

BEAUTIFUL KITCHENS

JULY/AUGUST 2014

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heart & soul*

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FOR EVERY STEP
OF YOUR PROJECT**

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July/August 2014

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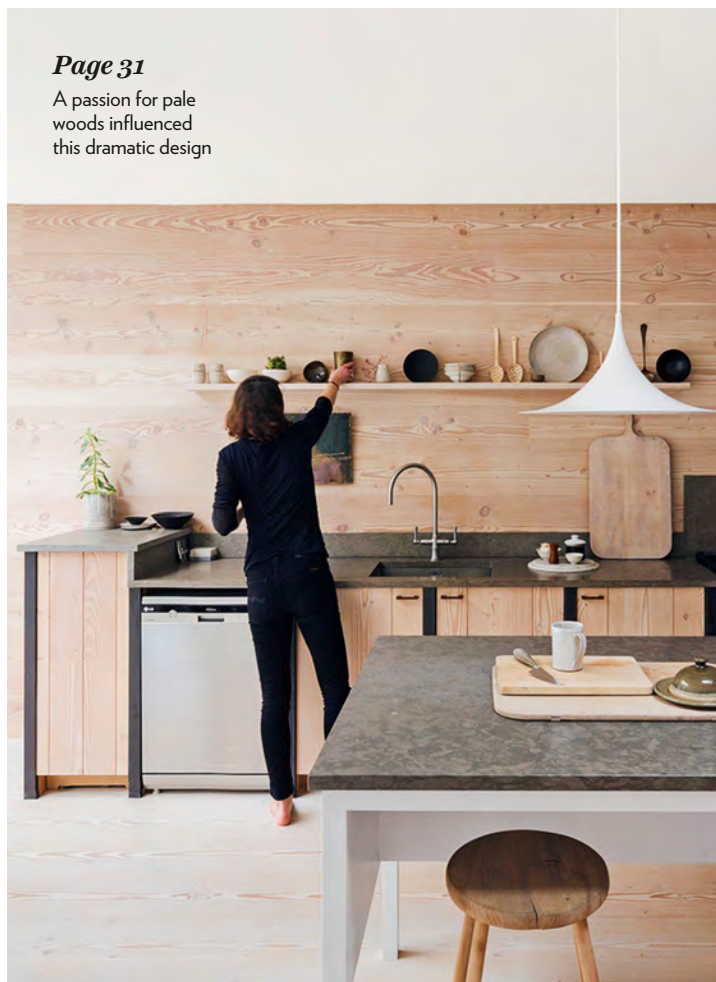
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Key to floorplans

-  Fridge and/or freezer
-  Microwave
-  Dryer
-  Washing machine
-  Dishwasher



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Cleaner lines and futuristic finishes – modern schemes that push the boundaries



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It's time to get sizzling with our favourite barbecues



WHAT A DIFFERENCE THE SUN MAKES! No wonder we all hanker after bright, airy extensions and expanses of glass that bring summer right into our homes. If you're at the start of your project, don't miss this issue's guide to going open plan on page 62. It outlines the key things you need to think about, plus advice on how to get started. If you're further along the line, check out our features on artisan tiles on

page 68 and salvage finds on page 92 – both great ways to add character, and to really personalise your space. Our real-life kitchen case studies this issue have some fabulous design solutions to get you motivated. We love the cool elegance of photographer Emma Knight's London home on page 31. And read how Mervyn Cole and Terry Chappell turned a couple of derelict barns in Gloucester into a stunning home with a smart, light-filled Bulthaup kitchen on page 101. Natalie and Ray Stevens knocked down the garage to make space for their dream kitchen on page 50, while interior designer, Sarah Wells, tells us how she transformed a series of tricky higgledy-piggledy rooms in her Victorian home into a bright, welcoming family space on page 22. A new kitchen is so much more about cupboards and appliances, it's about reinventing your home to create a space that's everything you want it to be. Dive in and be inspired.

Helen

HELEN STONE ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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BEAUTIFUL KITCHENS

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GETTING STARTED

Buying a new kitchen is a big purchase and one that can be daunting. From choosing the right style to finding a designer and agreeing a layout, there's a lot to take on board. Breaking it into manageable steps will make the process easier – think of it as a journey, and give each step all the time and consideration it needs

This new kitchen display by Chamber Furniture cuts a dash of glamour with stained oak-veneered doors and a geometric tinted mirror splashback. Kitchens from £40,000.



1 ASSESS ALL YOUR NEEDS

Before you begin planning your new kitchen, think carefully about how you want to use the space. Do you simply need a place to prepare meals or are you dreaming of a multifunctional area where you can also have lunch or dinner with family and friends? Who do you cook for, what do you cook and how do you cook it? How much storage do you need? First, have a good clear-out, so you're not factoring in items you haven't used for years. It's also good to think about what you don't like about your existing kitchen so you can focus on improving those particular areas.

2 MAKE A WISH LIST

Consider your kitchen must-haves. Do you covet sleek Corian worktops, a statement island or lots of cupboards for storage? Or are there some specific appliances that you think will make your life in the kitchen much easier? Everybody likes to work in their own particular way, and each person has a different list of priorities, so it's important to write yours down right at the beginning to ensure your kitchen is tailored to your family's specific needs. This will also save a lot of time and trouble when it comes to discussing your project with a kitchen specialist.



3 BE INSPIRED

How you want your kitchen to look is, of course, a very personal choice. It really helps to collect images and magazine tear sheets and put together a scrapbook or mood board. Also, make a note of surfaces, materials or accessories you've seen that work well together. Even something as simple as a pretty plate, tile, piece of furniture or scrap of fabric can be a great starting point for choosing a theme or colours. Don't worry too much about cost at this point, just focus on things that inspire you, and soon you'll be able to identify styles you are drawn to.

4 CONSULT A KITCHEN DESIGNER

To get the absolute maximum from your space, input from a professional kitchen designer can prove invaluable. Their experience and expertise will offer you plenty of simple ideas – as well as innovative ones – that you might not have even considered. Kitchen designers will also have up-to-the-minute knowledge of products, fixtures and fittings, and can source everything on your behalf. Ultimately, they'll help ensure your new kitchen works as efficiently as possible.

5 SET YOUR BUDGET

Always be honest about your budget so that your designer can help you decide where to save and where to invest – even if you haven't got large sums to spend. Open shelving is less expensive than closed cupboards, for example, while capacious low-level, pull-out storage may mean you need fewer wall units, which saves on cost. It's easy to get giddy when faced with a wealth of shiny appliances with countless programs and functions, so only invest in things you think you'll genuinely use. And don't forget to include installation fees, as well as the kitchen itself.

**'A GOOD DESIGNER
WILL FULFIL THE
POTENTIAL OF
YOUR KITCHEN AND
ENSURE THE LAYOUT
WORKS PERFECTLY
IN EVERY WAY'**

6 CALL IN THE PROFESSIONALS

It's important to remember that the way your kitchen is installed can make all the difference, too. A bad fitter can make any kitchen look terrible, but a good one will ensure even inexpensive units look amazing. Ask friends and family for recommendations, or source a skilled person through a registered trade association, such as the FMB (Federation of Master Builders). If you're planning a larger refit or build, you may need Planning Permission or Building Regulations approval. Visit the Planning Portal (planningportal.gov.uk) for further information.

7 FINISHING TOUCHES

Make your kitchen feel more coherent by subtly linking finishes – pair a timber breakfast bar with wooden stools, for instance, or upholster the seats with fabric that ties in with your splashback. Little details, such as cabinetry handles, can make a big difference and transform a simple white scheme. Rather than buying everything from the same supplier, source furnishings and accessories from a variety of places, and mix things up to create an individual look. Unusual objects picked up on your travels or gorgeous vintage finds will all help to create a more homely and characterful environment.

OBJECTS OF BEAUTY

ALL THINGS GREAT AND SMALL TO BRING YOUR KITCHEN TO LIFE



Relax with a comfy cushion in a smart Herringbone pattern.

Parquet cushion in natural linen, £50, Suzanne Antonelli at FAO Shop, 0844 415 3075, fao-shop.com

Adjustable lighting for different tasks.

Pencher swing-arm wall light in solid brass with turned joints, £330, Copper & Silk, 020 8459 8772, copperandsilk.com

Lighting with a rustic touch.

HangUp lamp, handmade in English oak, leather and solid brass, from £310, TedWood, 01243 572567, tedjefferis.co.uk

A beautifully graphic, yet subtle, print for your walls.

La Farge wallpaper in aqua, W68.6cm, £52 per roll, Thibaut at Jacaranda, 020 7351 6496, thibautdesign.com



A blend of natural materials creates a striking dining table.

Refectory stone table, handmade in weathered English oak and Italian white Carrara marble, from £2,950, Lapidica, 0800 012 2220, lapidica.com

Mixed materials look very elegant.

Contour doorknob in Antique Gold with concealed fix rose in Antique Brass, £250 for a pair, Samuel Heath, 0121 766 4200, samuel-heath.co.uk



Relax and recline with regal flair.

Windsor Rocker in ash, H85 x W77 x D105cm, £2,295, Katie Walker at Heal's, 0870 024 0780, heals.co.uk



Vibrant-blue tiles with a translucent finish.

Hexagonal glass mosaic tiles, £173sq m, Trend GB, 01892 509690, trend-group.com



A stylish place to hang bags and coats.

Nail-peg rail in oak with rosehead metal hooks, 7.5 x 40cm, £37, Cox & Cox, 0844 858 0734, coxandcox.co.uk

KITCHEN ESSENTIALS

THE LATEST LOOKS FOR CABINETS, SINKS AND SURFACES



ROUGH LUXE

The big kitchen trends are previewed at the bi-annual EuroCucina kitchen fair in Milan and the 2014 show was all about utilitarian texture – bare wood and a rough, almost concrete, finish to cabinetry and worktops. The Cloe collection by Italian company Cesar sums up the look perfectly, bringing a relaxed feel to contemporary lines. Prices for a base-unit door start from £325. 00 39 0421 2021, cesar.it

Factory finish

The new Limehouse kitchen is a step in a more modern direction for Neptune. With the quality build and fantastic attention to detail the company is known for, the new kitchen gives a nod towards industrial/loft living. Kitchen prices from £11,000. 01793 427427, neptune.com



THE NEW MODERN

Contemporary meets classic in the Augusta three-hole mixer in polished chrome, £299, Franke, 0161 436 6280, franke.co.uk



Space-age design

Blanco uses a special finish, originally developed for use in the aerospace industry, for its range of custom-made, stainless-steel Durinox worktops. They are designed to be twice as resilient as other conventional stainless-steel options. Prices for sink and worktop combinations start from £1,800. 01923 635200, blanco.co.uk



BE SQUARE

Made from a smooth, strong acrylic material, the Matrix SQ GR15 one-and-a-half bowl sink in Black Metallic Granite features neat lines and square angles for a contemporary feel. It costs £339, Abode, 01226 283434, abodedesigns.co.uk



Cutting edge

Stylish Italian brand, Gory Cucine, has now arrived in the UK, bringing a mix of handleless designs in cool neutrals, teamed with vintage accents and plenty of trademark flair. Kitchen prices start from £20,000. Gory Cucine is available from Stanford Design, 01277 260646, stanford-design.co.uk

ON TAP

There'll be no more carting bottles back from the supermarket or standing around waiting for the kettle to boil with the Zip HydroTap Sparkling All In One, £4,364, which offers instant boiled, chilled and sparkling filtered water. 0845 600 5005, zipheaters.co.uk



BEAUTY IN SIMPLICITY

London's Wigmore Street – better known as kitchen alley – is a fantastic showcase for anyone interested in kitchen design. Master of pared-back sleek, German brand Bulthaup has just unveiled its new installations of b3 furniture at number 37, including two new finishes and the Monoblock stainless-steel island. Prices from £48,000. 020 7495 3663, bulthaup-mayfair.co.uk



THINK SMART

We like the way this L-shaped island from Spanish brand Xey makes for a practical and interesting take on a cook-dine-live space. Kitchen prices from £20,000. 07850 252595, xey.es

FORM & FUNCTION

GOOD-LOOKING APPLIANCES FOR THE HARD-WORKING KITCHEN

Made to order

The mega-capacity Vertigo refrigeration and wine storage modular system from KitchenAid allows you to custom configure your unit to suit your needs. The KRXF 9010 fridge and KRVF 6030 wine cellar units, both with multi-temperature drawers, cost £20,000 in total. 0844 499 0101, kitchenaid.co.uk



SPEEDY BEAN

With its super-fast Aroma+ grinder, Jura's Swiss-made bean-to-cup Impressa F7 coffee machine, £950, combines technical prowess with speed, so you can make a ristretto or cappuccino in record time. 0800 652 5527, jurauk.com



BIG ON THE INSIDE
Fisher & Paykel's OB60SL11DCPX1 oven, £1,300, is designed to fit a standard 60cm cavity, but it boasts an impressive 77-litre usable capacity – that's about 30 per cent more than a standard 60cm oven. 0845 066 2200, fisherpaykel.co.uk

CLEAN MACHINE

Tested to last 20 years, Miele's new generation of appliances are the result of a €100 million investment. The W1 washing machines, from £1,199, produce excellent cleaning results, while the energy efficient T1 heat pump tumble dryers, from £1,099, deliver improved drying with ultra-gentle fabric care. 0845 365 6600, miele.co.uk



TREND SETTER

Slender designs with simple curves are not just for iPads – the Sinos hood from Franke, £1,549, is full of elegant appeal. It's not just pretty, though – it also offers four speeds and powerful extraction. 0161 436 6280, franke.co.uk



Winning range

The Roma 100 twin induction range cooker is a good, solid appliance. It features not only a multifunction oven and six-zone induction top, but also a conventional oven and grill, making it a totally modern cooking station. £4,999, Ilve, 0845 548 3130, ilveappliances.co.uk

STYLE & INSPIRATION

FIND GREAT DESIGN ONLINE, AT SHOWS AND IN THE SHOPS



BIRTHDAY TREAT

This summer sees the 150th anniversary of John Lewis. To mark the occasion, the company has commissioned a special selection of iconic homewares from the archive, including the Ercol Studio couch, £2,750 and Barbara Hepworth prints, alongside new collaborations with Emma Bridgewater, Jansen+co and other top designers. 0845 604 9049, johnlewis.com



Paint the town

Abigail Ahern Paint, a range by the celebrated stylist, is a glam palette of 13 luxuriously moody shades. Shown here is Bowery Blue, from £33 for 2.5 litres, Rockett St George, 01444 253391, rockettstgeorge.co.uk. Or try the diverse spectrum of Konig Colours in a quick-drying, non-toxic formula. From £19.20 for 1 litre, Nina Campbell, 020 7225 1011, ninacampbell.com

ROLL UP, ROLL UP

Tinsmiths, the charming Ledbury-based homeware shop has a wonderful selection of fabrics, including a beautiful new range of washed linens, which can be converted into curtains and blinds. The online made-to-measure service is easy to use and orders take around four to six weeks. From £70. 01531 632083, tinsmiths-made-to-measure.co.uk



TALKING SHOP

The latest addition to Louise Body's wallpaper collection is Marneys Lace: a beautiful metallic design created using lace belonging to the designer's grandmother. Available at the new online shop, alongside other wallpaper, fabric and art prints, it costs £60 per 10m roll. 07889 465552, louisebody.com



PARISIAN CHIC

Ooh la la! Gorgeous Parisian interiors boutique Caravane has landed in the capital, bringing its laid-back luxe style and sumptuous rich hues to our shores. 38-40 New Cavendish Street, Marylebone, London, W1G 8UD, 020 7486 5233, caravane.fr

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WONDER WALL

A retro splashback and floating shelves were the starting points for Sarah and Fergus Wells' eclectic scheme

Feature **AMELIA THORPE** Photography **JAKE FITZJONES**



Project profile

THE OWNERS Sarah Wells, an interior designer, her husband Fergus, who works for the family business, and their sons Fergus, 2, and Rufus, 1

THEIR HOME A Victorian terraced house in north London

THE PROJECT Opening up a series of small rooms and adding a side-return extension to create a comfortable family-sized kitchen with dining area

ROOM SIZE Around 6.5 x 4.5m

DESIGNER Sarah designed the kitchen with Mark Ambrose of Maplebank Interiors

CABINETRY White gloss lacquer handleless units and Tavola stained-oak anthracite veneer by Maplebank Interiors, from £12,000, cabinetry only

BUDGET Around £30,000, excluding building work

Opposites attract

'Using two contrasting finishes in a kitchen often works well, as it's a great way of highlighting features such as a focal-point island,' says Mark Ambrose



‘AS I’M NOT A NATURALLY TIDY PERSON, I NEEDED TO ENSURE
THERE WAS PLENTY OF EXTRA STORAGE TO HIDE MY JUNK AND
KEEP THE SHELVES FREE FOR INTERESTING DISPLAYS’





Happy house

'We use the space a lot for family time with the boys and when friends come over, so we wanted it to feel personal and inviting,' says Sarah



No stranger to tricky projects, interior designer Sarah Wells admits that she almost bit off more than she could chew when it came to the renovation of her own home. 'I simply didn't appreciate how much work would be involved,' she says. 'In the end, I think it might have been cheaper to build the entire house from scratch.'

The Victorian terraced house had been almost untouched for 50 years, and was in need of extensive work to make it suitable for modern family life. To make sense of the small scullery-like rooms at the rear of the property, Sarah and her husband Fergus decided to demolish some internal walls, extend into the side-return and lower the floor level to create a large kitchen-diner with direct access to the garden. 'We wanted a sleek, modern design with an injection of wood for warmth,' explains Sarah. 'Of course, a kitchen has to be functional, but as we knew we'd be using the space a lot, it had to be comfortable and inviting, too.'

Mark Ambrose of Maplebank Interiors was recommended to the couple to provide the cabinetry, and together they came up with a design concept based around long shelves and green splashback tiles. 'I like the vintage feel of metro tiles and felt they'd make an interesting and eye-catching starting point,' explains Sarah. 'I initially chose a pale sage shade and designed a scheme around them. Then, as the building work neared completion, I realised there would be much more natural light than I had imagined and the tiles would have faded away into insignificance. So I swapped them for a much more vibrant apple green, which just goes to show that you need to be very flexible as your project evolves.'



LEFT *Chill zone*

Apart from the wine fridge, all cooling appliances are fully integrated for a smart, seamless finish

DESIGN SOLUTION

Sarah explains...

Did you have a clear idea of how the space should look?

I knew that I wanted to combine open shelving with the metro tiles, so Mark Ambrose and I began to develop the layout from there. It includes a run of base units below the splashback flanked at both ends by tall cabinets. One houses built-in ovens and the other a larder cupboard, creating a symmetrical and balanced look. An island serves as the main prep area and worksurface, and bridges the gap between the cooking zone and the dining table.

