

Home!



**SWEDE DREAMS**  
An Ikea-filled retreat north of Stockholm is the height of Scandi cool. All it needs now, say the owners, is an outside sauna

REPORT Emma J Page PHOTOGRAPHS Malin Grönborg

The exterior, with extension clad in Siberian larch and matching outdoor shower





**W**ith its understated blend of pastoral and contemporary architecture and an eye on sustainable design, Ulrika and Daniel Prytz's relaxed home is unmistakably Scandinavian. Located close to the water on a Swedish archipelago 270 miles north of

Stockholm, this serene retreat is a homage to outdoor living and the natural landscape.

The couple and their children, Olivia, 21, Isaac, 19, Adrian, 16, and Edvin, 14, describe themselves as "outdoor people with a love of water sports" and so it was inevitable that when they first spotted this home, on a day trip to the beach, their interest was piqued. "It had been owned by five generations of the same family since it was built in 1877," says Ulrika, an environmental lawyer. "A few weeks later, the place became ours."

The couple saw that the building and its outhouses, including a freestanding barn, had good bones. The main house receives sunlight from all aspects year-round, the roof is pitched so that it can shake off snowfall in winter and there's a sturdy log shelter. "Those elements helped inform our approach," says Ulrika. "We only had to come up with a concept to evolve those timeless design principles."

Before any updates could take place, the family had to remove the lino flooring and ➔

**Clockwise from above: the sitting room, with original fireplace, grey sofa from Melimeli and Ikea furnishings; the exterior was painted to harmonise with the surroundings; the family are keen on water sports**







piles of belongings that had accrued over the years, including a collection of lawnmowers and 27 old mopeds, as well as banishing the Seventies windows. Then, with architect Sofia Nyman, they drew up a plan to better connect the house to the garden and the beach beyond.

The property needed only a few layout revisions, such as removing a bathroom on the ground floor to make way for an interconnected kitchen, dining room, sitting room and bedroom. Upstairs, the floorplan was tweaked to house four bedrooms, a family bathroom and a peaceful second living room.

An understated cube extension, wrapped in glass and Siberian larch, has become the linchpin of this renovation. “It’s the link between inside and out,” says Ulrika. “We spend most of our time in it, looking out to the garden and down to the beach. It instantly connects us to nature.” The extension complements a generous outdoor shower area, also wrapped in larch, where sandy feet are washed after trips to the beach. “We love to hike, surf, wild swim and paddleboard,” says Ulrika. “Plus, we take cold baths in the ocean most mornings, even in winter. If the water freezes, we create a hole in the ice for dips.”

The extension features a log burner and underfloor heating to take off the chill fast,

**Above: the extension, with furniture from Ikea’s Sinnerlig collection and PH 5 lamp by Louis Poulsen. Below: Ulrika and Daniel Prytz**



while the sitting room houses a vast original fireplace. A palette of moody blues, greys and greens sits easily with the natural wood, concrete, lengths of exposed plaster and touches of rattan. The exterior, once red-roofed like most houses in the area, also received an update. “The painters questioned our decision to have the roof painted in the same dark green as the exterior,” says Ulrika. “Just as they were uncertain about painting ceilings and walls in identical tones. But it’s produced a harmonious feel.”

The family’s attitude towards furniture is characteristically laid-back. “We love beautiful things and visiting *loppis* [flea markets],” says Ulrika. “But we see everything as perishable and on loan, just as life is.” So, bespoke storage sits comfortably with pieces from Ikea, Eames furniture with market finds and inherited pieces with Ilse Crawford designs, resulting in a “Nordic, minimalist touch”.

Next, plans are afoot to cultivate the garden and create new outdoor rooms. “Top of the wish list is a rectangular extension of the outdoor shower by the terrace, followed by a freestanding sauna,” says Ulrika. Proof that, with the forest and the sea on their doorstep, this family have taken to outdoor living come rain, shine or even snow. ■