



Louise Scott, proprietor of French Vintage Vie, gives NW a sneak peek into her Bangor home to see how she uses antique finds in a modern, contemporary way.

Louise Scott of French Vintage Vie, her partner Marty and their Labrador Tully chose a 1930's Art Deco semi-detached house in Bangor for their first home together just under 2 years ago. They wanted to live in the house for a short period before making any decisions on refurbishing. Less than a year later, they moved out again in order to transform the 3 bedroom semi into

a comfortable modern home whilst retaining many of the original features.

"Finding a house that you love and turning it into a home that you look forward to returning to each day can lead to a contented life!" says Louise. "Understanding what is most important to you and your family will help you make the right choice. For us, location was key.



We could have afforded a more spacious detached property elsewhere, but we love living a couple of minutes walk from the beach and having cafes, restaurants and shops on our doorstep. This has very much been a lifestyle choice which suits us. We both wanted a period property rather than a new-build which has allowed us to introduce some of my French antique furniture and vintage finds from France”.

“France has such an amazing wealth of wonderful furniture and collectables that you just can’t buy here. From grand Louis style chairs and ornate wood and marble tables to irresistible vintage treasures such as worn shutters and enamel jugs – the problem is I want to bring them all home!” says Louise. And when you wander into Louise’s Bangor home, you can certainly detect a little “je ne sais quoi” – from beautiful antique walnut side tables and ornately carved chairs to modern Kartell Louis Ghost chairs and a silver delicate cabriole legged bathroom sink.

“Whilst I adore the French style and the fine antique furniture, I don’t want a home like a museum, so I believe clever mixing of vintage finds and your favourite contemporary styles is key. Using your own personal taste and introducing pieces which are special to you will make your home unique. I have chosen a neutral palette of cool whites, greys and blues because it reminds me of being on holiday in France, Portugal and Spain! The neutral colours also create a very calming and relaxing atmosphere. Here and there, splashes of bright colours in a painting, cushion or in a vase of flowers adds interest and colour. Unusual pieces side by side also create interest such as my 1930’s wall clock, found in Toulouse beside a vibrant painting from local artist GERALYN MULQUEEN”.



*“They removed worn decking from the garden and now enjoy a tranquil space filled with pots of flowers and borders of lavender.”*

The couple created a beautiful bright sunroom which replaced a damp lean-to conservatory; they removed worn decking from the garden and now enjoy a tranquil space filled with pots of flowers and borders of lavender. They replaced the kitchen and relocated the bathroom along with upgrading the heating system and triple glazing the stain glass windows. They have retained original features which give the house character such as the curved art deco windows, stain glass, fireplace, interior doors, wood panelling in the hallway and original wooden floors.

Louise says “We have done quite a lot of work to the house and always feel there is more to do! But we have created a small simple space we love, in a location we enjoy. No matter what size of house or budget you have, I think creating a unique and special home is achievable for anyone”.