What other storage solutions are there?

The larder fridge, freezer and wine cooler are all built into a bank of tall units behind the main entrance. It's positioned close to the island to make unloading shopping easy. Our guests can also choose a bottle of wine for the dining table without getting under the feet of the cook.

Explain your choice of materials

We opted for a white gloss lacquer finish for the wall run, which creates a sleek look while allowing the green tiles to stand out. The dark grey wood finish of the island, shelves and bank provides warmth, texture and contrast. For softness, a gentle biscuit-coloured quartz was chosen for the worktops, and fossilised wood handles from Chloe Alberry add an individual touch. I like to add eclectic details that bring a little character.

And your finishing touches...

Contemporary kitchens can often seem cold so I've softened the feel with sumptuous curtains, a cosy sofa and colourful cushions. I've also mixed in some vintage pieces to complement the retro-style tiles, which makes the room more homely.



A modern dining room with a wooden table, chairs, and a wall of framed photos. The room features a large skylight and a brick wall. The table is set with a vase of flowers, candles, and a bowl. The chairs have white cushions. The wall is decorated with several framed black and white photographs. The ceiling is white with a large skylight. The floor is light-colored. The overall style is contemporary and industrial.

‘I CHOSE THE PENDANTS FOR THEIR INDUSTRIAL FEEL AND THE POWDER-COATED FINISH MATCHES THE WOODEN FURNITURE. I LOVE HOW THE LIGHT SPARKLES ON THEIR MIRRORED INTERIORS’

Light and shade

Thanks to plenty of natural light, bold accents, such as the dark-timber cabinetry, rich rosewood furniture and brown pendants, don't overwhelm the room. If you'd like to contact Sarah Wells of Ora Interior Design for commissions, call 07771 530542



Family friendly

These limestone tiles are durable, easy to clean and a good choice for a busy kitchen



The details

CABINETRY White gloss lacquer handleless **units** and Tavola stained-oak veneer **doors** in Anthracite by Maplebank Interiors, from £12,000, cabinetry only. Fossilised wood **cupboard handles**, from £16 each, Chloe Alberry

SURFACES 30mm Silestone Haiku engineered quartz **worktop**, Maplebank Interiors. For a similar **splashback** try Pavilion Green half field tiles, £85/sq m, The Tile Shop. Flax mix honed limestone **floor tiles**, £42.96/sq m, Mandarin Stone

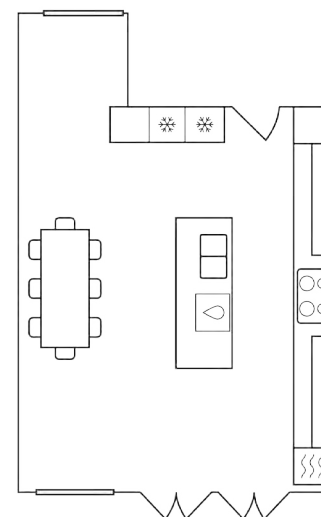
APPLIANCES Built-in **single oven**, £739; built-in **combination steam oven**, £909; **induction hob**, £1,240; fully integrated **larder fridge**, £1,685; fully integrated **freezer**, £435, all Neff. Decorative Soft

chimney hood, £375, Franke. Built-in **wine cabinet**, £609, Caple. Fully integrated **dishwasher**, £950, Miele

SINK AND TAPS Largo undermounted **double-bowl sink** in stainless steel, £461; Olympus FilterFlow monobloc **mixer tap**, £631, both Franke. Design **boiling-water tap**, £980, Quooker

FINISHING TOUCHES Sliding pivoting **patio doors**, price on application, 1st Sliding Folding Doors. For a similar antique **dining table and chairs** try Retrospective Interiors, prices on request. Mirror Rustic **pendant lights**, £225 each, Mufti. Colefax and Fowler's Andersen, £106m, is a comparable **curtain fabric**. Divertimenti sells **stoneware** like this, from £25 for a 26cm plate

The layout



Into the woods

AN INNOVATIVE USE OF TIMBER HAS CREATED AN ENDURINGLY STYLISH
AND ORIGINAL KITCHEN SCHEME FOR EMMA AND DANIEL KNIGHT

Feature ROS ANDERSON *Photography* RORY GARDINER/OTTO



Practical touch

The beautiful limestone worktop continues into an upstand to protect the delicate wood-clad wall from sink splashes



Emma and Daniel Knight bought their Georgian cottage in southwest London as a renovation project, so when it came to the kitchen, they designed it not just with their family in mind but with an eye on how it might appeal to potential buyers. ‘This is much smarter and more upmarket than our usual style,’ admits Emma.

However, it isn’t by any stretch of the imagination your typical family kitchen, as the couple have included some interesting details to stamp their own style onto it. The most striking being the wooden units and feature wall. Other eye-catching elements include the limestone worktops, which inject a touch of luxury, leather handles on the flat-fronted limed-oak cabinetry, a raised lip at the end of the run of base cabinets and a shallow shelf for decorative objects on the timber-clad wall. ‘My natural style is rather eclectic and I tried to add something different to everything we did so that it’s a bit more organic than just a run of fitted cupboards.’

Thanks to a neutral colour scheme and a series of skylights and windows fitted in the new extension, the overall look of the room is sleek, airy and contemporary. ‘We didn’t go for a modern glass-box extension because it would have been too bright in here compared to the rest of the house, and the industrial-style, steel-framed Crittall windows help to balance things out,’ explain Emma.

‘When the time comes to move, we’ll be very sad to leave this house as the kitchen’s such a lovely, bright space to be in,’ says Emma. ‘The whole place up has really opened up – it looks extraordinary.’



Relaxed setting

Evening meals take place in the dining area but breakfast time centres around the island. It has a space cut out for vintage bar stools, which the twins love

‘WE WANTED A MIXTURE OF NATURAL MATERIALS AND TEXTURES
– STONE, WOOD AND STEEL IS THE CLASSIC COMBINATION’

Project profile

THE OWNERS Emma Knight, a photographer, her husband Daniel, and their twins Ellie and Archie, four

THEIR HOME A Georgian house in southwest London

THE PROJECT A whole house renovation, including extending and remodelling the kitchen

ROOM SIZE 9.5 x 5.5m

DESIGNER The couple designed their kitchen themselves

CABINETRY Bespoke limed Dinesen Douglas wood units with steel fronts and limed-oak carcasses, made by John Halifax Cabinetmakers, around £30,000, cabinetry only

BUDGET £40,000 (excluding building work)



Open all hours

The couple avoided wall-mounted units to prevent the long kitchen from feeling too narrow. Instead, a large ladder cupboard on one wall stores food and small appliances, leaving the facing wall free

DESIGN SOLUTION *Emma explains...*

What were your main objectives?

To transform the existing kitchen at the back of the property into a modern, open-plan family space. Previously, it was a charming little lean-to cottage kitchen, so we had to extend into the garden and knock through all of the rooms on the ground floor to create one long area. Then we levelled the floor and ceiling for a seamless finish. We wanted to avoid the sort of classic glass extension that you often get on the back of Victorian terraces, and chose Crittall windows instead, which are more characterful and became the inspiration for the whole interior design.

Did you work with a designer?

No, it was just Daniel and me. He's very practical so he drew up plans and different people made

different parts from our drawings. Everything evolved from me looking at images on Pinterest.

Why did you choose wood cladding for the cabinetry and wall?

I fell in love with Dinesen's Douglas wood. It's limed, and used on the floor and walls throughout the space and, although it looks amazing I think I was a bit naive about how it would cope. It's a very soft wood and I didn't realise quite how much maintenance it would need once fitted. I don't think I'd use it again for a kitchen.

Was the island more of a success?

Yes! We're very pleased with how it's turned out. I wanted an island that wasn't fixed to the floor,

because being able to see below it makes it more a piece of furniture rather than yet another kitchen cupboard. We were able to sacrifice some storage space because we had enough alternative options elsewhere. I think the long, thin legs look very elegant and really make the room. When we bought the wood for the floor, we made the planks one length to run from the back to the front of the house – it would have been a real shame not to be able to see that underneath the island.

What's your favourite feature?

On a practical level, the double-door fridge freezer means no more digging around in the back of the fridge for me. I'm never going back to standard, single-door designs again.



Bright fantastic

The new extension at the back of the property not only provides extra space, it also helps introduce more light into the rest of the open-plan scheme. 'It was important for light to flow right through the length of it,' says Emma

‘THE ISLAND IS MORE TRADITIONAL COMPARED TO THE CONTEMPORARY UNITS, BUT I THINK THEY GO WELL TOGETHER’



‘OUR KITCHEN EMBRACES THE IDEA OF MODERN
LIVING, WHERE YOU LIVE AND COOK IN ONE ROOM’

Off the wall

A different type of wood panelling decorates the living areas, adding interest and texture to the simple, neutral scheme and mimicking the windows at either end of the room



The details

CABINETRY Bespoke units made from limed Dinesen Douglas wood with steel fronts and limed-oak carcasses, made by John Halifax, around £30,000. Leather handles, price on request, Turnstyle Designs

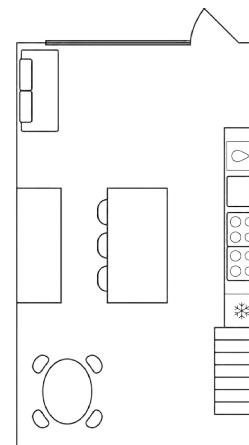
SURFACES For a similar limestone worktop try Stonell, around £900sq m. Douglas wood flooring, price on application, Dinesen

APPLIANCES Range cooker in stainless steel, £2,840, Falcon. Freestanding three-door fridge freezer, £1,999, Fisher & Paykel. Integrated wine cooler, £620, Rangemaster. TrueSteam freestanding dishwasher in stainless steel, £509, LG

SINK AND TAP Centinox CEX 210 single-bowl sink in stainless steel, £464, Franke. Steam valve original monobloc mixer tap, £524, Holloways of Ludlow

FINISHING TOUCHES Steel-framed windows, around £5,000, The Steel Window Company. Knoll Saarinen Tulip round dining table, from £1,560, Pink Apple Designs, is identical. Lovely and Co sells rustic wooden stools, from £60 each. Gubi semi pendant lights in white, £255 each, A White Room. The Oak Bahamas bar stool by Lover's Lounge, £87, Furnish.co.uk, would suit this scheme. Handcrafted mango wood chopping board, £25, Notonthehighstreet.com, is fairly similar to this one

The layout

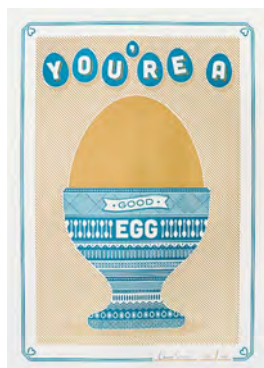


PRINTS CHARMING

Put some **personality** onto your walls with affordable artwork



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

1 There's a touch of Rothko about this Colour Study painting (Coral), 61 x 42cm, £79, **West Elm**. 2 Just in case you need reminding... You're a Good Egg limited-edition letterpress print by Laura Seaby, 30 x 21cm, £25, **The Calm Gallery**. 3 Design enthusiasts will delight in this classic David Mellor Cutlery print, 70 x 50cm, £55 unframed, **The Mint List**. 4 There's no need to frame this charming wooden Flamingo poster, 42 x 30cm, £22, **Graham and Green**. 5 A quirky wedding gift perhaps? Personalised Travel Signpost print,

from £15 unframed, **Notonthehighstreet.com**. 6 The Orient Line to Australia print, from £70, **Surface View**, harks back to the golden age of travel. 7 Make a subtle style statement with the Ampersand print, 40 x 30cm, £35 unframed, **Loop the Loop**. 8 A visual feast from sunnier climes, the framed limited-edition Cuba photograph by Louisa Seton, 59 x 84cm, costs £135, at **Lumitrix**. 9 This colourful Tomato giclée print is accompanied by seven other prints in the English Breakfast Collection, 23 x 23cm, £18 unframed, **Hokolo**



SOUND INVESTMENT

Create a great
entertaining space
with the latest in
audio technology

From tuning in to the radio as you grab breakfast to listening to the hits of the summer as you move leisurely between kitchen and garden, a good sound system has become an important part of the modern kitchen. And thanks to digital downloads and wireless Bluetooth, you're no longer limited to a crackly old radio. If you're planning an open kitchen, dining and living room arrangement, factor in hi-fi and home entertainment systems at the earliest stage. Wireless home networks make it possible to enjoy music in every room, and in-ceiling speakers can provide invisible sound without spoiling the clean lines of the kitchen – all you need is a tablet or smartphone for controlling them. Even the humble radio has been transformed into a multimedia device boasting wireless connectivity, practical built-in battery chargers and stylish designs to enhance both ultramodern and traditional schemes.

'THE KITCHEN SHOULD BE ABLE TO FUNCTION AS A KITCHEN WITHOUT BEING DOMINATED BY THE TECHNOLOGY YOU HAVE PUT INTO IT' *Kris Hogg, MD, Konnectiv*

WIRELESS LIVING

Due to improvements in wireless broadband, the phenomenal rise in popularity of digital music downloads, smartphones and tablet computers, it's now so easy to enjoy the benefits of wireless music systems throughout your home. What once required a professional installer, miles of cable and a large budget, can now be set up in a few minutes without breaking the bank. The simplest way to enjoy wireless music in the kitchen is through Bluetooth. Look for radios, speakers and hi-fi systems that are Bluetooth compatible and you'll be able to stream digital songs from your smartphone at the push of a button. There are dozens of designs available, from the traditional – try the Roberts Revival Blutune and Orla Kiely Evoke Mio from Pure – to modern designs such as the Pillar from Stellé Audio and Bowers & Wilkins A7. The advantage of Bluetooth is that any smartphone or tablet can be used to stream music and you're not tied to a particular streaming service or brand. Don't fret, many devices still include traditional radio, CD player and iPod dock for added convenience, so you can choose one device to suit all users.

COMPLETE SET UP

Bluetooth doesn't offer multi-room connectivity so you'll need to pair your smartphone to a different speaker if you move between rooms. More advanced wi-fi-connected systems such as Apple AirPlay devices, Sonos and Pure Jongo can stream music to multiple speakers

simultaneously giving you greater control. You can mix-and-match speakers of the same brand to suit each room with a go-anywhere, battery-powered design in the kitchen, and a larger hi-fi speaker in the open-plan living room.

INTEGRATED SYSTEMS

If you're planning a new kitchen and extension, it's worth thinking about home entertainment – music as well as TV/movies – before you begin work. Ask your kitchen designer or talk to a home automation specialist – for a list of professionals, contact CEDIA (Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association) at cedia.co.uk – and you can transform your kitchen into a hi-tech home hub. Using a combination of hidden speakers, cables and media servers, often known as NAS (Network Attached Storage) drives, you can access your home's entertainment through a hi-tech wall controller or tablet. It's important to consider integrated technology in the same way you would the plumbing or electrics; treat it as an afterthought and you'll need to hide cables and boxes instead of enjoying seamless integration. Custom installations can do so much more than play music. They're designed to stream movies from a hard drive onto any connected TV and control the room's lighting, curtains, blinds as well as home security. You can even create the perfect setting for a romantic meal – dim the lights, close the curtains and play your favourite song.



TOP Available in other colours, the Frost White Model One AM/FM radio, £199, Tivoli Audio, sounds impressive for its size

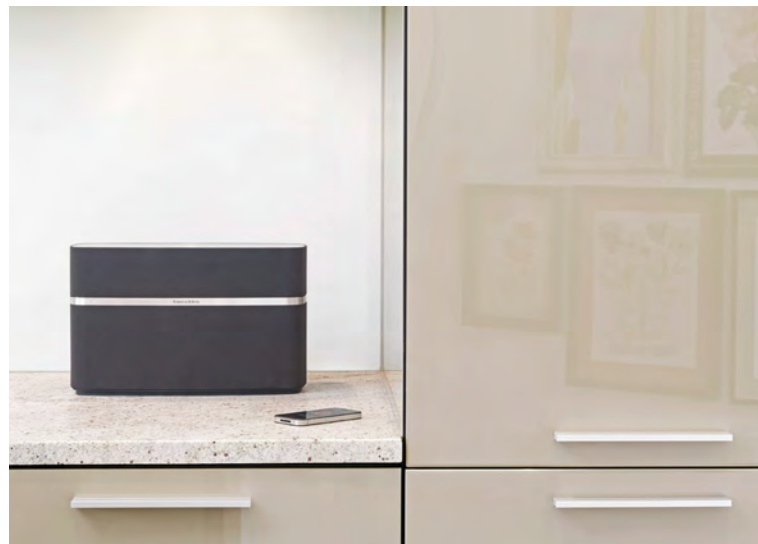
disappear completely. Prices range from £350-£4,000

ABOVE Artcoustic manufacture low-profile speakers designed to complement your interior or

BELOW The hi-fi quality A7 wireless speaker uses Apple Airplay to stream music from your iPhone or computer's hard drive, £699, Bowers & Wilkins

NEED TO KNOW

- A Bluetooth speaker pairs with your smartphone or tablet and plays digital songs wirelessly around the house.
- A wi-fi-connected system can stream music to multiple speakers around the house or play different tunes in different rooms all from the same smartphone or tablet.
- If you don't have a music library such as iTunes you can still enjoy digital tracks by using an online streaming service such as Spotify or Google Play. For a monthly subscription, from £5, you can listen to millions of songs on demand.
- Think about wires before you build your new kitchen. Even a simple radio has a cable, so factor it in to avoid a cluttered worksurface.
- Make sure your stereo is loud enough. You'll struggle to hear a basic countertop radio over the extractor fan and dishwasher, that's why multiple speakers carefully positioned around the room will offer comfortable listening without ear-splitting volume.



MUSIC ON THE MOVE

Five of the best portable solutions for indoor and outdoor sounds.



Cambridge Audio Minx Go

This award-winning small Bluetooth speaker, £100, has exceptional sound quality and up to 18 hour's battery life.



Pure Jongo S3

Using the Pure Connect music streaming app, this works as a Bluetooth speaker or part of a wi-fi multi-room system, £175.



Tivoli Audio Pal BT

Featuring FM/AM and Bluetooth, plus all-day battery life, this is an ideal kitchen radio. Available in red, white, blue and black, it costs £239.



Jawbone Big Jambox

Its tactile rubber finish is perfect for the patio and kitchen, while the powerful battery can even charge your mobile phone, £250.



Ted Baker Fastnet

A beautifully made, retro-inspired Bluetooth speaker featuring hand-stitched leather in grey, black or brown, priced £200.



