

# The Living Room

## The site you are now standing in is an approximation of the living room.

You are looking up, over the room, towards the kitchen and are stood in the place where the window would be. Just in front of where you are standing is where the sofa would be. This spot is generally used for reading. It is also a wi-fi hotspot which leaks from a neighbour’s transmitter. The windows in this room stretch across the front of the house and in the evening, as the sun sets, light floods in through the window, throwing the shadow of the Venetian blinds onto the opposite wall.

To the left of the sofa is a small, round, walnut table. The table was a wedding present given to Beryl and Ron Adams by Ron Adams’ brother. At a later date a small circular shelf was added to the table. This would have been used to store books and magazines. The later fixture is wood veneer and does not match the table top. Ron Adams worked at Southampton Docks in the accountancy department. Next door to his office was a carpenters workshop and it is believed that Ron commissioned one of the carpenters to cut this round shelf and fit it to the table.

On top of the table is a round ceramic bowl bought by Jill Adams from Sainsburys homeware department. In the bowl there is a collection of stones and shells, a needle, a reel of pink cotton, a key-ring which says “I □ Crete”, which was a present from Chris Nurse and a lighter from Majorca, which was a gift from Gail Howard. There is also a Polaroid photograph taken in a forest outside Brecon and a dinosaur key-ring found on the Cardiff to Swansea train. The key-ring broke in 2001 and was soldered back together by Paul Granjon.

On the opposite side of the sofa there is a plant and a large mirror. The mirror was bought from Hyper Value in 1999 to throw a projection of a window onto a screen measuring 1.75m x 2.55m.

Directly opposite the sofa are two sets of shelves and a small filing cabinet. The first set of shelves, on the left, were hand built in 2005. The planks of wood were bought at B & Q and the shelves were constructed in the flat. In front of the shelves is a black chest on wheels. The chest was found in an alleyway in 1998 and at the time was wood veneer. It was later painted and the wheels added for mobility.

Inside the chest is the following: Gardening gloves and a trowel, white swimming goggles, a blue stapler, a box of matches with a horse decoration on it, tapes, a can of spray mount, a combat survival kit, one box of staples, a shell, a clip frame with three passport photos showing Tai Tsang, Mia Cunningham and Debra Savage. There is also a packet of black and white photos taken in 1993. A plastic bag containing photos taken in Mexico in 2005, a blow torch found in Syd Davies’ shed, a sketch book bought in Valance, France in 2004, a folder of photos and notes made on my degree course 1994 – 1997, a frisbee, a book made on a project in Rotterdam 1999 entitled “Whom 2?”, a Collins English Dictionary, (cover damaged by oil), a paper bag containing clip frames from Hyper Value and a red oil can which once belonged to Syd Davies. There are some medium format cameras bought at car boot sales, a photo album containing images taken in India 1994 and a book of lists written in Mexico 2005.

On top of the chest is a large prayer plant bought in 1994. The prayer plant has flowered twice, the first time in 1997 and the second in 2006. The prayer plant is on top of a black wooden box which was made by Syd Davies. Inside the box are two lightbulbs (used), a box of crayons, a plastic bread bag containing oil pastels, a tin of silver paint and an electric flex. Next to the prayer plant and the box is a monitor and a DVD player.

In the middle of the room, in between the kitchen door and the entrance to the living room, is a standing shelf that is used to display a selection of objects. These objects have been collected between the years 1997 and 2006.

On top of the shelves is a ceramic bowl bought by Jill Adams which contains flat grey stones with white lines of varying sizes collected by Jennie Savage and Tai Tsang on Southerndown beach. Also in the bowl is a tape measure won in a Christmas cracker – year unknown, a black bag strap and a lolly in the shape of a London bus.



## On the top shelf there are four books.

“The Dictionary Of Etymology” (birthday present from Debra Savage and Nic Finch) 2005, The Travels of Marco Polo, bought in Venice Airport 2005, Becherelle Poche French verb tables bought in 2003 and, “Museums Of the 21c” bought at the Palais de Tokyo 2005.

**Shelf 2:** A small fern in a brown teacup. The cup was bought in Emaus, Quebec City in 2004 and used as part of a performance / event. In front of this is a small Victorian cup bought in July 2006 from a charity shop in Lymington for 25p. The cup has a large crack down one side that has been stapled. Next to the fern there is a plastic stamp which cuts paper in the shape of a star. This was bought during a residency in Mexico. Finally, a red plastic key fob. On the back wall is a postcard from Reykjavik sent by Jill and Keith Adams.

**Shelf 3:** A Cherub light shade holder bought at a Flea Market in Rotterdam in 1999. It was initially bought as a present for Chris Nurse, but became part of an installation called “Making History” in 2000 at Hurst Castle. Hampshire. In the crook of its arm is a small bird bought in Manchester in June 2006.

On the bottom shelf is a silver box containing Polaroid photos. Next to it is a small bottle of Ouzo in the shape of a mandolin. On top of the tin box is a sunglasses case.

## Next to the display shelf there is a small red filing cabinet.

**Draw 1:** A tape measure from Cobwoods hardware shop on Clifton Street bought by Anthony Shapland, a cheque book for a personal bank account and one for bills account, a Sony microphone, one Microphone, three mini discs bought in Quebec City form Radio Shack, a credit card, a receipt for the Severn Bridge from May 5th, two Duracell batteries, six A5 envelopes.

**Draw 2:** Receipts for tax year 2006-2007, bank statements for tax year 2006- 2007 and invoices for tax year 2006-2007.

**Draw 3:** Receipts for tax year 2005-2006, bank statements for tax year 2005-2006 and invoices for tax year 2005-2006. A tax return for year 2005-2006, a pre-paid envelope for the return of the tax return and a building society book.

**Draw 4:** Documents relating to the sale and purchase of the flat including a lease, information about the leasehold, correspondence with the landlord and the solicitor, insurance documents and documents relating to the mortgage repayments on the flat.

**Draw 5:** Self adhesive Velcro, a pocket map of Cardiff, fifteen A6 envelopes, five have clear plastic windows and ten are plain. Seven postcards sent by: Gail Howard from Minorca, Paul Granjon from Venice, Jill and Keith Adams from Portugal, Vi Savage from Portsmouth, Debbie Savage and Nic Finch from New York, Ruth Pelopida from London. There are also five empty clear plastic A4 folders.

**Draw 6:** A Cardboard envelope sent by Ella Gibbs with a Cd in it, a Motorola Razar instruction manual, a mobile phone contract, an instruction manual and guarantee for a Panasonic DMC FZ30.

On the south-facing wall there is a G-Plan chair, (see notes on the chair in the bedroom). This chair is used to sit at the oval, oak, fold-away table. The table belonged to John and Jenny Whitley who bought the house from Jill and Keith Adams in Milford-on-Sea. They have become friends and when Jenny was looking for a home for her old table she offered it to Jill Adams who, knowing her daughter needed a table, offered to pass it on. The table was transported to Cardiff by Debra Savage and Nic Finch. The Table collects clutter, objects arrive and leave its surface on an almost tidal basis.