



If we want to make the best of this free solar heat, then it stands to reason that all of the rooms that we use regularly throughout the day should have south-facing windows.

Our entrance hall is bright and welcoming. Our family room/lounge/dining room gathers in sun all day long. The children keep most of their toys in the south-facing downstairs bedroom and play there a lot (that's where Colin's magical bunk beds are). Upstairs, the study faces to the sun. Our bedroom is bright and sunny. Our upstairs living room captures the sun from the south, while having amazing views to the northwest.

The rooms which don't have this southern aspect are mainly functional - utility room, shower room, one bedroom (but has east sun for the morning), stairs, heating and hot water cupboard, bathroom and walk-in wardrobe. We occasionally get the chance to luxuriate in a bath, but this happens at night, when the sun is gone anyway.



Compare the amount of glazing on our south elevation to the glazing on our north elevation.



Now that we had all our main living/doing rooms facing the sun, we needed to think a bit more about how we lived our life. A good example is the kitchen.

As a family, we try to eat breakfast together, but the morning can be rushed and a bit disjointed. We both like to cook. So while the idea of having the morning sun in the kitchen was very appealing, we recognised we spent more time in the kitchen in the evening. The evening meal takes longer to prepare, dishes may have stacked up during the day.

So rather than placing the kitchen on the east side of the house, we placed it facing northwest. We have views of the sea in this direction. We also get the best sunsets. We still have our morning east light, looking across the lounge.



We are pretty messy in the kitchen. We have a habit of inviting people to dinner and being nowhere near ready when they arrive. So we wanted the kitchen to be connected to our 'entertaining' area, so we could carry on conversations while carrying on cooking. But we also wanted the mess to be tucked around the corner a little bit. It works really well.

The kitchen is designed so that it bulges out in the middle, but is pinched as it connects to the family area. While I appreciate some help in the kitchen, for me - too many cooks definitely spoil the broth. The kitchen is comfortable for two people to work side by side. It gets awkward after that. That is exactly how I want it.

Another interesting feature in the kitchen and the utility room are the "fridges". We don't have electric fridges. Instead we have stone-lined cold larders built into the north walls. Again, this demonstrates locating things logically in relation to the path of the sun.

The kitchen window and the upstairs living room window look to headlands marching away in the distance. The point where the sea meets the land provides a more interesting view



than if we directed our view exactly north at the sea. Because the upstairs living room and the kitchen also have major solar gain thanks to the large southwest-facing windows in both rooms, we were comfortable with having large windows for our most dramatic views, even though they are to the north. All north and northwest-facing windows are triple glazed.