ABOVE The rechargeable PLAY Beolit 12, £599, Bang & Olufsen, streams songs direct from iPad, iPod, iPhone or Mac.

BELOW Evoke Mio DAB/FM radio comes in 10 cool, two-tone shades and has 30 preset channels. Priced £129.99, Pure.



GET CONNECTED

The most important aspect of any home technology is good, reliable broadband. With more gadgets being linked into the internet, including radio, Smart TV, lighting and security, it's best to choose the fastest speed (shown in Mbps) you can afford. Up to 8-16Mbps is typical for everyday broadband packages and ideal for general use. If you plan to stream movies and music, and want to future-proof your home, opt for up to 30Mbps or more using fibre-optic services. If you're going to stream lots of content, choose an 'unlimited data' plan to avoid extra charges. For large homes, it's worth putting in a new Cat 5 internet cable and fitting extra Ethernet sockets to ensure a reliable connection wherever you are in the house.

CHOOSING SPEAKERS

For years they've been little more than ugly black boxes in the corner of the

sitting room, but the modern speaker can now all but disappear while still emitting high-quality sound. A simple radio is ideal for a compact kitchen but, if you want to enjoy music while dining or in an open-plan space, built-in designs are recommended. Bose and KEF make integrated speakers that sit flush with the wall or ceiling and provide high-quality sound throughout the kitchen. For a basic all-in-one hidden solution, try KB Sound's iSELECT range of affordable flush-fitting speakers, which include a radio and remote control. Artcoustic (from £350) offers a wide range of ultra-slim speakers finished in patterns, photos and designs to look like artwork, while Amina speakers (around £500), disappear altogether as they're built into the wall and plastered over. Traditional speakers still offer the best sound quality and extra-small, wall-mountable designs, like the 7cm Bose Sound Cubes, are loud yet discrete.

KEY CONTACTS

AMINA 01480 354390,
amina.co.uk
APPLE 0800 048
0408, apple.com/uk
ARTCOUSTIC
01245 400904,
artcoustic.com
BANG & OLUFSEN
bang-olufsen.com/en
BOWERS & WILKINS
01903 221500,
bowers-wilkins.co.uk
CAMBRIDGE AUDIO

cambridgeaudio.com
CEDIA 01480 213744,
cedia.co.uk
JAWBONE 020 3027
2094, jawbone.com
JOHN LEWIS 08456
049049, johnlewis.com
KEF 01622 672261,
kef.com/gb
KONNECTIV 0114 299
7986, konnectiv.com
LIBRATONE
libratone.com

LOEWE loewe-uk.com
PHILIPS 0844 338
5041, philips.com
PURE 0845 148 9001,
pure.com
RUARK AUDIO 01702
601410, ruarkaudio.com
SONOS 0808 234
6596, sonos.com
TED BAKER 0845 130
4278, tedbaker.com
TIVOLI 0800 047 0487,
tivolioaudio.co.uk



ALEXANDRA AND
RHYS OLDFIELD'S
EFFORTLESSLY STYLISH
KITCHEN BOASTS A
HOST OF PRACTICAL
SOLUTIONS AND
HIDDEN SURPRISES

Simply the best

Feature **LUCY SEARLE**
Photography **RICHARD GADSBY**

Out of sight

Plenty of storage options mean everything is stowed away for a clean, clutter-free finish, while the flush-fitted handleless units create an understated look perfect for modern, open-plan schemes



Project profile

THE OWNERS Alexandra Oldfield her husband Rhys, and their children, Caspian, 8, Rafe, 5, and Inigo, 1, plus Guinness the cat

THEIR HOME A Victorian terrace in southwest London

THE PROJECT Knocking through three rooms to form a large, open-plan scheme and installing new cabinetry and appliances

ROOM SIZE Around 7 x 5m

DESIGNER Robert Wilson from Granit Chartered Architects

CABINETRY Bespoke cabinetry with MDF panelled doors by Alkena, £15,000, cabinetry only

BUDGET Around £40,000, excluding building work



The kitchen that Alexandra and Rhys Oldfield inherited when they moved into their south London home merely consisted of a sink and worktop. However, instead of rushing headlong into renovations, they bought a second-hand kitchen from an online auction site and lived with it for a year. 'We wanted to get a feel for the place and see how the light worked before rethinking the layout,' says Alexandra.

Extending the space was the best solution to achieve the modern open-plan scheme the pair had in mind. 'We brought lots of pictures to our meetings with Robert Wilson of Granit Chartered Architects, and we

discussed the pros and cons of various styles,' recalls Alexandra. 'The room lent itself to having the kitchen area in the left-hand corner as you enter, which was great because I wanted the view from the front door to be straight through to the garden, which would create a lovely flow.'

The Oldfields' kitchen scheme features sleek contemporary handleless cabinetry – including an imposing multifunctional island and a secret walk-in pantry, sourced from a Lithuanian company recommended to the couple by their builder. 'We chose a modern painted finish so that the units can be easily touched up, or repainted to transform the look completely,' explains Alexandra.

Balancing act

Large matt ivory porcelain tiles laid throughout help create a smooth transition from one zone to the next. The capacious island has been painted the same colour as the floors and walls so that it doesn't dominate the room



‘I PURPOSELY MIXED PERIOD,
CLASSIC AND MODERN STYLES TO
CREATE AN INTERESTING MIX –
I ALWAYS STRIVE TO BE DIFFERENT’

In the box

As well as providing worktop and storage, the cube-shaped island discreetly houses a multitude of kitchenalia, including an induction hob and dishwasher. Its mirrored plinths create a floating effect

DESIGN SOLUTION *Architect Robert Wilson explains...*

What was your brief for this kitchen project?

Alexandra and Rhys wanted a kitchen scheme that wasn't just a place for preparing food but also the centre of home life – a place for daily living, doing homework, relaxing, dining and entertaining family and friends. A view out to the garden while sitting at the island was important to the couple, too, and they wanted the new space to feel like a furnished living room as much as a fitted kitchen.

How did you set about achieving this?

Massive open-plan spaces are notoriously difficult to furnish so it was important to create a sense

of separateness for different functions within the room, while still retaining its open feel. The kitchen needed to be practical for cooking but, with young children in the house, this potentially dangerous activity had to be in an isolated area away from the living and play zones of the room for safety reasons.

Was a gigantic island integral to the overall kitchen design?

It has many practical uses, but its size was simply right for the space. As well as offering views outside – which is great for family living and keeping an eye on the children – it also delineates

the washing up and cooking zones from the dining area and sitting room, creating a cook's domain. It's situated at an ideal distance from the surrounding units to allow easy access to its contents and the dishwasher.

Are all the appliances strategically positioned, too?

Yes, they're all perfectly located for ease of use. For example, the built-in Gaggenau ovens are next to the pantry; the dishwasher is in the island where dishes would be stacked up after meals; and the island hob is centred so that there's plenty of prep space either side of it.



Cold comfort

The fully integrated fridge was positioned at the end of the run so that it's easily accessible by both the cook and anyone sitting at the breakfast bar



Easy access

All cooking utensils are stored inside sleek, handleless drawers directly below the induction hob. When it's not in use, the downdraft extractor recesses neatly back into the worktop



Water works

A Quooker tap means there's no kettle cluttering the worktop, and the monobloc mixer's spray attachment is great for hosing down the sinks

Did you have any influence over the choice of cabinetry?

No, Alexandra and Rhys had a very good idea of what they wanted in terms of cabinetry and the materials used. We designed a simple painted, flush-fitted scheme to give a clean, minimal look that wouldn't overpower the space with detail. We also recommended a background colour that emphasised the kitchen area rather than one that shouted out too loudly.

How was the layout created?

The kitchen area allowed for a well-proportioned square scheme with sleek lines and loads of storage, so the layout needed straight runs of units without any complex corner cupboards. To manage costs, the design was worked out to

standard unit modules, and the recessed finish helps reduce the feeling of a standard kitchen.

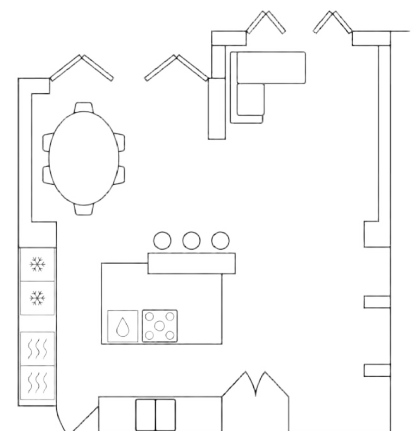
Are there any interesting features?

Yes, a large walk-in pantry in the design was all about being efficient with the space available and it made the kitchen more user-friendly. At one end it's a food store and on the opposite side there's a coat cupboard.

Do you have any design tips?

Create a clear picture of exactly what you want from your new kitchen before working up layouts or thinking about appliances or furniture. With a strong brief, an architect can help you realise your ideal kitchen, whether it's all about cooking, family life or somewhere designed for entertaining.

The layout





Attention to detail

Timber cabinetry interiors complement the breakfast bar and stools, while adding warmth and interest



Form and function

All the materials used were chosen for both practical and aesthetic reasons. For example, the white glass splashback not only echoes the Caesarstone worktop but it's easy to wipe clean and also reflects light into the darkest part of the room

The details

CABINETRY Bespoke units with MDF panelled doors by Alkena, £15,000. **Cabinetry paint**, Stone Green and Connecticut Blue eggshell, both £48.50 for 2.5 litres, Dulux

SURFACES Snow 2141 Caesarstone worktop, around £700 for a 3 x 1.4m slab, Domo. **Walnut worktop**, price included with cabinetry, Alkena. Try Glass Inspirations for a white glass splashback like this one, from £75 for 600 x 700mm. **Wall paint**, Dusted Moss 2 vinyl matt emulsion, £24.29 for 2.5 litres, Dulux Trade. Fossil Ivory matt porcelain floor tiles by Saloni, around £24.44sq m, Tile Mountain

APPLIANCES Built-in steam oven, £2,040; built-in combination microwave, £2,212; built-in warming drawer, £560; induction hob, £2,834; built-in coffee machine, £1,800, all Gaggenau from Such Designs. Westin Lisser downdraft extractor (excluding motor), £1,684, Icon Appliances. Fully integrated fridge, £1,189; fully integrated freezer, £1,099, both Liebherr. Fully integrated dishwasher, £726, Siemens

SINK AND TAPS Blanco Claron 340/180-U one-and-a-half-bowl sink in stainless steel, £794; for a similar monobloc mixer tap try Blancotrim-Flex, £307, both Blanco. Design boiling-water tap, £890, Quooker. Evolution 100 waste-disposal unit, £348, Insinkerator

FINISHING TOUCHES The Alfie corner sofa, £2,699, Sofa Workshop, is comparable. To recreate the style of this dining area take a look at Mireval wooden cabinet in weathered oak, £2,475; Camargue wooden dining chairs, £169 each, all OKA. Brownrigg Decorative Antiques' 19th-century French burr elm round dining table, £1,600, would suit this scheme. The Briggs bar stool, £199, Out & Out Original, is a good alternative to this design. Antique French bronze chandelier, £160, HomesDirect 365, is similar. Curtains in Nina Campbell Amazonas Manaus fabric £78m, Alexander's of Ipsden. Diamantini & Domeniconi Cucú large white cuckoo clock, £254, Black by Design. Port Cuisine pop-up socket, £133, EVOLINE

FRENCH FANCY

Freestanding painted units, smoked oak floors and a whitewashed brick wall bring more than a touch of the Mediterranean to Natalie and Ray Stevens' newly extended kitchen

Feature **STEPHANIE SMITH** Photography **COLIN POOLE**



Easy living

Not only is there space for entertaining, but Natalie has created a convivial and warm atmosphere. Soft colours and textures evoke her childhood summers in Provence



Project profile

THE OWNERS Natalie Stevens and her husband Ray, a former Olympic Judo silver medallist, who together run the Ray Stevens Academy

THEIR HOME A 1930s three bedroom semi-detached house in southwest London

THE PROJECT The Stevenses ripped out a galley kitchen and extended into the side return and garden, replacing an old garage to provide a large multifunctional kitchen space

ROOM SIZE 7 x 7m

DESIGNER Donna Aragi, Stait of the Art

CABINETRY Bespoke units in tulipwood with oak linings from Stait of the Art. £25,000

BUDGET Around £50,000 including French windows but excluding building work

‘Think about where your table is going to go and make sure the unit that holds your crockery is nearby, so you don’t have to carry things from one end of the room to the other’



Well-loved pieces

A new kitchen didn't mean all-new accessories and furniture for Natalie, who made sure the scheme suited treasured items she's collected



Renting their home before they bought it meant Natalie and Ray Stevens knew exactly what they wanted to do with the small galley kitchen in their 1930s semi. 'We love to entertain and an open-plan design was a must,' says Natalie. 'Once we got planning permission, we knocked down a wall between the kitchen and the dining room and extended out.'

While the building work was progressing, Natalie had time to think about the kitchen. 'I'm half French and used to spend summers in the south of France,' she says. 'I knew I wanted a Provençal-style

kitchen but with a modern edge. I saw something close to what I was after at a friend's house – it was by a new company called Stait of the Art, so I called them up and met designer Donna Aragi.'

With Donna's advice, and taking the smoked grey oak floor as the starting point for the colour scheme, the kitchen began to emerge over the summer, with Natalie adding her own pieces, such as an antique chandelier she'd had for years, and her old oak table, which had been in storage, along with her favourite china. 'Donna really listened to what I said and translated my vague ideas into design genius,' smiles Natalie. 'I really could be in France.'

ABOVE RIGHT *Gap in the market*

A handy space between units has been made into a wine rack

BELOW FROM LEFT *Perfect blend*

The pale range matches the cabinetry

Wooden inside

Drawers are lined in oak for a luxury look

Triple use

The three-in-one tap dispenses hot, cold and boiling water in an easy-to-use design





Hounds of love

Artwork featuring dogs is displayed on all the walls. Ray did this painting on the back wall as a tribute to their bull terrier, Archie, who sadly died two years ago

DESIGN SOLUTION

Designer Donna Aragi explains...

What furniture did you decide on?

We agreed on one large freestanding unit for crockery and special pieces by the table, with painted units everywhere else. Natalie wanted an island, too, and she dislikes stainless steel, so appliances needed to be integrated or disguised.

How did you give the room character?

I felt that the warm greys, tactile painted brick and smoked oak flooring should be the main features. I dissuaded Natalie from having lots of downlights, and to use wall lights and the chandelier on a dimmer to create atmosphere. The Belgian oak flooring was the initial point of design and the colours and textures were worked around it.

Tell us about the brick wall

Once we'd decided the room was going to have a French feel, I suggested that

we go for an exposed brick wall. It's actually just half bricks set into the new wall, but it gives a great effect. Once it was finished, the bricks still looked a bit raw and too dark, so we put a whitewash over them – literally a solution of watered down white emulsion. It didn't take long to do and looks much better, giving the wall an instant aged feel.

Where did the idea for the integrated extractor come from?

Natalie made it clear she hated contemporary cooker hoods, with their angular shapes. Some people like to make a feature of their extractor – almost treating it as an extra piece of furniture – but Natalie wanted to hide it. Installing an integrated design was simple, but to disguise it, I hit on the idea of putting the spare bricks from the wall around the extractor, to make it look like an old-fashioned chimney.

The details

CABINETRY Bespoke units in tulipwood with oak linings from Stait of the Art, from £25,000. **Cabinetry paint**, Cornforth White and Down Pipe estate eggshell, both £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

SURFACES Engineered stone Diresco worktops in Beach Dark Grey, from £350lin m, supplied by Acqua Kitchens. Grey smoked oak flooring, £95sq m, Cugo Gran from Stait of the Art. **Wall paint**, Strong White estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball; Grey Steel V matt emulsion, £21 for 2.5 litres, Dulux

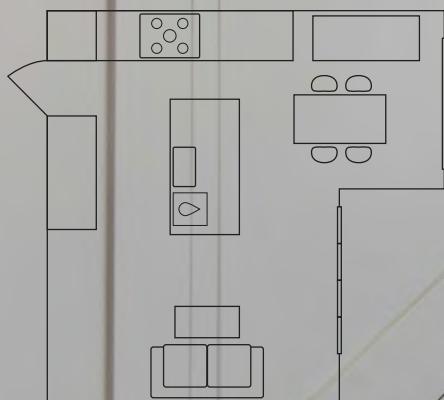
APPLIANCES Elise range cooker, £2,159, Rangemaster; integrated fridge freezer, £299, Beko; integrated dishwasher, £275, Smeg, all Appliances Online. **Extractor**, £599, Westin

SINK AND TAPS PKX undermounted sink, £414.50; Minerva three-in-one tap, £1,070; both Franke

FINISHING TOUCHES Contemporary rooflight, £2,500, Vision Rooflights. Bespoke French windows, in hardwood with antique cremones by Clayton Munro, around £12,000, Stait of the Art. Vintage Chinese stools, £120 each; reindeer-skin rug, £99, both Cosy Glimpse. Plisse silk shade wall lights, £105 each, Idyll Home

'Get an instant touch of luxury with a chunky finish to your worktop. The surface is normal depth, but the mitred ends are 60mm deep, giving the illusion that the worktop is much more expensive'

The layout



Sun-kissed beauty

Putting a large rooflight over the sitting area adds to the feeling of height and allows light to stream in

Uplifting touches

Splashes of vivid colour in the seat pads and cushion covers enliven the room's neutral scheme, while timber and granite add contrast and texture



NEW *beginnings*

**BUILDING THEIR OWN HOME GAVE LIZ AND JONATHAN
TOOMER THE BLANK CANVAS THEY NEEDED TO CREATE
THE KITCHEN OF THEIR DREAMS**

Feature JANE CRITTENDEN *Photography* ALISTAIR NICHOLLS



For Liz and Jonathan Toomer, building a new house in rural West Sussex provided the perfect chance to create a purpose-made kitchen. 'It was fantastic knowing that I could plan it without any limitations,' says Liz.

Armed with a complete blank canvas, Liz had a clear idea about what she wanted from the new scheme. 'It had to be the focal point of our home and spacious enough for all the family,' she explains. 'I also wanted the room to be bright and to make the most of the garden and views.'

With this brief in mind, architect Gavin Sargent from WCEC Architecture, created a generous open-plan kitchen-diner at the rear of the house. Floor-to-ceiling bifold doors open onto a terrace, a swimming pool and landscaped gardens overlooking the beautiful countryside.

When it came to choosing a kitchen, Liz favoured a traditional look, selecting a Shaker-style design with pale-coloured doors and striking black granite worktops from John Hollis Furniture. 'I love its modern yet classic look,' she explains.

