



# Talking RENOVATIONS

As Janis and Dave King's bungalow renovation continues, we check in with them to see how the build is progressing

After a couple of weeks on site, the builders had stripped our bungalow back to basically nothing, with only a few walls still standing – my husband Dave and I often mused it would have been easier to knock it down and start again. The team, from Ahearn Construction, certainly went at an impressive speed – the site looked different every time we visited. But we had to face a few challenges – the roof structure, for example, was bowed due to carrying the weight of the tiles for 60 years, so the builders put in a steel girder to form a new ridge. Unfortunately, this was during an especially rainy and windy time, so for a few weeks the house was open to the elements and it was too dangerous to work on. Thankfully, a large tarpaulin kept everything mostly dry – although we did get a phone call during some particularly turbulent weather from our neighbours to tell us it had come loose. We instantly dashed over there to sort it.

During this time, more girders and support pillars to take the weight of the new first floor, which was coming on rapidly, went in, too. It was so exciting for us when the team started building the framework for the rooms upstairs in the new loft conversion. And I certainly wasn't going to let the fact that there were no stairs yet stop me from seeing the progress. So (rather nervously I have to admit, as there was nothing to hold on to) I scaled the builders' ladder to check everything out. It did help that the team very kindly held each end steady while I climbed up!

While the builders were creating

the bedrooms, work was also underway on the rear and side extensions for our large open-plan kitchen-living-diner. It was all go!

As everything started to take shape, Dave and I could see and imagine things a bit clearer than on the initial plans. So, after talking it through with our build team we made a few changes – such as moving the downstairs bathroom door forward; keeping the hallway open plan instead of putting a door in to make a separate study; and widening the door leading to the kitchen.

Soon the weather improved and they eventually got the roof installed, luckily recycling the original tiles. At the same time, the windows were fitted, along with the bi-fold doors in the kitchen as well as double doors which form a Juliette balcony in the bedroom. Dave and I chose aluminium frames in an anthracite colour to make the look more modern and as different as possible from the original fittings. This has also meant that everything is now watertight and much warmer, too.

The best bit? The property has started to feel like a proper house. We especially love the new pitched roof in kitchen, which makes it feel light and airy. The blank canvas of our new space is now complete. **KBB**

*Next issue I talk about*  
BUYING A KITCHEN

“The builders had stripped our bungalow back to almost nothing, with a few walls still standing.”



There are no stairs leading up to the new first floor yet, so I had to scale a ladder to look at the progress.

## A new start

The bungalow was stripped back to almost nothing, but it's starting to take shape.

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