



CALIFORNIA  
DREAMING

Terry Huggett's Mexborough home is a slice of Californian luxury in traditional South Yorkshire. Rebecca Drake went along to find out more.



“YOU DO HAVE THE STRESS OF BUILDING YOUR OWN HOME, BUT IT’S DEFINITELY OUT-WEIGHED BY THE BENEFITS”

“For the last 12 years we have gone on holiday to California, so we have drawn a lot of inspiration from that area of the world,” explained Terry. Terry Huggett lives in his recently finished family home, Hillcrest, with his wife Emma and their four-year-old son Bailey. They love California, so much so they even got married there in Wayfarers Chapel, designed by renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. With his family history firmly rooted in the building trade, since childhood Terry has been accustomed to living in a custom built home – but his most recent venture really challenged his ideas on design and brought about a huge change to how he and his family use their living space. The bold and beautiful white exterior of Hillcrest is a welcome, if rather unexpected, contrast from the South Yorkshire architecture which surrounds

it. Terry worked closely with architect Martin Bell from Transform Architects to create his ‘little slice of California in Mexborough’. Terry explained: “Before the build started we spent six months planning with our architect. It was a really nice process. We got lots of books on Californian modern architecture and pulled out our favourite ideas from magazines.” At the top of their wish list was a spacious family living area, where they could spend as much time as possible together. Clean lines and a sleek modern look were high on their list of priorities too, as was an eco-friendly element to the build. The family thought about the rooms they needed, rather than the overall footprint of the home, which helped them come to a decision about the size of the house: “We worked from the inside, out – by deciding what rooms we wanted – then planned »



**ABOVE** The open plan dining and living area is a perfect space for the family to spend time together. **LEFT** The stunning glass staircase is in keeping with the contemporary style of the house. **RIGHT** The plentiful storage space in the white high-gloss kitchen helps to maintain the clutter-free environment that the Hugget family enjoy.





“WE WORKED FROM THE INSIDE, OUT – BY DECIDING WHAT ROOMS WE WANTED – THEN PLANNED HOW THE HOUSE WOULD LOOK”

how the house would look. We tried to keep the bedrooms evenly proportioned – so we’ve got no box rooms. We ultimately wanted a family home. It’s easier to go for a bigger space than a smaller one, but we wanted to keep it to scale.”

From start to finish the house took nine months to complete and it would be fair to say that it fulfils the family’s criteria in every way. Terry and Emma wanted a clutter free, family home, with a strong identity throughout.

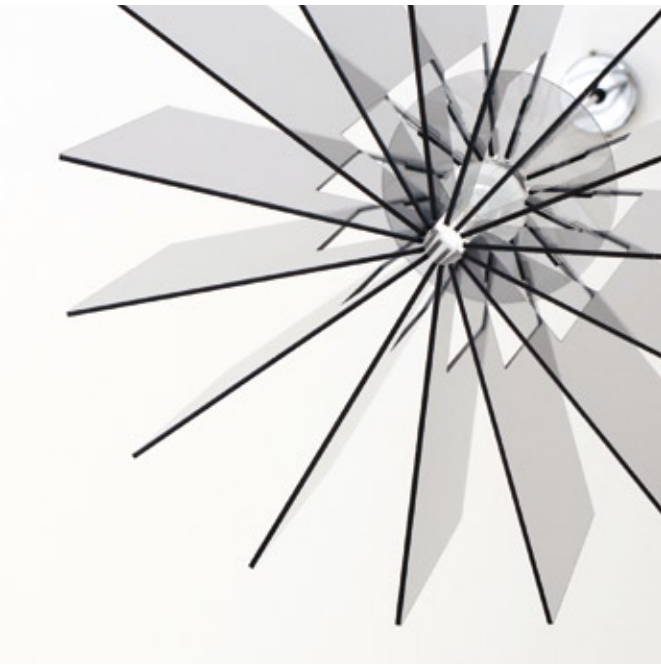
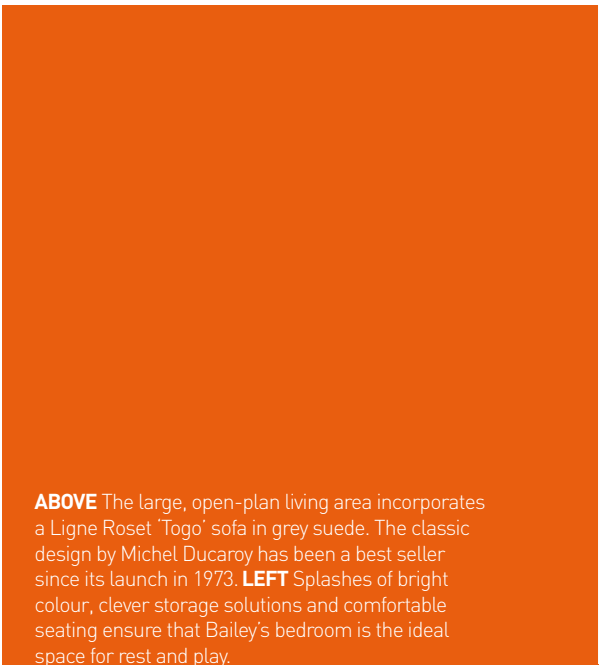
“We kept a similar palette throughout the house for continuity,” said Terry, elaborating: “Some people struggle with white in their homes, but I struggle with using colour, I find white very calming.”