When the Toomers are all at home, the kitchen is where they tend to gather. 'I adore it when the doors are wide open in the summer and we all mill in and out, enjoying the seamless blend of the inside and outside space,' says Liz. 'It's perfect.'

Project profile

THE OWNERS Liz Toomer, her husband Jonathan, and their sons, Jasper, 14, Barney, 12, and Gus, 9

THEIR HOME A five-bedroom house built in 2010, West Sussex

THE PROJECT Installing a new kitchen-diner designed by WCEC Architecture

ROOM SIZE 9.23 x 6.83m, kitchen only

DESIGNER John Hollis at John Hollis Furniture

CABINETRY Shaker-style solid timber kitchen units from John Hollis Furniture, £16,000

BUDGET Around £25,000, excluding building work



Staggered dining

Liz decided that she didn't need a separate oven or hob as she's happy to use the Aga for cooking all the family meals. 'I find it very handy, especially as the boys sometimes need to eat at different times,' she says

DESIGN SOLUTION *Liz explains...*

How did you formulate a clear idea of your ideal kitchen?

I spoke to friends who have had new kitchens put in over the last couple of years and asked them what they couldn't live without. I stole a few ideas, such as having a hot-water tap and a prep sink within the central island.

Why did you choose John Hollis as your kitchen designer?

I knew that John was able to build bespoke kitchens, which was useful in terms of having any size cupboard we wanted. This was particularly handy for the huge pans and roasting trays we use for the Aga, so he designed drawers in the exact format we needed and handily placed them either side of the oven.

Was the layout finalised before you hired John?

I showed John the architectural drawings so that he could see the shape of the room. Nothing had been built at that point – although I had a good idea of the type of layout I wanted. Taking the open-plan format and built-in larder into account, it made sense to place the sink under the window, the Aga along the back wall, and the large island in the middle of the room.

Did you have any specific design features in mind?

I wanted a mantel over the Aga, I also wanted a layout and a generously proportioned island that people could easily circulate around. John came up with the correct proportions in relation to the size of the room, ensuring that the scheme looks right and works well within the space we have.

How did you finalise the look of the cabinetry?

I showed John a cutting of a Shaker-style kitchen that I liked and asked him to design something similar. The cabinets in the picture were grey but I opted for warmer Farrow & Ball shades for both the cupboards and walls.

Did you have to compromise on anything?

I would have liked an old-fashioned larder with a cold shelf but we couldn't find enough space to accommodate one. Instead, I have a normal cupboard larder, which is still brilliant. Additionally, the only place for the fridge freezer to go was alongside the larder, so it isn't as sizable as I'd have liked.

Did you face any problems during the project?

I realised that the window in the main kitchen area was going to be too high up. Fortunately, I noticed this before the builders started working on that part of the room, so there was time to change it. Also, the electricians had to be installed before the kitchen was fitted, so we had a moment when the light above the island wasn't in quite the right place – we've since moved it.

Would you change anything?

The granite worktops mark very easily and need cleaning all the time. But I still love their density of colour and the contrast they offer to the light-coloured cabinetry and walls. Lakeland's Worktop Wonder is a complete life-saver as the invisible film it leaves on the surface deters water.



Spice store

Liz wanted all her herbs and spices hidden away but still within easy reach, so the custom-made shelves and spice rack for the larder are an ideal solution



Double-up

A generous-sized double butler sink with a pull-out spray tap makes washing-up a breeze



Slim pickings

Slimline cupboards are perfect for storing chopping boards



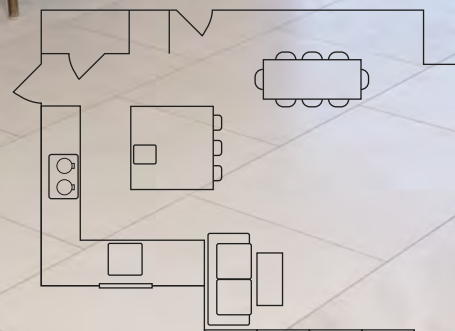
The real deal

Proving it's all in the details, the inside of the drawers are made of beautiful solid oak

**‘I WANTED TO KEEP THE COLOUR SCHEME NEUTRAL AS I LIKE TO
BRIGHTEN UP A CONTEMPORARY LOOK WITH VIBRANT FURNISHINGS’**



The layout



Pretty practical

The rustic table and secondhand chairs contrast with the sleek lines of the kitchen and provide comfortable seating for busy mealtimes. Made from durable, wipeable PVC, the cheerful coloured seat pads are a practical solution for a young family

The details

CABINETRY Shaker-style cabinets, £16,000, John Hollis Furniture in Shaded White estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

APPLIANCES Royal Blue four-door oil-fired Aga, £7,595, Blades. Whirlpool American-style fridge freezer, £1,525; Neff dishwasher, £433; Caple under-counter single-zone wine cabinet, £317, all sourced from John Hollis Furniture

SURFACES 40mm honed black granite and wooden worktop, £3,900, John Hollis

Furniture. Honed Applestone 600 x 400mm floor tiles, £34sq m, Boniti. Retro Metro 75 x 15mm wall tiles in Swiss Cottage, 85p each, Fired Earth. Walls painted in Slipper Satin estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, available from Farrow & Ball

SINK AND TAP Franke Swiss Pro kitchen sink mixer tap with pull-out spray, £374, Plumbworld. For a similar sink, try RAK Gourmet sink 10 white ceramic Belfast style double bowl, £200, Heat and Plumb

FINISHING TOUCHES Morso wood-burning stove with flue and glass hearth, £3,230, Bolney Stoves. Glenn bar stools, £55 each; Soderhamn three-seater sofa in Isefall Natural, £515, both Ikea. Charleston Ovale light by Reflex, £3,000, Anna Casa at Chelsea Harbour. Dining table, £700, Ardingly Antiques Fair. Pink-and-green cushion covers, £8.99 each, H&M. Handmade coloured PVC chair cushions, £775, by interior designer, Catherine Richards at InColour

IN THE KNOW

THERE'S MORE TO THE PERFECT KITCHEN THAN CHOOSING CUPBOARDS – THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE DEDICATED TO GREAT INSPIRATION AND STRAIGHT-TALKING ADVICE FOR ALL THE KEY ELEMENTS THAT WILL HELP YOU TO SHAPE YOUR ROOM



62 PLAN *We demand so much more from our kitchens these days and open-plan living is an excellent solution. An extension – large or small – or something as simple as removing a wall can unlock your home's potential.*

68 SURFACE *We're enjoying the resurgence of tiles and the design possibilities and creativity they can bring. Handmade artisan designs, in particular, are wonderful at adding colour, texture, pattern and depth for splashbacks and flooring to suit kitchens of all styles.*

74 CHILL *Big leaps in design and technology have produced refrigeration that looks great, stores more and, most importantly, preserves food for longer. We look at the latest features and the new flexible refrigeration that allows you to swap between fridge and freezer space on demand.*

80 DECORATE *A bold colour palette and crisp graphic prints are at the heart of the latest take on country. It's a fresh new look that's not just for classic kitchens – use it to add interest to modern schemes, too.*

90 THE LOOK *While the sleek, clean lines of modern cabinetry never dates, subtle shifts ensure contemporary design is always evolving. This issue's gallery explores some innovative approaches.*

92 SHOP *From panels and doors to reclaimed parquet, chairs and pews, architectural salvage is a creative, environmentally friendly and often affordable way to add instant interest and character to your kitchen.*



PLAN... *open kitchen,
dining, living spaces* offer great
versatility for the way we live today

It's not always possible to move an entire wall – you may need to leave a section or pillar as a support. Play it to your advantage using it to screen a dining area or create a visible break. This single-story extension by AR Design Studio costs around £200,000. Kitchen by The Myers Touch, from around £35,600



The modern kitchen is all about having space to cook, eat, entertain, gather as a family and relax. Therefore, the average kitchen project has become so much more than simply upgrading old cabinetry and appliances. A trusted home insurance survey shows that one in five UK households had removed a downstairs wall in the past 10 years, while one in three were already enjoying the benefits of an open-plan kitchen and dining scheme. The big appeal is for the kitchen and cook to be part of the action when entertaining and, on a day-to-day basis, for the whole family to be together. In this time-pressed age, it's a real boon to be able to offer help with homework while preparing the evening meal – and to be able to keep one eye on tots and teens while managing other tasks. 'People have become generally less formal and so are more willing to share cooking, dining and relaxing areas,' says Tim Higham of Higham Furniture. 'When throwing a dinner party, it's seen as sociable to cook and entertain at the same time.' This is the time of year when open-plan layouts really come into their own, as the majority of kitchens include large amounts of glass to let in light and provide easy access to the garden, which vastly expands the living and entertaining space.



When planning a scheme, choose a colour palette that can extend across all zones. Here, an all-white finish is lifted by variations in shape and texture. Chelsea Studio kitchen by Plain English, from £48,000

ASSESSING THE OPTIONS

An expensive extension is not the only option for gaining more room. A first step should always be to see if there's potential in the space you already have – a little-used dining room, part of a hallway, a garage. It's worth calling in the professionals at this early stage as a trained eye will see solutions you simply won't. Find an architect in your area that specialises in residential projects through RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects, riba.com). Alternatively, consider using an interior designer who can oversee the whole project, from structural alterations to decorating, or a good kitchen designer. With so many homeowners reconfiguring space for the sole purpose of creating an open-plan kitchen, many kitchen companies are very experienced at seeing the bigger picture and often have good contacts with local builders. 'They may also

know of an architect who has undertaken a similar project,' says Katy Paul, designer at Richard Baker Furniture.

SMALL GAINS

Sometimes it's only a matter of feet that's required to create enough room for a dining area. One of the most popular extensions is the side return, which steals little-used alley space from the side of Victorian semis and terraced houses. It's a great way to increase floor space without encroaching on the garden, a big factor in cities where outdoor space is at a premium.

THE RIGHT PERMISSION

While knocking down walls is relatively simple (rarely requiring planning permission but still needing building regulations), many extensions now qualify for permitted development, so there's no need for planning permission here, too. There

may be 'party wall' issues, though, so always check with your local planning office – you can also find helpful advice at the government website, planningportal.gov.uk. Part of the attraction of building an extension is the chance to add glass doors and skylights to flood the space with light. These are subject to Part L of building regulations relating to thermal efficiency – your glass supplier, builder or architect will be able to advise here.

PLANNING SERVICES

Whether you're using an architect, interior designer or a design and build company, it's important to get your kitchen designer on board as early as possible. 'Commission a kitchen as soon as you can so that the designer can work in harmony with your architect,' recommends Matt Podesta, owner of Podesta. 'Wiring and plumbing especially needs to be planned from a very early stage.' Alex Saint, design manager ►

'THINK ABOUT WHERE GUESTS WILL SIT WHILE YOU COOK AND WHERE YOU SITUATED AWAY FROM THE WORK ZONE SO NO ONE GETS IN THE WAY, BUT CLOSE

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING

■ 'An island can double as a serving area and is a cost-effective way of planning a kitchen,' says Alex Saint, design manager at Kitchen Architecture.

■ 'Drawers that store 100 pieces of crockery will scale down the amount of furniture you need, creating a lighter look than the traditional fitted kitchen,' adds Alex.

■ Full-height slide away doors are a good option for making the kitchen disappear from view.

■ Use the cabinetry to create a contained space for the cook, keeping children and guests firmly outside.

■ Position the kitchen to be away from through traffic and with a clear view of the dining area, living zone and garden.

■ Modern finishes are all about using the unusual to add depth, interest and texture, and are designed to blend into a living space.

■ Opt for quiet appliances and good extraction. Create a utility area for washing machines if possible.

■ Keep the sink and dishwasher away from the seating area – no one wants to look at dirty dishes or listen to a whirring appliance.

■ It makes sense to have cutlery, glassware, wine chillers and coffee makers all accessible from the dining zone.



Extending your home with a glass-roofed structure will flood a new kitchen with daylight, allowing a choice of darker cabinetry and gloss-free surfaces. This Urbo kitchen by Roundhouse has been finished in matt lacquer, with crisp white Corian and stainless-steel worksurfaces that ooze industrial chic. Bespoke kitchens start at £30,000

WOULD LIKE TO EAT. SHORT-STAY SEATING SUCH AS BREAKFAST BARS NEED TO BE ENOUGH SO CONVERSATION FLOWS EASILY' *Stephanie Dedes, design and marketing manager, Charles Yorke*



**‘IF YOU EXTEND THE KITCHEN AND MAKE IT INTO A MORE INFORMAL LIVING
A SMALLER, MORE CASUAL TABLE IN THE KITCHEN AREA INSTEAD**



at Kitchen Architecture agrees. 'Extraction and ducting, in particular, can be a headache to get right in an open-plan scheme,' he says.

VISUALISING SPACE

It's hard enough to picture a new kitchen in an existing space but imagining a whole new room can seem impossible. The truth is, you'll only get a true sense of the space when the walls come down. Architect's drawings and designer's CAD (computed-aided design) images will help give a feel for the area and what will fit and where. Your designer will assess it in a range of ways, from how traffic flows to best view points and aesthetics, as well as practical considerations such as the position of existing services such as power and drainage. 'It's quite common to discover that ceiling and floor heights between adjoining rooms are significantly different, even though they appeared the same when the rooms were separated,' says Robert Burnett, head of design, Holloways of Ludlow. 'So plan ahead and measure up to prevent a small project becoming more complex than anticipated.'

FUNCTIONAL FRAMEWORK

A hard-working space will need the right framework in place, which is something that needs addressing at the start of the project and where a good designer can help. 'An interior designer is different from an interior decorator

who chooses colours and cushions,' says designer John Osborn. 'A good interior designer should understand the technical aspects of drainage, electrics, water supply and waste, pipework, plumbing, cables and lighting circuits – all the structural elements required to realise the best design. An electrician will put sockets and switches wherever is easiest, not necessarily where they look most attractive while an interior designer will create something that works functionally and aesthetically.' This is especially challenging in an open-plan kitchen where a range of services are required.

IN THE KITCHEN

The rise of the open-plan layout has had a huge impact on cabinetry design. What used to be a simple choice of base and wall units has exploded into hundreds of permutations – from tall cupboards to provide maximum storage and appliance housings to islands that double as seating areas and floating units that blend with living-room furniture. Paradoxically, layouts have got simpler. The old stalwarts of galley, double-galley, U- and L-shaped were designed to maximise storage and cut down on the distance travelled from sink to fridge to hob – the work triangle. These days, we're used to seeing huge banks of storage with a parallel island not only defining the zone of the kitchen but creating a double galley and maintaining that triangle.

COMFORT ZONES

Each area must have its own identity yet be an integrated part of the whole. Give these useful tips a try:

- Where running the same flooring throughout, add a large rug in the living zone to make it feel more welcoming.
- Don't stint on soft furnishings and window treatments, and match them to an accent colour in the kitchen.
- A good lighting system will let you move the focus from zone to zone. Build up layers of light, including lamps, and make it fully dimmable so you can change the mood on demand.
- In a very large room, freestanding shelving can be used to divide living and dining areas, creating room for display and providing a level of privacy.
- Don't get too matchy-matchy with the furniture but make sure the overall look is cohesive.
- Include enough storage in each area to minimise clutter – media cabinets, ottomans and sideboards are all good.
- Ensure there's enough space to move about the room freely.
- Hang artwork and fabulous pendant lights to lead the eye around the space.

SPACE, YOU MIGHT STILL WANT A SEPARATE FORMAL DINING ROOM. CONSIDER OF TRYING TO MAKE IT FULFIL BOTH FUNCTIONS' *John Osborn, interior designer*

KEY CONTACTS

AR DESIGN STUDIO

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BARNES OF ASHBURTON

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barnesofashburton.co.uk

BOFFI

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boffiuk.com

CHARLES YORKE

01623 756080,
charlesyorke.com

CORIAN

0800 962116,
corian.co.uk

DOCA UK

020 3603 8835,
docauk.com

ECORA

020 7148 5265,
ecora.co.uk

GREGORY PHILLIPS ARCHITECTS

020 7724 3040,
gregoryphillips.com

HIGHAM FURNITURE

0800 047 0235,
higham.co.uk

HOLLOWAYS OF LUDLOW

020 7371 1787,
hollowayskitchens.com

INCREATION

020 3131 7196,
increation.co.uk

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KBA DIRECT

01923 804232,
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KESSELER

01773 830609,
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KITCHEN ARCHITECTURE

01865 426990,
kitchenarchitecture.co.uk

NEIL LERNER

020 7433 0705,
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NOLTE

01707 290444,
nolte-kitchens.com

PLAIN ENGLISH

01449 774028,
plainenglishdesign.co.uk

PODESTA

01494 677770,
podesta.uk.com

RENCRAFT

01732 762682,
rencraft.co.uk

RIBA

020 7580 5533,
architecture.com

RICHARD BAKER FURNITURE

020 8336 1777,
richardbakerfurniture.co.uk

ROUNDHOUSE

020 7297 6220,
roundhousedesign.com

SECOND NATURE

01325 505539,
snccollection.co.uk

SIEMATIC UK

0161 246 6010,
siematic.co.uk

SOLA KITCHENS

020 3004 0898,
solakitchens.com

THE MYERS TOUCH

01962 600182,
themyerstouch.co.uk

WOODSTOCK FURNITURE

020 8876 0131,
woodstockfurniture.co.uk

SURFACE... *handmade & artisan tiles* bring a unique mix of colour, pattern and texture, adding instant character to walls and floors

There's something about tiles – they're tactile and offer the potential for adding colour, pattern and personality that few other surfaces can match. Decorative tiles fell out of favour for a while but they're most definitely back, with a huge choice of forms and finishes for both walls and floors. Of course, one of the greatest appeals is their individuality, and you'll find the best selection in artisan and handmade tiles. Thanks to the different materials, processes, firing temperatures, glazes and handpainting skills, no two tiles will be identical. 'Handmade tiles aren't uniformly perfect – that's what gives them their warmth and character,' says Joshua Kennedy of independent tile retailer, Bert & May. 'Tiles are making a major comeback and a feature, such as a splashback in unusual tiles, can really personalise a space,' adds interior and kitchen designer Chantel Elshout. 'From simple glazed, rustic squares that add texture to dazzling Moorish patterns that grab attention, they make an interesting foil to neutral colours and seamless finishes, enlivening your kitchen and making it feel totally yours.'

THE BEAUTY OF ARTISAN TILES

One of the oldest surface coverings available, tiles create a very practical finish. Waterproof and easy to wipe clean, they're perfect for splashbacks and floors, and offer almost endless design possibilities. A few words of warning about handmade tiles, though: as they tend to be made of clay rather than porcelain, they are better suited to walls rather than floors, and their lack of uniformity makes them more difficult to lay so it's important to use a skilled tiler.

