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Simply the best

All the hard work in creating a luxurious green home has paid off for one couple as their new take on a traditional build is declared the finest holiday home in Europe, writes Susan Welsh

It’s not just Linda and Paul Brown who think their home in Lewis is the best. “The European Holiday Home Association think so too. At a glitzy event in Brussels last month, their home, The Lewis Longhouse was named Best Green Holiday Home 2016 in the European Holiday Homes awards 2016. The awards were set up to showcase the very best properties in the European Holiday Home industry. Linda and Paul spent the first time of building their house in Back, north of Stornoway four years ago. It was a small, modest bungalow. They then put the house up for sale and moved to their house in Back, just north of Stornoway four years ago. It became the ideal property for a second home. Their new house was selected to be the best, from dozens of other holiday homes from across Europe. It’s a huge honour to be in this category. It’s not the first time the stunning home has received high praise as early last year it picked up the Best Green Holiday Home award from the European Holiday Home Association to be awarded an A+ AEC environmental rating. Normally Linda said she and Paul were “quite chuffed” from the moment the awards were announced. “We aren’t on vacation; it’s important to us that the house was an exemplary showcase to promote the term of energy and the environment, and that it was low cost as we avoided materials that would be heavy, sturdy and durable to cope with weather conditions in Lewis.” Linda, 53, was born in Shetland and has spent much time growing up in East Calder near Livingston, but every holiday was spent on Lewis where her grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins lived. She met Yorkshireman Paul when they worked for BP in Yorkshire – she worked in communications, and he was in the chemical side of things. “The idea of building a house on Lewis had been in my head for years. A piece of the croft was sold from then on and I had the idea that I’d love to build there and have a stake back to the islands. Every year and then it fell into self-build magazines, but it wasn’t until 2010 that Paul and I were in a position to do something about it.” They began self-building. Paul said they spent lot of time overseeing the building, the house in Lewis while living in England and working abroad. It was always going to be something of a challenge. “We didn’t want a kit home but something to really suit our style and spend a lot of time overseeing the building, the house in Lewis which resulted in thousands of e-mails between Paul and myself,” said Linda. The site on the plot was broken in January 2012 and work began transforming the grassy field into the house of their dreams. The house is on the edge of the New Forest, it is a temporary twist and stylish design. It was never built as a holiday home but designed, built and equipped as a second home for us. That’s the big difference,” said Linda. It could not be more different. “Although we don’t live there all the time, we spend much more than we budgeted for, but would I do it again? In a heartbeat,” said Linda. The Lewis Longhouse is a stunning modern self-built, four-bedroomed holiday home with a contemporary look and extensive interiors and outdoors for self-catering and split weeks, for families and groups alike. It is the perfect place to escape to when you want to get away from it all.”

To learn more about Linda and Paul’s home visit www.lewislonghouse.com

GREEN HOME

Linda and Paul Brown inside the Lewis Longhouse

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The Lewis Longhouse is

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