

# Perfection

is the aim at award-winning dream home from home by | Mike Briggs

Good news for anyone planning a stay at Blacksheep House in Strond, South Harris: paradise has been perfected.

You see, there was always this tiny niggle. If you filled the sumptuously extravagant Japanese soak tub for a long, luxurious wallow after a day out in the bracing wilds of Harris, it stole all the hot water. That meant the wonderfully comforting underfloor heating took a little too long to get up to speed.

It was a minor glitch and most visitors probably didn't notice, but owners Dinaz and David Williams weren't prepared to put up with this blemish on an otherwise flawless property. Over the last winter out came the old heating system and in went a beefed up, eco-friendly arrangement which will keep Blacksheep House as toasty as anyone could want.

While they were at it, the Williamses put in new curtains to complement the new dining furniture, armchairs, bedlinen, computer, flatscreen television, DVD player and kitchen cookware and crockery.

Now, as anyone who has a favourite holiday hideaway will know, changes can change things. People like to snuggle down into somewhere familiar. But Blacksheep House is so stunningly gratifying that even the regulars (of which there is a large and happy club) welcome the sprucing up. Their old friend still has its distinctive charm.

As one of them put it recently in a visitors' book crammed with paeans of praise: "There is always a danger when you return to a place which you hold special in your memory that it won't meet your expectations. However, it's just not the case with Blacksheep House. The place is still stunning. It's so special, it feels as though you are in a bubble away from the outside world. It is quality therapy."

That therapy includes lots of special little touches rarely found elsewhere but none more special than having Murdo MacAulay as a neighbour. Murdo is the local diver and will happily supply guests with fresh scallops or any other fish he has happened upon.

The house, designed by Stornoway-based architect Stuart Bagshaw, was famously built by Pete and Christine Hope who won the Channel 4 Grand Designs Home of the Year Award for the project in 2008. It has since been operating as a self-catering holiday let and was taken over by the Williamses four years ago.

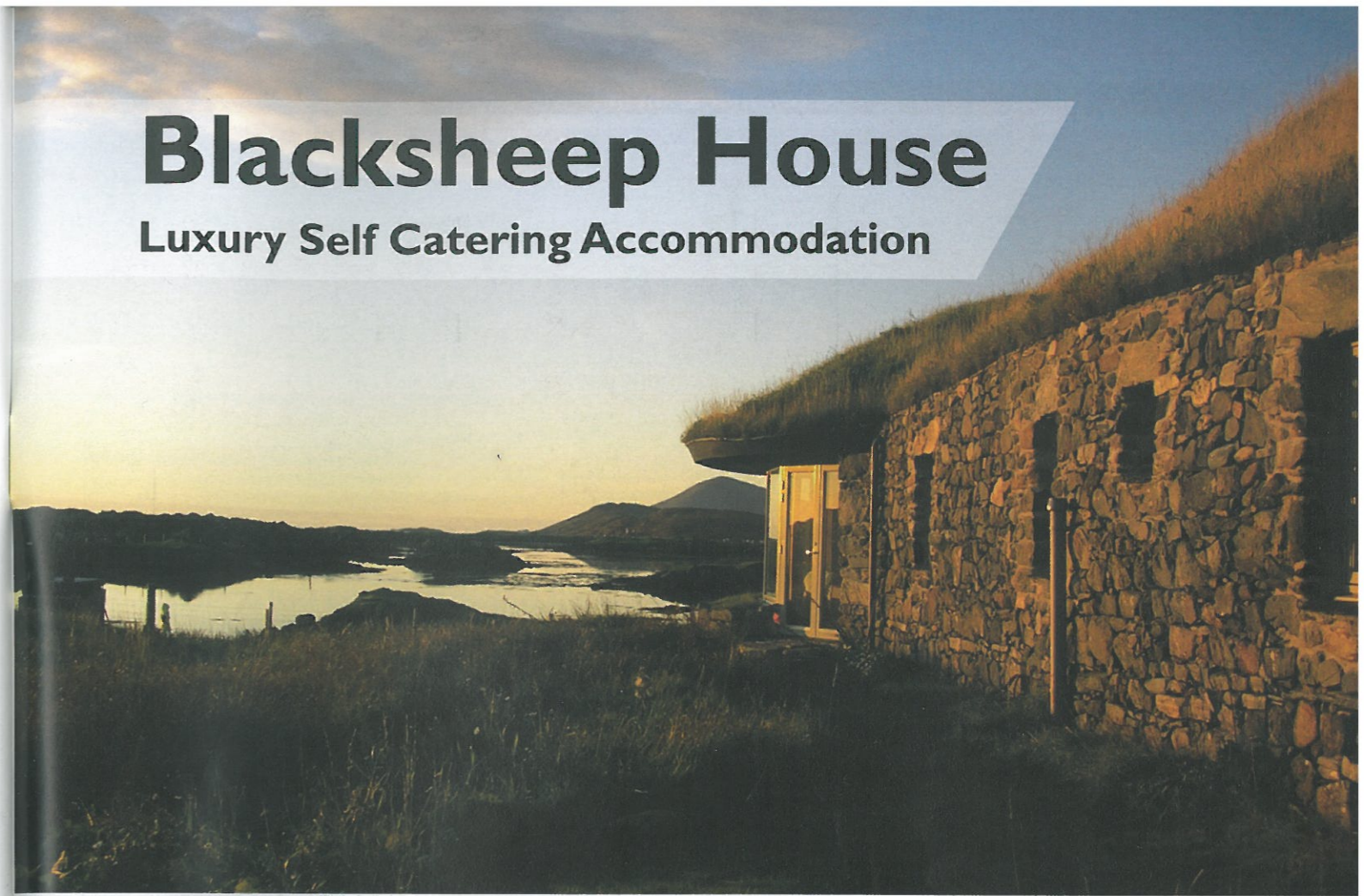
Now its fame is spread through word of mouth and online recommendation by the sort of visitors who relish peace, silence, the changing light and tides, eagles, otters, dolphins – and indulgent luxury.

Indulgence, sadly, often comes at a price but in the case of Blacksheep's gorgeous sunken bath, one's enjoyment is now free of any charge. How satisfying.



## Blacksheep House

Luxury Self Catering Accommodation



**Winner of Grand Designs Home of the Year 2008, Blacksheep House is a traditional, ancient Hebridean Blackhouse offering 5 star, luxury self catering accommodation just a few meters from the stunning southern shores of South Harris in the Outer Hebrides.**

Enjoy the ocean views through panoramic windows whilst relaxing in this spacious, light-flooded and cosy home which accommodates 4 adults under a unique turf roof. With its under floor heating and 21st century technology it provides the perfect harmony between ancient and modern - a little bit of heaven on earth and a truly exquisite experience.

The Isle of Harris is unlike anywhere else in the world and Blacksheep House will provide you with a totally unique and memorable holiday.

**Blacksheep House  
Strond, Leverburgh  
Isle of Harris**



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