Where possible, try to plan ahead. 'Often a splashback is almost an afterthought, but it really pays to work out what you want before your kitchen is fitted,' advises Paul Wood, showroom manager at Criterion Tiles. 'Not only will this help you achieve the most balanced look, but it will also mean your

shelves and units can be fitted at exactly the right height to accommodate your tiles. And the bigger the tiles, the more crucial this is, because you don't want to end up with awkward gaps.'

A LUXURIOUS TOUCH

As a general guide, prices are usually between about £80 to £220/sq m for handmade and artisan tiles. Expect to pay more, however, for those made with luxurious materials or with very high levels of craftsmanship. 'But the good news,' points out Paul, 'is that depending on the size of your kitchen, you might only need two to three square metres of tiles to create your splashback, which is a relatively low investment to transform your room.'



THIS PAGE Half-brick stripes of Made a Mano Pop terracotta tiles, £386sq m, Laurence Pidgeon, catch the eye against a plain background

LEFT This delicate Estrella mosaic consists of Thassos white marble, white glass and shell, £396sq m, Artistic Tile for De Ferranti

KEY LOOKS

RUSTIC Simple handmade clay-based tiles with uneven edges and gentle undulations, and tiny chips and cracks will create a natural rustic look, perfect for relaxed, vintage kitchen schemes, as they work especially well with faded colours and delicate patterns. Or, in bolder, more intense shades of plain lustrous colour, they'll make an eye-catching feature, adding drama to the simplest kitchen design. Because of the irregular finish of handmade tiles, the glaze colours tend to pool on the surface, forming interesting depths of colour. The crazed and crackled surfaces of old tiles are sometimes reproduced, creating a pretty antiqued effect enhanced by the way light catches them and is refracted around the room.

HANDPAINTED Tiles can be handpainted by artists with an individual motif or a mixture to make a mural – possibly using inks or special enamels before firing and glazing to create a protective finish. Choose from delicate flowers, traditional delftware designs or vibrant, modern patterns.

EMBOSSED Tiles with a raised design are usually made from clay set in moulds before firing and

fettling (trimming by hand to removed excess clay). Sometimes the protruding sections are painted before the tiles are fired again and glazed. The same process is used to create mouldings, dado rails and end pieces.

METALLIC Cast-metal tiles or those finished with metallic glazes, including copper, gold and bronze or a more steely effect in inky greys, add a luxurious and glamorous touch. Use them in mix-and-match formats and different surface textures for added impact, then accentuate the gleaming effect with lighting.

ENCAUSTIC These Victorian-style tiles feature decorative designs that are stamped or literally burnt into the clay body. The impression is filled with liquid clay of contrasting colour and fused in its firing, so that the pattern on the surface is not a product of the glaze but of the different colours of clay – and as the tile is worn down, the design remains. Combine them with less-expensive natural clay plain-square tiles and geometric unglazed designs in straight-edged shapes, such as triangles and lozenges, for an authentic, classic look.

MOORISH These handmade ceramic tiles, sometimes called Zellige, originate from the ancient Middle East, Morocco, Turkey, Spain and other areas of the Mediterranean. Made of wood-fired clay or pressed cement, and glazed with chips of enamel in jewel-like single colours – traditionally blue, green, yellow and red – they can also feature colourful handcut geometric or elaborate patterns. 'One square metre of one of our patterns can be made up of 10,000 pieces,' explains Nouredine Somati, director of Habibi. Expect colour and thickness variations, which are part of these tiles' handmade charm.

DIGITAL Photos, graphics and patterns can now be digitally printed onto high-fired ceramic tiles with extraordinary results. Whether it's for a splashback or feature wall, supply your own photos for a bespoke design, find inspiration from the image libraries of Digitile and Surface View, or choose from the exciting polychromatic ranges from designers such as Dominic Crinson. Pricing varies according to tile size, quantity, type of image (repeat or a mural) and its finish (matt or gloss).

These Vanguard System Natural Blue porcelain floor tiles, £91.40/sq m by Aparici, are a fresh take on Mediterranean-inspired pattern





FIXING PATTERNS

Instead of simple rows of tiles, why not experiment with different effects. The classic brick bond or half-and-half pattern, where you lay one tile at the halfway point of the one below, works well for metro tiles. You can also position them one third of the way along or like a ladder, or in a herringbone pattern. You can even turn them on their sides to hang vertically.

'The choice is yours, but do bear in mind the space you have to work with,' advises Paul Wood. 'If you only have 40cm between the worktop and wall unit, you don't want a splashback made up of 30cm-tall tiles, because one and a third-high tiles stuck on the wall will look dreadful.'

GROUT LINES

Used to fill the gaps between tiles, grout also takes up movement in the tiles and substrate, and is used to prevent water and other spillages from seeping in between the tiles. Standard cement-based grout is fine in the majority of floor and wall applications, but you may want to consider an impervious epoxy grout, such as

Mapei Kerapoxy, £28.95 for a 2kg tub, which is stain-resistant and easy to wipe clean, so useful for kitchen splashbacks. Also try a sealer/protector, such as Fila Grout Protector, £18.99 for 500ml, which can be painted on to make dirt removal easier and prevent absorption of stains.

'Grout is available in a rainbow of colours,' says Paul Wood. 'On walls, grout that's lighter than the colour of the tile tends to look better than a darker shade. With the exception of the classic metro look, darker lines will often dominate the wall and "push back" the effect of the tile.' Typically, grout lines will be about 2mm, but you can use wider joints of up to 5mm, if you want to create a more framed effect.

KEEPING CLEAN

When fired, the glazes on ceramic tiles become hard and usually water-resistant, so they can simply be wiped down with a non-abrasive, neutral cleaner. Unglazed tiles and those with crackle finishes may need to be protected with sealants – ask your supplier for advice.

FOR THE BEST RESULTS...

Handmade and hand-decorated tiles are more likely to have shade variation than machine-made products, so it's worth buying 10 per cent more than you need, in case some are damaged during fitting or if you need to make later repairs. Tiles from the same batch are likely to ensure the best match.

For the same 'shading' reasons, it's a good idea to lay your tiles out before fixing to walls or floor, to ensure the most attractive distribution of colour. Generally, handmade wall and splashback tiles tend to come in smaller formats, such as squares in sizes 10cm to 20cm, or 15 x 7.5cm brick shapes to 30 x 7.5cm 'listelli', which produce a modern take on the classic metro look. Floor tiles can be larger but, for that artisanal feel, there's more choice in the smaller formats.

To bevel or not to bevel? The retro metro tile has a very fine bevel, designed to frame the tile and add to its interest. 'Deeper bevels create a stronger 3D-effect with a more striking result on the wall but, if the bevel is too big, it can become more of a feature than the colour of the tile itself,' advises Paul Wood.

BACKGROUND Custom-designed, handmade Moroccan Spire tile, £618/sq m, Habibi TOP FROM LEFT St Louis handcrafted glass tesserae from the Jazz Glass collection, 30 x 30cm, £325/sq m, De Ferranti. Decorative blue-and-white reclaimed encaustic tile, £9 each, The Vintage Floor Tile Company. Custom-designed, handmade Moroccan Rashida tile, £772.80/sq m, Habibi BOTTOM FROM LEFT Sandal digital tile from the Allure collection, from £444/sq m, Dominic Crinson. Artisan Spanish-made Annecy tile, 20 x 20cm, £225/sq m, Bert & May. Zebra mirrored tiles in Argent from the Hermitage collection designed by Martyn Lawrence Bullard for Ann Sacks, £1,886/sq m





These pretty Primular Arborea ceramic tiles, around £15 each, are handpainted at Emery & Cie's atelier in Brussels

KEY CONTACTS

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alhambrahome.co.uk
ANN SACKS 020 3055 0802, annsacks.com
ARMATILE 028 3752 1058, armatile.com
BERT & MAY 020 3673 4264, bertandmay.com
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criterion-tiles.co.uk
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cravendunnill-jackfield.co.uk
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FIRED EARTH 0845 293 8798, firedearth.com
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habibi-interiors.com
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ORIGINAL STYLE 01392 473004,
originalstyle.com
SURFACE VIEW 0118 922 1327,
surfaceview.co.uk
VINTAGE FLOOR TILE COMPANY 01285 760886,
thevintagefloortilecompany.co.uk
WORKHOUSE TILES 020 7247 1815,
workhousecollection.co.uk

THIS PICTURE

Made from real bricks, the Grove Brickworks field tiles in Naval Deep Blue, £273.60sq m. Waterworks, have a subtly textured surface

LEFT FROM TOP

Fez, Tangier and Marrakesh tiles in Palazzo colourway from the Eastern Promise collection by Martyn Lawrence Bullard, £105.75sq m, Ann Sacks.
H-shaped hand-finished Bazaar Khamees tiles in White, £448.63sq m, Fired Earth.
Cementi Agadir porcelain tiles, £74sq m, Piazza Tiles.
Nano Biblical Copper tile, £594sq m, Lapidica



CHILL... *stylish,
space-saving and
energy efficient, the
latest fridges,
freezers and
chillers offer so
much more than
just cold storage*

Thanks to improved technology and innovative design, the latest cooling appliances are a lot more than just lead-lined boxes sitting in the basement. The modern fridge freezer is now the hardest-working appliance in the kitchen. It's on 24 hours a day and has to be energy efficient, cheap to run and keep hundreds of pounds worth of food in perfect condition, while also needing to look good, be flexible and easy to keep clean. No easy task, but today's appliances are super-efficient, more attractive than ever and greener, too, with the ability to keep food fresher for longer, cutting down on waste. Probably the main change found in the new generation of fridge freezers is the combination model that lets you choose your preferred ratio of fridge to freezer to wine chiller. Meanwhile, flexible refrigeration offers a third zone that can be fridge or freezer on demand – just the thing for when you're entertaining or have just done a big shop. From side-by-side models with enough space to feed a football team to ingenious cooling drawers that make the most of every inch, there's a model to suit your kitchen and the way you live.



The Miele KFN37692 iDE A++ 242-litre fridge freezer is of exceptional quality and has three sealed drawers where the humidity can be adjusted depending on the food being stored. Prices start from £2,400



‘IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A STATEMENT, THERE ARE SOME SLEEK SILVER, STAINLESS STEEL OR VIBRANT COLOURS TO CHOOSE FROM, WHICH WILL STAND OUT AND GIVE A DESIGNER EDGE TO ANY KITCHEN’

Andrew Wasdell, product manager food preservation, Electrolux

INNOVATIVE DESIGN

Instead of settling for a run-of-the-mill white fridge freezer, why not push the boundaries and make a statement.

An essential appliance, the basic freestanding fridge freezer now comes in a huge choice of styles and sizes to suit any kitchen and the way you cook. While the traditional white box is still in high demand – especially for those on a budget – manufacturers are keen to move with the times and offer more statement-making designs. These days, you'll find a raft of bold colours, such as lime green and bright glossy red, retro curves, glass fronts and commercial kitchen-inspired stainless steel finishes.

The most common freestanding models measure H180-200 x W60 x D65cm and offer enough cold storage for most families. Depending on the amount of fresh or frozen space you need, you can choose a 50/50, 60/40 and even 70/30 split – 60 per cent fridge, 40 per cent freezer space is the most popular. But layouts are becoming more flexible even on standard-width models, while multiple-door designs feature one large fridge and two pull-out freezer sections – try Beko and Haier. Freezer drawers can be used for cooling, too, handy for when you're throwing a party.

BENEFITS OF BUILT-IN

While style-focused freestanding models grab the headlines, built-in alternatives remain extremely popular with kitchen designers. This is especially true in open-plan arrangements where functional cooking and living areas need to blend seamlessly.

Opting for integrated refrigeration has benefits as Jamie Telford, director at Roundhouse explains: 'From the largest to the most compact spaces, kitchens look bigger if they're fully integrated, and that generally means hiding some appliances. Although many now look too good to hide away, by having an unbroken run of cabinets, the eye is tricked into believing the space is larger than it actually is.'

Traditionally, built-in appliances are more basic than freestanding, but this has improved greatly in recent years and you'll now find the same level of specification – including temperature-controlled zones, flexible layouts and frost-free operation – although as a rule, it will cost more.

'ZERO-DEGREE COOLING IS A MUST-HAVE FEATURE AS IT'S GREAT FOR A HEALTHY DIET AND KEEPS PRODUCE IN PERFECT CONDITION FOR LONGER'

Mark Bristow, managing director, Liebherr

The ERW3313AOX large capacity in-column wine cellar, £1,200, holds 98 bottles and maintains the ideal humidity level and temperature. Here, it's combined with the ERX3313AOX A+ rated fridge, £899, and the EUX2243AOX A+ rated freezer, £949, all Electrolux





Simply pressing a button on the control panel allows you to switch a compartment from fridge to freezer or vice versa, ideal for when you need extra space. CFF6873GX EcoSmart three-door fridge freezer, £599, Beko



The A+ rated Maytag 5MFI267AA, £2,700, offers a huge 571 litres of usable space and features a plumbed-in ice-and- water dispenser. Measure carefully, however, it's 89cm deep so you may need custom worktops and cabinetry to fit

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Whatever configuration you choose, the latest appliances can help save space, reduce bills and preserve food better.

BETTER INSULATION Due to new and improved insulation materials, the capacity inside a fridge freezer has increased considerably, and all without altering the external dimensions. Zanussi's SpacePlus range, for instance, squeezes in 15 per cent more interior room but remains 60cm wide. Internal capacity is shown as either cubic feet or litres and provides a good indication as to the usable space available, but it can be somewhat misleading. For example, a fridge with a 300-litre capacity but only two shelves may not be able to store as much as a 250-litre design with a more intelligently designed interior.

TEMPERATURE ZONES The demand for temperature-controlled fridge drawers is also on the rise. Siemens' aCool range has drawers that can be set to various temperatures (0°C for fish, 1.5°C for meat and poultry, or 3°C for milk) to help maintain freshness for longer. Also look for humidity-controlled storage drawers, suggests Gino Grossi, product manager at Beko. 'A separate cooling system with fans and evaporators helps to keep dry air out maintaining a humid atmosphere perfect for storing fresh fruit and vegetables.'

Multi-drawer designs can improve flexibility further with the option to use one of the drawers as either extra fridge or freezer space. This can boost the capacity considerably – especially useful if you cook and freeze meals in bulk, or just need more space for champagne!

HYBRID Manufacturers are becoming increasingly experimental with the design of their cooling products. Pull-out cooling drawers allow you to reach for fresh vegetables as effortlessly as you would a frying pan, and the completely open design means you can see and reach all your food with ease and make the most of every inch of space. Capacity isn't huge, however, so you may need a separate unit in the utility room.

Showcase-style fridge freezers from LG and Samsung are also now available in the UK. These ingenious side-by-side models feature a door within the door giving access to everyday condiments, drinks and snacks etc, while keeping the main contents sealed away in perfect conditions. They can also let you peer into the fridge without letting any cold out.

REFRIGERATION WALLS For built-in kitchens with space to spare, a large cooling wall is emerging as a practical and stylish solution. 'If you want a streamlined look, then a built-in cooling wall is ideal, as you'll get all of the capacity and storage space you need cleverly concealed in the fluid lines of the space,' explains Joan Fraser, product development and training manager at Smeg UK. 'This works best in a contemporary kitchen.'

Check out tall larder-style fridge and freezers that can be installed side by side. Many now come with joining clips and reversible doors to create a seamlessly stylish solution. Sub-Zero and Gaggenau sell a range of modular cooling solutions, including wine chillers.

GOING GREEN

New cooling appliances have eco-friendly credentials.

Choosing an A-rated fridge freezer saves money and energy, but since 1 July 2012, all new designs require a rating of A+, A++ or A+++. Old 'A' stock are still widely available to buy but an A++ model uses up to 45 per cent less energy. Some cooling appliances have A-30% classification or similar, which tells you it's 30 per cent more efficient than a standard A-rated design. There are also differences depending on the size of fridge freezer you choose. An A-rated 180-litre model could cost £39 a year to run whereas a larger 525-litre design with a better A+rating would cost £54.*

You might also come across an A++++ label. This isn't an official rating, instead it's a tool used by the manufacturers to show their products are more efficient than the current legislation requires.

TIP: Look for solid storage drawers in the freezer section. These contain the cold better than baskets helping to maintain the temperature even with the door open.

LUXURIES & ESSENTIALS

ICE MAKER Basic 'twist' ice-cube trays are extremely convenient and don't take up much space while in-door designs, found on side-by-side models, can offer cubes or crushed ice on demand but may require plumbing in.

WATER DISPENSER As with ice, choose either a refillable container in the door or a plumbed-in solution – this can offer the greatest convenience but the position of the fridge freezer can be limited.

DUAL THERMOSTAT Having

separate thermostats for the fridge and freezer enables you to turn off the fridge while leaving the freezer on – great for your summer holiday.

ANTIBACTERIAL Look for special coatings – sometimes known as Silver Nano technology – that kill bacteria and prevent the build-up of mould.

SMART FRIDGES Samsung offers a model with a built-in tablet, and there are new designs – try LG – that can be managed via smartphone and even help you to order groceries online.

LOVE FOOD, HATE WASTE

We throw away seven million tons of food each year, and more than half of this could have been eaten. These useful tips will help you get the most out of your groceries*

■ The top shelf is usually the warmest part of the fridge and best for yogurt, cheese and sauces.

■ Store milk on the shelves if there's room as it will keep for longer than being left in the door where temperature can fluctuate.

■ Use the salad crisper drawer. They really do help to maintain moisture, essential for making vegetables last longer.

■ With salad, always discard wilted leaves as soon as you can – they will quickly transfer bacteria that will decompose fresh leaves.

■ Store uncooked meats in sealed containers to prevent contaminating the rest of the fridge's contents.



We love the bold, black finish and extra-wide French doors on the A+ rated CAFF40, while auto-defrost and advanced air circulation take extra care of your groceries, £1,535, Caple



With space for 32 bottles, the K3670X0GB wine cooler, £1,000, Neff, is an elegant finishing touch. It has UV-protected glass and just 32dB noise for extra-quiet operation



The ICBIC-30RID larger fridge and ICBIC-30FI freezer, £8,070 each; ICBID-30CI refrigerator/freezer drawers, £5,520; ICB424G 46-bottle undercounter wine fridge, £4,920, are all part of a new generation of modular integrated cooling appliances from Sub-Zero

WINE CHILLERS

An entertaining essential, there's no denying the glamorous appeal of the glass-fronted wine fridge.

