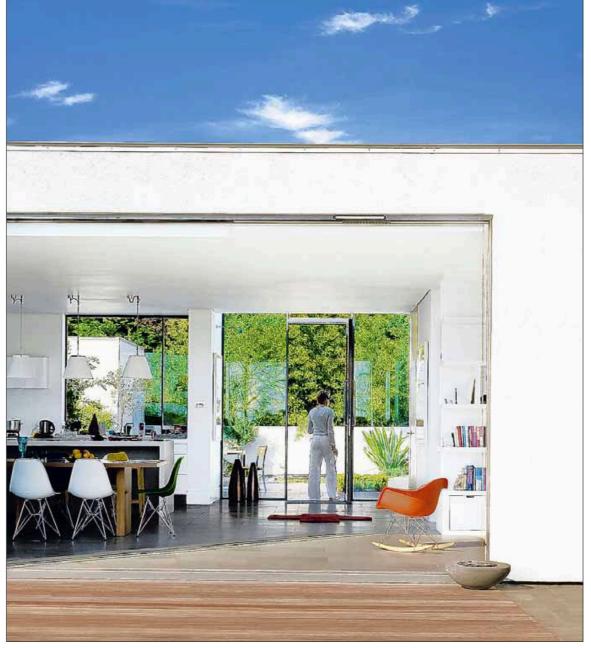
space," she says.

says Annabel.

With the children growing up, Annabel has embarked

bed," says Annabel. The couple's own calm and tranquil bedroom gives

Tucked away in a corner of the living room is an area where the children can draw and write by themselves



How the Agaces achieved the look

What: Single-storey new-build on the site of a Sixties bungalow. Space: Five bedrooms, open-plan kitchen/dining area/study, elevated

sitting room, three bathrooms, playroom. Outside office. Where: Guildford, Surrey.

Cost: Bought for £650,000. Estimated £460,000 on renovation.

What the Agaces did:

Demolished the original Sixties bungalow, retaining one wall to support the elevated sitting room.

Built a single-storey glass-fronted L-shaped building, plus elevated sitting room, facing out onto a central courtyard.

Created two corridors in the L-shape, one with a bedroom wing, the other with living areas and a playroom

Laid hardwood and limestone in the courtyard, continuing the limestone flooring in the house.

Installed underfloor heating For further information on property updates and art, visit chalk-

. hill.co.uk.

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