As for the eco-credentials of the house, Hillcrest has more than most new builds as Terry revealed: “The house and the large windows face South West and we have over insulated so we can take

advantage of the solar gains. The North side of the house has small windows and that’s where we’ve placed the rooms that wouldn’t benefit from natural light – the bathrooms, cinema room, utility room and office. We’ve put a rainwater harvesting system under the lawn, so all the rainwater can be used for flushing the toilets and the sprinkler system. And we have installed under floor heating, which is supposed to be up to 40 per cent more efficient.”

So, an eco-friendly slice of Californian architecture set amidst a traditional South Yorkshire town was a brave step for the Huggett family. But, how did the local planning department react to Terry’s plans?

“Our architect put together a fantastic 12 page design statement in which he referenced the history of Mexborough’s architecture and the in-depth plans for our home. It was approved by »



**ABOVE** The large, open-plan living area incorporates a Ligne Roset 'Togo' sofa in grey suede. The classic design by Michel Ducaroy has been a best seller since its launch in 1973. **LEFT** Splashes of bright colour, clever storage solutions and comfortable seating ensure that Bailey's bedroom is the ideal space for rest and play.



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the planning department first time. We have had a lot of support from Doncaster council, who have even nominated us for a Design and Build Award.”

When it came to the décor of the house, Terry and Emma’s tastes are so similar that they instinctively knew how they wanted the house to look. Explained Terry: “We haven’t got many bits and bobs. Contemporary design does lend itself to investing in good quality things. When you have less things in your home, you want them to be good quality.”

The grey suede Togo sofa arrangement from Ligne Roset complements the neutral colour scheme. A classic Verner Panton light fitting hangs in the double height part of the room and dining chairs by Calligaris add a splash of colour to the large living space. The white, high gloss Leicht kitchen from John Longley Kitchen and Bathroom Design creates a beautiful focal point and the lush

green lawn and subtle planting arrangement of the landscaped gardens provide a picture through each of the huge windows, adding natural colour to the principally white living space.

“One of the nice things is that we do live in 90 per cent of the house, predominantly in the open plan areas,” explains Terry, adding: “We also get plenty of use from the cinema room too. It wasn’t an expensive room, although we did sound proof it. Bailey and all his friends love it.”

Now that the family are settled in their new home, Terry’s perception of their nine-month journey is clear: “I enjoy architecture – both old and new. People think that to live in a very modern house you must only appreciate modern architecture, but that’s not true. This house wasn’t a struggle to build. You do have the stress of building your own home, but it’s definitely outweighed by the benefits.”

ADDRESS BOOK

The architect was Martin Bell from Transform Architects. Visit: [www.transformarchitects.co.uk](http://www.transformarchitects.co.uk) or [www.hill-crest.eu](http://www.hill-crest.eu) to find out more about the Huggett’s home.

Contractor and project manager Terry Huggett. Visit: [www.terryhuggettddevelopments.co.uk](http://www.terryhuggettddevelopments.co.uk) or tel. 07974 262 040.

Verner Panton light fitting, Ligne Roset ‘Togo’ sofa and Calligaris dining chairs all from Ponsford. Visit: [www.ponsford.co.uk](http://www.ponsford.co.uk) or tel. 0114 2550075.

White high gloss Leicht Kitchen from John Longley Kitchen & Bathroom Design. Visit: [www.jslongley.co.uk](http://www.jslongley.co.uk) or tel. 01226 248766.

Glass stairs by Munro Designs. Visit: [www.munro-designs.co.uk](http://www.munro-designs.co.uk) or tel. 01405 814561.

All building and eco-friendly products from Jackson Building Centres. Visit: [www.jacksonbc.co.uk](http://www.jacksonbc.co.uk)

ABOVE The spacious, chic family bathroom is equipped with an impressive array of mod cons including touch sensitive lighting. LEFT Terry and Emma struggled to find a light fitting which could be used as a focal point in the huge double height area of the living space. Their dilemma was solved when they saw this beautiful Verner Panton ‘Spiral Triple’ in silver. Designed in 1969 this classic hanging lamp is made of three clusters of silver cellidor spirals suspended on nylon strings.