BUILT-IN MODELS Available from most leading brands, these look great seamlessly integrated into a refrigeration wall. Alternatively, a simple undercounter design can create a stylish finish to a row of units or island. Large cellar replacements – try Sub-Zero – offer commercial quality for the most expensive vintages.

FREESTANDING MODELS Liebherr has a wide range of standalone appliances, which often aren't as glamorous as built-in models but provide unbeatable conditions for your wine. To store white and red wine together opt for multiple temperature zones. White should be stored at 10-12°C, and reds at 12-16°C. If you have just one temperature area you'll have to warm/chill (depending on the colour) before serving. Top-quality wine fridges will keep humidity levels constant, and even have air filters to prevent contamination.

Aim for models with a selection of shelf sizes and racks to fit different-shaped bottles. The standard Bordeaux-size is the norm, but for magnums or champagne bottles you might need wider racks or a tall shelf. Glass will appeal to anyone wanting to make a feature, but it doesn't insulate as well as a solid door. It's also worth checking it's UV protected to prevent sunlight damage.

KEY CONTACTS

AEG 0844 561 1611,
aeg.co.uk

BEKO 0845 600 4904,
beko.co.uk

BOSCH 0844 892 8979,
bosch-home.co.uk

CAPLE 0117 938 1900,
caple.co.uk

ELECTROLUX 08445 613613,
electrolux.co.uk

FISHER & PAYKEL
0845 066 2200,
fisherpaykel.co.uk

GAGGENAU
0844 892 8988,
gaggenau.com

GORENJE 020 8247 3980,
gorenje.co.uk

JOHN LEWIS 08456 049049,
johnlewis.com

KITCHENAID 0844 499 0101,
kitchenaid.co.uk

LIEBHERR 0844 412 2655,
liebherr.com

MIELE 0845 365 6605,
miele.co.uk

NEFF 0844 892 8989,
neff.co.uk

SAMSUNG 0330 726 7864,
samsung.com/uk

SIEMENS 0844 892 8999,
siemens-home.co.uk

SMEG 0844 557 9907,
smeguk.com

SUB-ZERO 0845 250 0010,
subzero-wolf.co.uk

WHIRLPOOL 0844 815 8989,
whirlpool.com

ZANUSSI 0844 561 3613,
zanussi.co.uk

INTO THE GROOVE

Tongue-and-groove panelling is ideal for less-than-perfect walls – keep the look bright and bold.

For a similar look try Cook's Blue estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Pinto dining chair, £260, Ercol. Pale Lime intelligent matt emulsion, £41.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene

DECORATE... *country style has a new guise – it's bright, fresh and graphic with a modern approach that works beautifully in the kitchen*



FINISHING TOUCHES

Use playful, vibrant accessories to update a classic country scheme. Create a focal point with open shelving for display, and mix bright hues with eye-catching patterns. Scandinavian designs never fail to bring colour and a touch of modernity.

kMix kettle in yellow, £45, Kenwood.
A selection of accessories from Isak





PACK A PUNCH

Detail prints are quintessentially English country kitchen. Keep things punchy rather than pretty with a fabric or wallpaper in a bold design and bright colours.

Bell Flower wallpaper in Teal/Aqua/Lime, Homes & Gardens II collection by Baker Lifestyle, £49 per roll, Wallpaper Direct. Mendoza fabrics in Hay and Lagoon, both £39.50m, Romo. Cushion

Warm and characterful, the country kitchen has plenty of charm and enduring appeal. However, you don't have to embrace twee cake stands, handpainted

dressers and all things chintz to add rural appeal to your scheme. Instead, keep things fresh with a contemporary colour palette and modern shapes and pattern, teaming old and new furniture for the perfect balance of rusticity and understated elegance.



FINE PRINTS

When it comes to soft furnishings, don't be afraid to clash colour and pattern. Florals, stripes, geometrics, painterly strokes – throw them all into the mix.

Saturday love seat in Ode to the Ash in Midnight Blue by Cameron Short, £840, Sofa.com. Small Matey side table, £165; Big Chap coffee table, £225, both Loaf. Chevron rug, from £660, Jennifer Manners at Karavan Interiors

SPOT ON

Once shunned while paint hogged the limelight, wallpaper is now firmly back in vogue, and is particularly suited to the modern take on country. Try companies such as Mini Moderns for a host of fabulous designs in retro prints and colours.

Peggy wallpaper in Lido, £45 per roll, Mini Moderns



A PERFECT PAIR

Painted rustic shelving and metal plant pots fuse industrial cool with pastoral charm.

The Socker plant pot, £6.50, Ikea, is similar

FLOOR SHOW

Here, classic terracotta flooring fuses a playful shape with an in-style patchwork palette. It's a great way to bring interest and warmth to a sleek, all-white kitchen.

Millennium 16cm tiles, £130sq m, Ceramica Elias at Wellington Tile Company. Eames-style DSW Eiffel dining chair, £44.99, MDM Furniture



BURNT ORANGE

Faded, distressed finishes are a stalwart of classic country chic but a less-is-more approach suits a functional room such as kitchen. This look teams a weathered paint finish with a pop of intense colour for a lively, welcoming feel.

Tolix H low stool in Orange,
£117, Made in Design



THE LOOK... *the modern kitchen* *gets a characterful update with unusual shapes* *and materials and an element of display*

THE MAINSTAY OF MODERN KITCHEN DESIGN IS simple, flat-fronted cabinetry – and it's a sleek look that's ageing well. In fact, much of what we consider to be contemporary design dates back to the 1930s. Even the streamlined cabinets so typical of current kitchen design have been around since the 1960s – likewise the notion of an open-plan living. 'The latest style of kitchen developed out of the 1980s trend for loft living, and that has extended into the open-plan layout that's now so popular,' says Keith Atkins, Director of Design at DesignSpace London. For a

while, innovative schemes seemed to take starkness to a whole new level – cabinetry was pared down and invariably sleek, white gloss.

Thankfully, present-day trends are a far warmer affair. The use of clean lines and a fuss-free finish are still prevalent but with texture, surface finish and soft colour bringing more personality and warmth. Simple lines show off clever engineering, form and finish, and the latest design techniques have helped give new life to materials previously out of favour.

'Veneered furniture used to be prone to chipping

and was no match for solid timber,' says Neil Lerner, managing director of Neil Lerner Design. 'Advanced technology has changed that, plus the timber industry's new hi-tech approach has completely transformed furniture.'

The new contemporary aesthetic offers huge potential and top-quality, stylish furniture in materials built to last. Bernard Otulakowski, managing director of SieMatic UK, advises: 'The key is to use sleek, handleless cabinetry and a rich combination of textures and materials to create an interesting and elegant scheme.'



Well-balanced

Make a conscious decision about what to display in your kitchen. Here, SieMatic's sleek S2 handleless cabinetry is paired with the company's FloatingSpaces shelving to create a stylish display area with plenty of storage space. Practical pan drawers beneath the hob are super efficient. Kitchens start from £25,000.



The rough with the smooth

Rough-hewn timber adds texture to even the smartest kitchen. Here, rough-sawn oak cabinetry is teamed with modern handleless white lacquer and smooth white Corian, bringing a rustic touch to a sleek design by Matrix. A bespoke and fully fitted kitchen like this one starts at £30,000.



Surface splash

Brighten up an all-white scheme with a pop of sunny colour. Here, a cheerful yellow glass work surface laid on top of white-gloss cabinetry makes an uplifting, dramatic statement. The yellow is picked up as an accent colour in the chairs in the dining zone, while a wooden floor prevents the room from feeling cold. This minimalist kitchen cabinetry is from the Advance range by Leicht. Prices start at £15,000.



Standing tall

Freestanding furniture isn't the preserve of the country kitchen. Here full-height, stand-alone cupboards provide ample storage with clutter hidden behind the sleek Oak Cocoa doors. The low-level peninsula with stainless steel worktops gives a clean look. A similar kitchen would cost around £36,000 from Porcelanosa.



On reflection

Modern doesn't have to mean stark and serious. This Bunotte Nogal Kitchen from Doca shows a wall of cabinetry that looks like a forest but, is in fact, a reflection of the outdoors thanks to clever Series IDECO doors in a mirror-tinted finish. A walnut wood island adds natural warmth. Prices start from £30,000.



Dark star

Deep colours can add drama to a modern scheme. The island in this Linda Barker kitchen for Wren Living is an almost black Baltic shade that contrasts beautifully with the rest of the pale cabinetry. Wooden pull handles and a timber splashback are elegant with a living room feel. Kitchens from £3,660.



Metal edge

Stainless steel is a firm favourite with chefs as it's durable and hygienic. It's also ideal for the domestic kitchen but too much can feel clinical. Here, designer Laurence Pidgeon has used it wisely, choosing a cook's table with wow factor as the main focal point. Elmar kitchens start at £20,000 from Laurence Pidgeon.

Floating feature

This modular design uses coordinating wall-hung cupboards for a more relaxed feel. Perfect for larger kitchens where storage space is not imperative, the look blends beautifully with living-room furniture, especially in this muted palette of warm neutrals. Modulnova's Twenty Kitchen collection with Cemento fronts starts from £25,000, DesignSpace London.





Ahead of the curve

This contemporary kitchen by Lida Cucina sits seamlessly in the architecture thanks to the rounded Integra Pedini cabinetry in a grey oak-veneer finish. Well-considered curves help establish the flow of traffic in a space, and can also be used to create a more intimate and sociable area, softening hard lines. The total price of a kitchen like this would be around £75,000.



Stand-out style

Embossed or relief pattern is another way to add interest to white schemes. The latest collection by Neil Lerner includes Elyptical Floral, a design featuring a 3D flower-head pattern etched into it. 'Today's laser-cutting machines make accent doors that add depth to all-white kitchens,' says Lerner. Prices from £30,000.



Divide and rule

Here, a wall of units is used as a room divider, shielding the living space beyond. A long island provides a double-galley layout placing everything within easy reach for the cook, while the soft grey, satin-matt finish suits each living zone. The Pinova kitchen by Crown Imperial starts at around £10,000.

'Modern kitchens are becoming more functional with minimal decorative detailing. Their style derives from simple architectural lines, the sheer quality of the engineering and the materials used' Keith Atkins, director of design, DesignSpace London

MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU

DERMARCATE large, open-plan rooms, creating different spaces for cooking, dining and relaxing. Most ranges offer plenty of choice in terms of sizing and format, as well as stylish living-style furniture that can double as work stations.

HIDE AND SLEEK The use of clever mechanisms to roll back doors and slide them into cabinetry has opened up a whole new world in design. First, it was larders and breakfast cupboards, now whole sections of the kitchen can disappear behind smart, full-height

cupboard doors when not in use, leaving a streamlined living space.

BUILT-IN APPLIANCES KEEP THINGS LOOKING SLICK and can be tailored to suit your lifestyle with multifunctional appliances that combine conventional cooking, microwave and steam. AEG's new combi-oven has a sous-vide setting, while the modern appliance bank might also include a TV as well as a coffee maker and warming drawer. Smeg has just launched a wine cooler that fits in a standard oven space.

MIX AND MATCH FINISHES AND MATERIALS to achieve a subtle look. Combining soft, neutral shades with a finely grained timber works well. Or, you could use a larger-than-life finish, such as metallic leaf shielded with acrylic lacquer, for one wall of units or an island as a bold focal point.

COMBINE TEXTURES Roughly-hewn timber such as limed grain and burnished stainless steel are popular finishes, while porcelain and concrete lend an attractive rough, luxe feel to tough surfaces. **UK**



For more ideas on how to use unusual materials in your kitchen, scan this QR code with your smartphone.

SHOP... *architectural salvage will add charm and character – softening modern lines with time-worn surfaces, distinctive pieces of furniture and great focal points such as lighting*

ARC RECLAMATION

Upper Downton Farm, Sandy Lane, Steep Marsh, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 2BG, 01730 231995, arcclamation.com

If you're put off by the endless hours of restoration often involved in salvage, this is the yard for you. Here the focus is on bringing all kinds of hidden treasures back to life. Although the company specialises in period doors, including stained-glass designs, it also has a range of Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian fireplaces, antique wood flooring and a wonderful selection of furniture made from reclaimed timber, including dining tables and kitchen units. Closed Sundays.

BRIGHTON ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE

33-34 Gloucester Road, Brighton BN1 4AQ, 01273 681656, brighton-architectural.co.uk

Nestled in Brighton's vibrant, bustling North Laine, this family-run antiques and interiors stalwart (shown below) began trading as a fireplace and chimney pot specialist more than 30 years ago, from a former builder's yard. These days, you'll discover a veritable treasure trove of salvaged and modern furniture, as well as an eclectic selection of accessories for the home, from old enamel signs to retro crates. Open Monday to Friday 10.30am-5.00pm, Saturday 10.30am-5.30pm.



COX'S ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE YARD

10 Fosseyway Business Park, Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 9NQ, 01608 652505, coxsarchitectural.co.uk

Offering an impressive 12,500sq ft warehouse and half an acre of outdoor space, Cox's is one of the largest and oldest salvage yards in the UK. Highlights include a wide selection of Belfast sinks, Art-Deco lighting, vintage storage boxes boasting advertising slogans, and church pews for a refreshing twist on the traditional dining-table bench. There's also a good supply of salvage staples, such as flooring, doors and fireplaces. Open Sundays by appointment.

GLASGOW ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE

Unit 1 Albion Centre, 1394 South Street, Glasgow G14 0AP, 0141 958 1113, glasgowarchitecturalsalvage.co.uk

Born out of a frustration with the lack of recycling in the building industry, this salvage yard has a wealth of reclaimed furniture for the kitchen, from dressers to range cookers. Its owners have been renovating old buildings for years, and through the company now indulge their individual interests, from 1950s plastic handles to kitchen ranges. A sourcing service can help you to track down any item you're after. Closed Sundays.

LISSCO

Ropewalk, 41 Maltby Street, London SE1 3PA, 020 7394 8061; Three Pigeons, London Road, Milton Common, Oxfordshire OX9 2JN, 01844 277188; Brunswick House, 30 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LG, 020 7394 2100; lassco.co.uk

Salvage chains are a rare breed but, with two branches in London and another in Oxfordshire, this trusted brand is obviously doing something right. Though all have a good selection of furniture and kitchenalia, Ropewalk is probably the best site for a kitchen project. The branch also has a pair of joiners on staff, who can turn their hand to kitchen islands, tables and other furniture



made from salvaged timber. An added bonus is the Maltby Street market at weekends, selling delicious artisan produce.

LEOMINSTER RECLAMATION & ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE

North Road, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0AB, 01568 616205, leorec.co.uk

If you live in the West Midlands, this is definitely the place to go for architectural antiques, with more than 10,000sq ft of covered barns and three acres of outside display. The variety of salvage and reclaimed materials is huge, and there's also a good choice of old tiles, shop and industrial signage, plus an impressive selection of kitchen paraphernalia, including French wine racks, butcher's blocks, scales, copper pots and even a vintage meat safe. Open Monday to Saturday from 9am-5pm.

LOVE SALVAGE

Harmony Square, Govan, Glasgow G51 3LW, 0845 100 0249, lovesalvage.com

From cool retro fridges and stunning stained-glass panels to industrial lighting, earmark Love Salvage for vintage and reclaimed items. You'll also find a great selection of restored furniture, architectural salvage, flooring and even kitchen units.

Upcycled dining chairs in colourful fabrics and quirky curiosities, such as destination signage from Glasgow trams, will add a playful touch to your kitchen. A restoration and sourcing service is also available. Open Monday to Wednesday by appointment, and Thursday to Sunday from 9am-5pm.

MASCO ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE

Cirencester Road, Aston Down, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 8PE, 01285 760886, mascosalvage.com

One of the UK's largest suppliers of reclaimed architectural features, Masco has been offering a fantastic selection of furniture for the kitchen for more than 30 years, from old display and apothecary cabinets to 1960s Formica tables. It's also excellent for unusual finishing touches, such as old milk churns, shellfish buckets and flat irons. Masco is part of the Reclaim & Reuse Group, which includes The Old Radiator Company and The Vintage Floor Tile Company, giving visitors a wider access to quality reclaimed products.

RETROUVIUS

1016 Harrow Road, London NW10 5NS, 020 8960 6060, retrouvius.com

There are two prongs to this savvy business (shown left) – a hip interior design arm which provides whole room solutions, and a salvage section. You'll find plenty of covetable vintage furniture, from cabinets to tables, and the company excels at old school and science lab furniture, plus hardwood worktops that will lend an industrial feel to your scheme. Also in stock are unique pieces such as enamel tube maps, which make striking wall art.

SALVO salvo.co.uk

This online resource is a great starting point for your search, providing a list of dealers, yards, shops and showrooms where you can buy antique, reclaimed, salvaged and green materials. It also has a section offering salvage for sale. Expect to find a good choice of furniture, plus kitchenalia, old signs, flooring and fireplaces. The upcycled area is worth a look for stylish and unique dining furniture.

STONEAGE SALVAGE & RECLAMATION

Kings Oak Nursery, Tingey's Top Lane, Enfield EN2 9BJ, 020 8362 1666, stoneagearchitectural.com

Based in north London since 1973, this yard trades in a broad range of antique architectural salvage, artefacts and traditional building materials. Expect to find a range of dressers, sideboards and cabinets and staples such as fireplaces, old doors and flagstones. You can also work with one of the company's craftsmen to restore heritage pieces. A fuller building restoration service is available, too.

THE RECLAIM & SALVAGE COMPANY

North Sea House, Wollaston Rd, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 2PD, 01502 589111, reclaimandsalvage.co.uk

This family-run yard on the Suffolk/Norfolk border has a selection of old school and shop fittings, including drapers' shop units, apothecary cabinets, lab stools, work tables and desks. You'll also find factory and Belfast sinks. Restoration advice is on hand and if you can't face the thought of doing it yourself, in-house craftsmen can do the work for you. Closed on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, and half-day Saturdays.

TOBY'S RECLAMATION

Station Road, Exminster, Devon EX6 8DZ 01392 833499, tobysreclamation.com

Kitchens are a speciality at Toby's – the company has over 25 years' experience supplying bespoke solid-wood cabinetry made from new or recycled timber, with a wide range of worktops, including reclaimed pine and rustic slate. Located in an old Victorian railway station, the yard has an excellent range of traditional salvage, as well as Belfast sinks, butcher's blocks, farmhouse tables and chairs, period lighting, radiators and plenty of other kitchen-related pieces.

UK ARCHITECTURAL ANTIQUES

Hill Farm, 84 Hayfield Hill, Cannock Wood, Staffordshire WS15 4RU, 01543 222923, ukaa.com

Claiming to have the UK's largest online stock of architectural antiques, this friendly Staffordshire yard (shown right) also displays many restored salvage pieces, like revamped tables with copper or zinc tops. Also on offer are vintage ranges and stoves, as well as more unusual pieces like old postboxes. The company is also an agent for new Lloyd Loom furniture. By appointment.



UK ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Grove Barn, Wormelow, Herefordshire HR2 8EG, 0845 644 9051, uk-heritage.co.uk

Since this family-owned business was established in 2006, UK Architectural Heritage says it has amassed one of the largest stocks of genuine architectural antiques in the UK, and plans to double the size of its premises in the next few years. The focus here is on decorative items, including old crates, cabinets and a wide range of tables and chairs, as well as over 1,000 restored doors and more than 400 antique fireplaces.

WALCOT ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE

Tyming Road, Bath BA2 6TQ, 01225 469557, walcotarchitecturalsalvage.co.uk

Walcot Architectural Salvage specialises in reclaimed stone and wood flooring, but there are lots of other quirky finds at this old timber yard to help personalise your kitchen space. Furniture and accessories are plentiful, from cabinets to mirrors, but keep an eye out for unusual pieces, such as hessian French-grain sacks, perfect for storing potatoes and root veg. The company also offers a bespoke design service, making a range of items, such as wine racks (shown left) from reclaimed wood and metal. Open Monday to Friday from 8.30am-4.30pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. Closed Sundays.

WELSH SALVAGE

Isca Yard, Milman Street, Newport NP20 2JL, 01633 212945, welshsalvage.com

Welsh Salvage is probably the biggest architectural salvage and reclamation company in south Wales. All kinds of reclaimed goods are on offer, but make a beeline for the great range of kitchen salvage, from Belfast sinks and vintage light fittings to pub glass panels, antique mirrors and furniture such as old cabinets and pews. **DK**

Making a **SPLASH**

A SLEEK, MODERN SCHEME IS BUOYED UP BY
TOUCHES OF TEAL IN LOUISE AND MALCOLM
BENNETT'S OPEN-PLAN FAMILY KITCHEN

Feature **ANDREA DEAN** *Photography* **RICHARD GADSBY**

Floating free

Behind the island, the oven housing is set in floating cabinetry to create a lighter feel



Project profile

THE OWNERS Louise Bennett, her husband Malcolm, and their daughters Sophie, 13, and Alysia, 9

THEIR HOME A four-bedroom extended 1950s semi-detached house

THE PROJECT Formerly a small room positioned at the front of the house, the kitchen now forms part of a large open-plan living space at the back of the property

ROOM SIZE 6.45 x 5.75m (kitchen area only)

DESIGNER Chris Sutherland at The Kitchen Company

CABINETRY Atlanta Grey Acacia wood-look base units, and Diva Shiny White wall and tall units by Häcker, around £10,000

BUDGET £25,000, excluding building work

Even before Louise and Malcolm Bennett moved into their current home, they knew that the kitchen – which was terribly dated – offered the opportunity to start from scratch and design their ideal scheme. But rather than rushing into a complete overhaul, they decided to modernise with inexpensive units, and hold off until they knew exactly what they wanted.

‘The kitchen was small and positioned at the front of the house – it just never seemed to work for us,’ explains Louise. ‘So we planned to build an extension, and open up the downstairs to create a contemporary, family-friendly multifunctional room.’

The Bennetts chose Chris Sutherland of The Kitchen Company to design their dream scheme, as they trusted him to work out the best possible configuration within the new

layout. With work underway, internal walls were removed and an extension was added at the back of the house, creating one generously proportioned open-plan space that offered the Bennetts bright, roomy living and dining zones, as well as a sizeable kitchen. This area features sleek white units along two adjacent walls. There’s also a large rectangular island, which provides ample storage, a raised eating area, as well as an induction hob and an ingenious pop-up extractor, which sits flush with the worktop when not in use. Eye-catching vibrant teal splashbacks, wallpaper panels and accessories liven up the neutral scheme and add a fresh, dynamic vibe.

Overall, the kitchen is a huge success. It’s easy to work in and it’s a magnet for the whole family. ‘Our girls are always in here,’ smiles Louise. ‘I see far more of my teenager than I ever used to!’

**‘A CENTRAL ISLAND IS IDEAL FOR BUSY FAMILIES – IT’S NOT ONLY
HIGHLY PRACTICAL BUT ALSO A NATURAL GATHERING PLACE’**

Ocean colour scheme

The couple have been bold with the accent colour but it's cleverly placed, so it can easily be updated should they tire of it at a later date



DESIGN SOLUTION *Designer Chris Sutherland explains...*

What were your main considerations?

Incorporating a scheme that would suit the family's cooking, storage and entertaining needs, plus creating a convivial space were key goals. Easy-to-clean cabinetry was a must, too.

How did you decide on the final layout?

There were several different options for the layout but I knew that the pier in the centre of the main wall would be a natural break between the zones of the kitchen. I also needed to figure in enough room for the large island.

Did the room present any challenges?

The pier could have been an obstacle but

it actually ended up helping when it came to creating the unusual set-up for the oven area. Rather than extending all the way to the ceiling, which is usually done to maximise space and storage, the ovens are installed in mid-height housings and sited into a false wall with a recess featuring bright, decorative wallpaper.

How are the zones linked together?

Different areas in this multifunctional space are brought together with a neutral scheme unified with accents of teal. The wood-look base units and glossy white wall and tall units, both of which are a neutral hue, allow for a change in accent colour further down the line for a simple update.

Are there any clever design features?

There are a few, including the downdraft extractor, which cleverly rises out of the worktop at the touch of a button. It has four power levels to extract steam and odours down through the island, which is then ducted out through the floor.

What did you require from the island?

It needed to offer ample seating and storage. So the worktop overhangs the edge of the units to create a breakfast bar, with another piece of the same material placed on top in an L shape to highlight a change in function. There's plenty of storage, and the deep drawers have strong runner systems to support heavy pots and pans.



Gather round

This generous island provides ample preparation, serving and dining space, and is a natural hub for all the family



Sleek lines

Long statement handles complement the stainless steel appliances, including the American-style fridge freezer



A perfect set-up

The integrated coffee machine and both ovens are conveniently positioned at mid-height, making them easy and comfortable to use

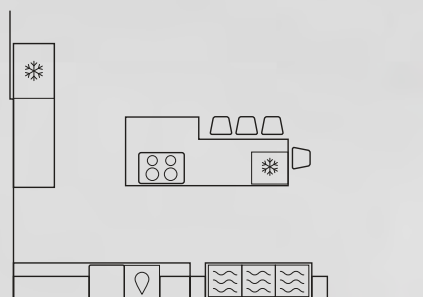


Wide-open space

Thanks to a skylight and two sets of bifold doors, this part of the house is filled with natural light all day long



The layout



Modern dining

The contemporary white-gloss table echoes the crisp, sleek finish of the streamlined kitchen units

LEFT FROM TOP Hidden from view

The pop-up extractor behind the induction hob also acts as a splashback

Counter intelligence

White quartz worktops were selected for their durability and pristine look, plus they're easy-to-clean



‘IT TOOK US A LONG
TIME TO GET TO THE
PLANNING STAGE
FOR THIS KITCHEN
– BUT IT WAS WELL
WORTH THE WAIT!’

The details

CABINETS Atlanta Grey Acacia wood-look base units and Diva Shiny White wall and tall units by Häcker, around £10,000

SURFACES Bianco Puro white quartz worktops, from £325sq m; Snowflake porcelain floor tiles, £42sq m; Diamond blue glass splashback, from £300sq m, all Granito. Clarissa Hulse Persephone wallpaper in Aqua, £52 per roll, Harlequin

APPLIANCES Built-in single oven, £756; built-in combi microwave, £675; induction hob, £813; two warming drawers, £332 each; built-in coffee machine, £1,104; American-style fridge freezer, £1,577, all Neff. Parsifal

extractor with external motor, £2,959, Air Uno. Wine cooler, £930, Caple. All supplied by The Kitchen Company

SINK AND TAP Kubus single-bowl sink in stainless steel, £372; Eos tap, £247, both Franke. Supplied by The Kitchen Company

FINISHING TOUCHES Cross-leg gloss dining table, £499; loop-leg chairs, £79 each, all Dwell. For similar bar stools try Zarra, £249 each, BoConcept. Tony teal pendant lights, £45 each, House by John Lewis. Paris corner sofa, £1,499; hanging crystal pendant light, £249.



RUSTIC REVIVAL

Mervyn Cole and Terry Chappell rescued a pair of dilapidated old barns and turned them into a super-stylish, contemporary open-plan arrangement

Feature **VICTORIA JENKINS** *Photography* **WILLIAM GODDARD**



Purple maze

Rows of pretty lavenders flank the walkway of Mervyn and Terry's idyllic country home

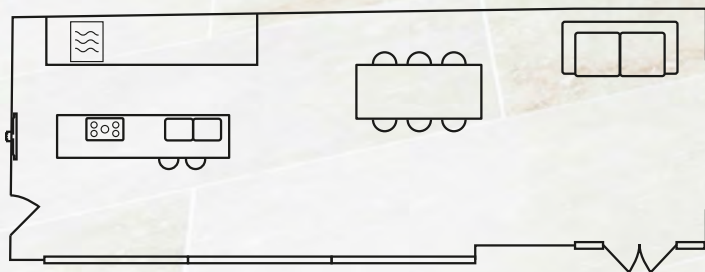
Seasoned renovators Mervyn Cole and Terry Chappell relished their latest project of converting two derelict barns into a spacious kitchen, dining and sitting room. Set in the beautiful Gloucestershire countryside, the buildings – one brick, the other stone – date back in part to the 1800s.

First the couple, who have completed 14 renovation projects in the last 30 years, set about linking the two structures with a zinc-roofed

extension to create an open-plan layout. ‘We’d initially planned to have a small, intimate kitchen but had a sudden change of heart when we realised that the huge space would be ideal for entertaining family and friends,’ says Mervyn. ‘Terry and I both like to cook and it helps to have a lots of room when we’re in the kitchen together.’

When it came to the interiors, the couple wanted the design to reflect the relaxed layout of the room itself. ‘We avoided choosing high wall units because

The layout



we wanted to create a very open feel,' explains Mervyn. 'In any case, neither of us is very tall so we needed to be able to reach the top shelves easily.' They did, however, need plenty of storage and a practical floor plan, so they called upon the services of kitchen designer Helen Norrvall of Hobsons Choice, who helped them come up with a suitable scheme.

'We went for a Bulthaup kitchen because we fell in love with the clean, geometric lines,' recalls Terry. The most noteworthy piece is the gigantic island,

which measures an impressive 3.6m. 'It was a real must-have,' adds Terry. 'We went for the largest design the company makes so that we could have a joint workstation, as we like to share the cooking. It houses a hob and double sinks, too.'

A simple, neutral scheme appears throughout, with splashes of colour coming from furniture, accessories and artwork. 'We're really pleased with this project – it has all the best elements from our previous homes,' smiles Terry.



Project profile

THE OWNERS Mervyn Cole, a retired interiors retailer, and Terry Chappell, an employer consultant

THEIR HOME A three-bedroom barn conversion near Gloucester

THE KITCHEN Incorporating a large open-plan kitchen, dining and living room as part of a double-barn conversion

ROOM SIZE 12 x 4m

DESIGNER Helen Norrvall at Hobsons Choice

CABINETRY Bespoke Bulthaup B3 range laminate cabinets in Kaolin with a matt finish, solid-walnut trim and beech-wood carcasses

BUDGET £25,000 (excluding building work and appliances)

The heat is on

'We put large glass panels on the south wall to maximise the light and warmth, and installed underfloor heating to avoid having radiators to keep the look clean and uncluttered,' says Mervyn



Discreet extraction

The remote control-operated downdraft extractor rises from the worktop behind the hob



Bespoke bank

Built-in appliances are housed in a mid-height cabinet behind the island and, for convenience, a pair of ovens are positioned opposite the hob and the dishwasher drawers are behind the sinks. The multifunctional unit also accommodates a fridge and freezer

‘WE CHOSE A QUOOKER BOILING-WATER TAP BECAUSE IT’S ECONOMICAL, CONVENIENT AND ALSO SPEEDS UP COOKING AND MAKING HOT DRINKS’



Action station

Double-sided cupboards mean the imposing island provides most of the kitchen's storage. An induction hob and a pair of stainless steel sinks are integrated into the ultra-thin but super-tough laminate worktop



For art's sake
The Andy Warhol *Dusty Springfield* screen print was chosen to match the colours of the Dr No chairs by Philippe Starck

DESIGN SOLUTION

Designer Helen Norrvall explains...

How did you decide where the kitchen would go in the large space?

Mervyn and Terry didn't want the kitchen area to take up too much room so it's placed at one end, close to the utility room behind the door. I was also asked to make the kitchen look unobtrusive and, with Bulthaup units, you don't feel the need to fill up the space – the design is beautifully subtle in that way.

What was your main design priority?

To keep all the cabinetry at a low level. First, so that it looks less like a kitchen and more part of the living space, and second, because Terry and Mervyn wanted to be able to reach things easily. That's why the wall units are mid-height.

Were there any other special requests?

Yes, the couple wanted Fisher & Paykel DishDrawers, as the two tiers mean small loads can be washed quickly. They wanted a discreet extractor, too, so we recommended a downdraft design, which rises from the worktop behind the hob and doubles as a splashback. A TV also had to be included in the layout, and we positioned it so they can watch it from the breakfast bar.

Did you overcome any challenges?

Mervyn and Terry wanted two sinks and a hob all in a line on the island, which reduced work surface space. So I created a workstation behind a lift-up door in the bank of units on the rear wall. This also acts as an extra resting and serving area, and is where the toaster and coffee machine are stored.

Are there any interesting features?

The laminate worktop is quite unusual as it is slimline – just 2cm thick with a walnut edge. It's made up of a sandwich of solid-pigment white laminate with MDF in the middle and, being so thin, it needed reinforcing with steel below the breakfast bar. The benefit of a solid-pigment worktop is that it's stain resistant, very durable and the same colour all the way through. So if it were to chip, the mark would be hardly noticeable.

Did you have the main influence on the overall look of the space?

No, Terry and Mervyn had clear ideas about how it should look. I'm Swedish and I admit to loving pure, uncluttered lines, light colours and natural wood, but clearly they like them, too.

The details

CABINETRY Bespoke Bulthaup B3 Kaolin (off-white) laminate units in a matt finish with walnut trim, £21,000, Hobsons Choice

SURFACES Bulthaup B3 integrated solid-colour slimline laminate **worktop**, with integrated twin specialist stainless steel sinks, £4,070. Wychwood limestone tumbled **floor tiles**, 60 x 40cm, £46.80sq m, Artisans of Devizes, are comparable

APPLIANCES Built-in **single oven**, £1,100; built-in **microwave**, £850; **induction hob**, £1,700; fully integrated **fridge**, £1,100, all Miele. **Downdraft extractor**, £2,400, Wolf. Fully integrated **freezer**, £550, Siemens. DishDrawer Double **dishwasher**, £899, Fisher & Paykel. All supplied by Hobsons Choice

SINKS AND TAPS Specialist stainless steel **twin sinks** (integral to worktop); two Blanco Linus S monobloc **mixer taps**, £420 each, supplied by Bulthaup. Modern **boiling-water tap** in stainless steel, £979, Quooker

FINISHING TOUCHES Oak dining table, £299, Room 4. Dr No dining chairs, £100 each, Philippe Starck. Melodi pendants, £13 each, Ikea. Italian bar stools, £500 each, Hobsons Choice. *Dusty Springfield* artwork from Steve Russell Studios

BEYOND THE PALE

Undeterred by the quirky space they had to work with, Anja and Andreas Inderst chose classic cabinetry in a cool, contemporary palette for their period home

Feature **JO MESSENGER** Photography **FRASER MARR**

The aspect that most impressed Anja and Andreas Inderst when they first viewed their Victorian end-of-terrace was the fact that it was sited on a corner plot. The rooms were a quirky shape and it also had a garage at the side. To gain the space to create a large open-plan kitchen and dining room, the couple demolished the garage and extended out to the side. 'We didn't design the new kitchen to fill the full width,' Anja explains, 'as I also wanted a walk-in larder and outdoor storage for bikes and garden paraphernalia.'

The simplicity of designs such as Plain English appealed to Anja, and her designer Kate Diss from Kitchens Upon Thames instantly understood what she was aiming for, although a query about the range cooker Anja ordered led to a change of colour scheme, as when she returned to her supplier she saw a Falcon cooker in a rich grey and decided to use it as a statement piece. She colour-matched the paint for the island, choosing a paler, white-grey for the units.

When it came to the island design, Anja knew exactly what she wanted. 'It had to be adaptable for many uses, so I didn't want it to have a hob or sink,' she explains. 'The girls can sit here and draw or do a puzzle while I'm preparing food and we can chat. And if we have a dinner party, it becomes a bar, serving area and general sociable space.' Anja chose wood-effect ceramic tiles in muted tones to add texture to her understated scheme. 'I didn't want the look to be too stark, she says, 'but the floor links all the other elements and pulls the whole look together.'

Project profile

THE OWNERS Anja Inderst, a full-time mother, her husband Andreas, an equity research analyst and their daughters Lilly, 7, and Lara, 4

THEIR HOME A six-bedroom Victorian end-of-terrace house in southwest London

THE PROJECT The couple pulled down a derelict garage to create space for a side kitchen extension, knocking

through to make one large, bright family room

KITCHEN SIZE 4.9 x 2.4m

DESIGNER Kate Diss, Kitchens Upon Thames

CABINETRY Handmade in-frame units, installed ready for painting, £11,300, from Kitchens Upon Thames

BUDGET £25,380, excluding building work and installation





Storage solution

The newly built walk-in larder unit is to the right of the cabinetry. It was designed to match the era of the house, but with a sliding door for a streamlined feel



Nostalgic edge

The Franke undermounted Belfast sink has been teamed with a Perrin & Rowe Parthian mixer for a period look with a fresh, modern feel



The main event

The faux chimney breast and mantelpiece were designed by Kitchens Upon Thames to look like established features, ensuring the new Falcon range cooker took centre stage

DESIGN SOLUTION

Designer Kate Diss explains...

Did the layout of the room pose any problems?

The unusual shape defined the positioning of the cabinetry right from the start of the project. The couple's 2.8m dining table naturally fitted in the wider part of the room and the bay window on the other side meant the obvious siting for the kitchen itself was in the newly extended part of the room. From a functional perspective this meant it was not only adjacent to the newly built larder, but created an obvious space in which to position the island unit, defining the cooking and dining zones.

What was the brief and how was it fulfilled?

Anja wanted the room to feel like it had always been there and to echo the style and ambience of the rest of the house. She had a good idea of what she wanted when we first met, which meant I was then able to translate her thoughts, sketches and tear sheets from magazines into a workable design. She chose the painted cabinetry to reflect the age and style of the property and asked us to design and build a chimney breast to house a range cooker, with a decorative mantelpiece above to add some character. Other touches, such as the Belfast sink and panelling, enhance the room's traditional features like the picture rails, cornicing and windows.

Were integrated appliances always part of the plan?

Yes, Anja wanted the range cooker to be the main focus of the room and didn't want any other appliances to dominate the scheme – anyway, there wasn't space for a large freestanding

fridge freezer. All the major appliances were integrated into the design, while smaller ones like the microwave, toaster and kettle are housed in the larder unit, where she also had a tap fitted. This has helped keep the kitchen surfaces clear and uncluttered.

Having mainly base units and an island, did you find you were short on storage?

Having the walk-in larder provided ample space for food as well as cookware, gadgets and small appliances, so the kitchen itself didn't have to be designed with large banks of cabinetry, which can look dominating and too uniform. Pull-outs were the key to gaining enough storage, and a Le Mans corner unit maximised space in the corner. Pull-out bins in the island deal with recycling and rubbish and an integrated wine cooler chills soft drinks as well as wine.

How do you prevent a pale kitchen from looking austere?

Contemporary kitchens lend themselves to banks of symmetrical cabinetry and minimalist styling, but if you're looking for something with a little more character, it's important to think about this at the design stage. I like to include open shelving with integrated lighting in a scheme to create areas for accent colours. I'll also look at ways of introducing plenty of natural light, such as a skylight to create pools of illumination, and embrace architectural features to add interest and personality. It's also important to get the colour and shade just right and this played a very important part in this kitchen. Greys are very popular at the moment and work well with pale worktops, but the shade of grey is pivotal; Anja chose warm tones which complement her choice of flooring.



‘THE RANGE HAD
TO BE THE MAIN
FEATURE AND
I WANTED ALL OF
THE APPLIANCES
INTEGRATED AND
OUT OF SIGHT’

Cosy and convivial

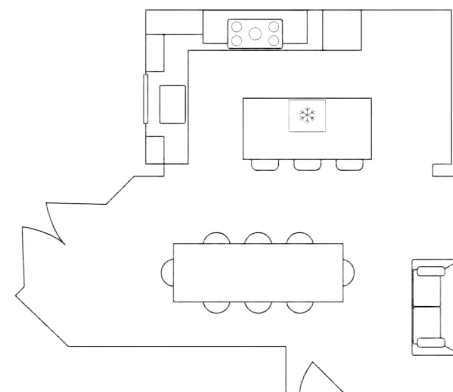
Knocking down a dividing wall and adding a small side extension has transformed the way the Inderst family live, and their home has become a much more sociable environment



Pull up a chair

Uncluttered and without the complications of a hob or sink, the island is a versatile space with a few understated bar stools for a relaxed, informal feel

The layout



**‘I BOUGHT EVERY TESTER
POT I COULD LAY MY
HANDS ON TO MATCH THE
COLOUR OF THE ISLAND
TO THE RANGE COOKER’**



A vintage touch

Painted cabinetry contrasts with the dark wood furniture for an eclectic look, while accents like the carved screen and Anja's decorative china soften the whole effect

The details

CABINETRY In-frame units, supplied rigid and primed for painting, £11,300, Kitchens Upon Thames. **Cabinetry paint**, Shirting White intelligent eggshell; **island paint**, Dark Lead intelligent eggshell, both £51 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene

SURFACES Silestone Lagoon worktop with matching splashbacks, £890sq m; white toughened glass splashbacks, £360sq m, both Ultra Living

APPLIANCES Falcon 900 Deluxe induction range cooker in slate, £3,339; wine cooler, £579; Rangemaster integrated dishwasher, £499; Rangemaster 72cm built-in extractor, £459, all Coopers. Siemens integrated fridge freezer, £1,834, Appliances Direct

SINK AND TAPS Franke BFK 710 Belfast sink, £379, Coopers. Parthian single lever kitchen mixer tap, £207.99, Perrin & Rowe

FINISHING TOUCHES Boardwalk maple porcelain 120 x 20cm floor tiles, £120sq m, Stone & Ceramic Warehouse. Whitewashed carved room screen, £295, Lombok. For a similar dining table, see Lifestyle natural teak 240 x 100cm dining table, £1,058, Raft. Curved-wood dining chairs, £39 each, Dwell. **Wall paint**, Gauze Deep and Shirting intelligent matt emulsion, £41.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. For similar bar stools see Glenn, £55 each from Ikea. The **pendant lights** were bought in Germany; for a similar design, see the Contrast pendant light, £165, Heal's. For a similar sofa, try the Kingston Abaca two-seater sofa, from £369, Rattan Direct

For stockist details go to page 125

White with pale wood adds a Scandi touch.

Snowdrop wall light, made in ash and ceramic, H64 x W50cm, £225, Jonathan Tibbs at Benchmark

MODERN CRAFT

Handcrafted is a trend that's right at home in the kitchen. It's all about **natural materials** such as wood, plus **organic shapes**, forms and finishes with that **handmade feel**. This is an easy-to-live-with look for country schemes, and will bring a softer edge to a contemporary kitchen



Handcrafted boards with raw edges make ideal serving platters.

Leather strap breadboard, made from alder wood, from £38, Rowen & Wren

A minimalist approach to stoneware.

Maiko bowl, from £10; Basic pitcher, £45, both Folklore



Use this quirky piece for display or as a seat.

Tree trunk side table, H45 x dia24cm, £125, French Connection



Make a sustainable and stylish choice.

Suent Superlight chair in coppiced hazel, H74 x W37 x D46cm, £345, Sebastian Cox



An on-trend print in the kitchen colour of the moment.

Zigzag fabric, 137cm wide, £112m, Flockhart at Redloh House Fabrics

THE COLOUR PALETTE

Pirate Gold matt emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Sanderson

Paris Grey chalk paint, £18.95 for 1 litre, Annie Sloan

Paris Grey natural emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Edward Bulmer Pots of Paint

Riding Hood claypaint, £32.75 for 2.5 litres, Earthborn

Lime White estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

Sloane Square marble matt emulsion, £34.66 for 2.5 litres, Mylands

Bone China Blue Pale intelligent matt emulsion, £41.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene



Style and practicality combine in this statement design.

Melbury armchair, made in ash and elm, H108 x W54 x D55cm, £599, Sitting Firm at John Lewis

The splash of white gives these baskets a modern edge.

Hübsch Natural & White round baskets, £70.50 for three, Occa-Home



Warm metallics soften the industrial appearance.

T1 concrete lamp in light grey/gold, £149, Gant & Mania



Add subtle interest to walls with a delicate geometric design.

Daisy Spot wallpaper, £45 per roll, Emma Bridgewater at Sanderson



The dipped trend is still going strong.

Dipped wooden soup spoons, £7.50 each, Rose & Grey



A distinctive pattern full of character.

Morphing cranes handmade tiles, 10 x 10cm, £7 each, Smink Things



A printed fabric will lend depth and texture to a scheme.

Bird Garden linen, 137cm wide, £48m, Mark Heard at St Jude's



This elegant table offers a modern take on traditional farmhouse style.

Turner wild oak dining table, H75 x W180 x D90cm, £1,895, John Jenkins at Heal's



MAKING IT WORK

THE KEY to this look is simplicity. Be playful with the textures you choose and go for organic shapes in furniture and accessories.

WITH SUCH A NEUTRAL PALETTE, you can afford to add contrasts. Matt white, gloss white,

grey and dark shades, such as charcoal, indigo and even soft black, will all work well for cabinetry, walls and floors.

FOR AN AUTHENTIC LOOK, seek out handcrafted artisan pieces. The look has also been

replicated on the high street with impressive results.

LOOK AT THE SILHOUETTE

The shape of a chair or outline of a table can have a sculptural beauty. **IN FABRICS AND WALLPAPERS**, choose natural textured weaves,

such as linens, in neutral tones and simple block-printed patterns.

IN TERMS OF MATERIALS,

look out for recycled timber, leather and basketware, as well as earthenware or even concrete, for a more contemporary interpretation.



Summer loving
Bifold doors open onto the south-facing garden while a Caple wine cabinet keeps drinks chilled for hot sunny days

Bright **OUTLOOK**

**BEAUTIFUL PAINTED CABINETRY AND NATURAL TIMBER COMBINE TO STUNNING EFFECT
IN TRACY AND ROGER POLLARD'S BRIGHT AND ELEGANT NEW KITCHEN**

Feature **HAYLEY GILBERT** *Photography* **DAVID STILL**



Rich contrast

The new kitchen, designed and manufactured by Harry Matthews of Haev Design, features a combination of Chalk White painted cabinets and walnut accents for a warm, welcoming finish

Tracy and Roger Pollard relocated their kitchen to the back of their home to create a more sociable family space. 'It was originally at the front of the house, but was very dark and a little on the small side,' says Tracy. 'We'd previously extended the rear of the property, which is south-facing, adding a large room adjoining the existing dining area. Then we decided to move the kitchen there and install bifold doors so that we could have a bright space overlooking our beautiful garden.'

So the couple knocked through the two rooms, leaving the chimney breast in the middle to divide the new kitchen and living area, and got

Harry Matthews of Haev Design in to help with the kitchen design. A large multifunctional central island would be the focal point of the new scheme, creating a natural flow to dedicated areas for cooking, prepping and washing up.

'We opted for classic white-painted units and combined them with walnut veneer to help tie the kitchen and living spaces together,' explains Tracy. 'I really wanted contrasting cabinetry and the wood adds warmth, preventing the room from being cold and clinical.' To soften the look even more, Harry incorporated some curved corner cupboards into the design, and Tracy dressed the windows and bifold doors with vibrant fuchsia and grey striped voile

panels, which add a welcome burst of colour to the predominantly pale, neutral scheme.

Tracy's wish list included a larger cupboard, which sits just to the right of the American-style fridge freezer – another must-have item. 'We also needed a prep sink in the island, a Quooker hot-water tap and a wine cooler for when we're entertaining,' says Tracy. Also featured in the scheme is a waste-disposal unit, plus a downdraft extractor because the couple didn't want the view of the garden from the island to be obstructed by an overhead chimney model.

With a practical layout, striking design features and a new location, the Pollards' kitchen is stylish, functional and family-friendly, too.



Project profile

THE OWNERS Tracy and Roger Pollard, who both work in property, their daughter Natasha, 18, and dogs Rhumba and Millie

THE HOME Detached 1930s house in Hertfordshire

THE PROJECT Two rooms knocked through to form an open-plan kitchen and living space

ROOM SIZE 5.6 x 5m (kitchen area only)

DESIGNER Harry Matthews at Haev Design

CABINETRY Bespoke walnut and veneer with Chalk White maple lacquered units, £23,000, cabinetry only

BUDGET Around £40,000, excluding building work

Hole in one

A small prep sink, perfect for quick rinses, is mounted beneath the Compac quartz worktop



On the curve

A sweeping wall cabinet helps soften the scheme





Two become one

When the couple opened up the space they kept the original chimney breast, to help delineate kitchen and living zones. It also makes a striking feature

DESIGN SOLUTION

Designer Harry Matthews explains...

Was this a fairly straightforward kitchen project for you?

To be honest, yes. As it's such a large, bright, open space, it was quite easy to create the perfect kitchen for Tracy and Roger. We had room to comfortably fit everything in, from the large side-by-side fridge freezer to the bank of built-in ovens.

Did the couple visit your showroom to select their cabinetry?

Haev Design is a small bespoke company, so I show clients some work I've done and ask them to show me any ideas they might have seen, which could be cuttings from magazines, swatches of fabric, paint samples, anything really. Then I bring it all together with CAD (computer aided design) drawings. I like to keep it very personal when designing new kitchens.

Tell us about the cabinetry

The couple wanted a light scheme, possibly white but definitely not stark and clinical. That's why we chose the darker feature cabinets to add depth and break up the look. We used walnut for the feature units, which is a lovely warm timber with an interesting grain pattern. This

created an eye-catching contrast to the chalk-white finish of the rest of the kitchen. I used brushed-steel bar handles with a leather wrap to finish the look.

And the breakfast bar...

It's made from solid-planked walnut. I was going to use steel supports but Tracy wasn't keen on the idea, so I designed angled walnut ones instead, which she really liked.

What type of storage is included?

Wide drawers are a great option, as items at the back of small, deep cabinets can be difficult to access. The tall, two-door larder cabinet also makes it easy for the couple to reach packets and bottles, as the shelving isn't spaced too closely together.

Did you help with the appliances?

Yes. I recommended Siemens because I'm a big fan of its kitchen appliances. The build quality is top-spec and all its products have a sleek, upmarket look about them. They also fitted in with the couple's budget, as did the Caple downdraft extractor, sinks and taps, which are a more affordable than a lot of high-end models but equal in terms of design and quality.

The details

CABINETRY Bespoke walnut and veneer furniture with maple lacquered units in Chalk White by Haev Design. Priced £23,000 for a similar kitchen, cabinetry only

SURFACES Compac quartz stone worktops in Absolute Blanc, £320lin m, Haev Design. **Wall paint**, Potters Clay 3 tinted matt emulsion, £30 for 2.5 litres, Dulux. For similar **flooring** take a look at Prestige Stone Nimbus limestone, 45 x 30cm tiles, £71.67sq m, Topps Tiles

APPLIANCES Built-in single oven, £985; built-in steam oven, £746; built-in microwave, £378; induction hob, £1,129; built-in warming drawer, £393; integrated American-style fridge freezer, £1,974; fully integrated dishwasher, £670, all Siemens. **Downdraft extractor**, £1,091; built-in wine cabinet, £437, both Caple

SINKS AND TAPS Form 200 undermounted double-bowl sink in stainless steel, £213; Form 34 undermounted single-bowl sink in stainless steel, £97; two Avel quarter-turn monobloc mixer taps in brushed nickel, £75 each, all Caple. Design boiling-water tap in stainless steel, £838, Quooker

FINISHING TOUCHES Retro Circles bar stools in white, £99 each, Dwell. For similar voile panel curtains try John Lewis, from £10. The Natuzzi Editions leather armchair and footstool, £1,025, Julia Jones, would complement this scheme

HOT STUFF

The great outdoors is calling – and our best **barbecues are smokin'**



FEATURE CHRIS HASLAM

1 Get designer style without the price tag with **Ikea's** Klasen charcoal grill (H109 x W74 x D57cm), which has a built-in thermometer and costs **£190**. **2** A modern take on a brick barbecue, the Sunday One Hood (H164 x W49 x D70cm) can be used with wood and charcoal and is priced at **£545** from **B&Q**. **3** The gas-powered Plancha stainless steel griddle (H60 x W40 x D23cm) is ready to cook in just three minutes. Stand and accessories optional, from **£319** at **Very Cook**. **4** Create authentic pizzas, bread, roasted meats and more with the Fornetto wood-fired garden oven and smoker (H190 x W65 x D56cm), which costs **£895** from **BigFire**. **5** In vivid lime green, the Supagrill Pod (H92 x W62 x D54cm) from **John Lewis** is a

fun update on the classic kettle drum design and costs **£135**. **6** Cook at the table with the Joya ceramic and stainless steel barbecue (H15 x Dia31cm). It costs **£119** from **Barbecook**. **7** Bodum's Picnic charcoal grill (H36 x Dia39cm) is great for taking to the beach and costs **£29.99** from **Leekes**. **8** Go pro with **Weber's** Genesis E330 (H164 x W152 x D87cm) three-burner gas design, with side burner, **£1,399.99**. **9** The Landmann Avalon (H119 x W152 x D66cm), **£2,249.99** from **WorldStores**, boasts five burners and an electronic rotisserie for the serious chef. **10** Ideal for a small patio, the TravelQ 285 (H95 x W112 x D51cm) comes with folding legs for easy storage, from **£249.99**, **Napoleon Grills**.

EAT, COOK, ESCAPE

WHETHER YOU'RE DREAMING OF LIFE IN YOUR NEW KITCHEN OR SIMPLY NEED A BREAK FROM THE BUILDERS, A FEW LUXURIES WILL HELP YOU ON YOUR WAY



IN GREAT SHAPE

The first ceramic tableware collection from Nordic House has bowlfuls of charm. Made in Sweden, the super-chic range is handmade, resulting in organic shapes and an undulating glazed finish. Choose from Nordic white or pale blue – both are perfect for relaxed summer dining. From £10 for a small plate, 0845 475 1610, nordichouse.co.uk

GLORIOUS FOOD

Looking for a tasty escape? Make your way to the Dorset Food & Arts Festival on 2 August in Poundbury. Enjoy a line-up of top-quality food and drink stalls, including great local produce such as English wines from Langham Estate. There will be chef demonstrations by some of Dorset's finest, a bar hosted by Blandford brewery, Hall and Woodhouse, and entertainment from home-grown musicians throughout the day. Free, Queen Mother Square, Poundbury, Dorset, dorsetaonb.org.uk



All aboard

These beautiful wooden chopping boards take their cue from the Arts and Crafts movement, and are handmade by inmates at HM The Mount Prison in Bovingdon. Part of a skills development programme, they are handcrafted from sustainable English Oak and kiln dried. From £26.95, Roullier White, 020 8693 5150, roullierwhite.com



FEELING FRUITY?

Perfect for summer desserts, Scarlett & Mustard's new delicious fruit curds are made with fresh fruit and natural ingredients. £3.30 at British Fine Foods, 01892 890690, britishfinefoods.com

RURAL RETREAT

The latest in the successful Pig hotels and restaurants is the new The Pig near Bath. This country-house hotel in the Mendip Hills fuses Georgian grandeur with rustic simplicity, and includes a restaurant, 29 bedrooms, a spa, garden and its very own deer park. Top chef James Golding is heading up the kitchen, creating a hearty selection of superb, seasonal British dishes. 0845 077 9494, thepighotel.co.uk





RUSTIC FLAVOUR

While it's nigh impossible to get a table at top restaurant Dabbous, owners Ollie Dabbous and Oskar Kinberg have followed up with a more relaxed venue, Barnyard on Fitzrovia's Charlotte Street. Bringing a rustic slant to the casual dining experience, the decor is all corrugated iron, bare brick walls and reclaimed timber. The menu is homely British and American fare expertly made with a fun twist – popcorn ice cream & hedgerow shandy anyone? 18 Charlotte Street, London W1T 2LY, 020 7580 3842, barnyard-london.com



OVER THE COALS

Whether you're after the ultimate space saver or are looking for a clever way to hide your barbie from view, Black & Blum's Pot BBQ ticks the boxes. It looks like an ordinary terracotta plant pot, but the base hides a stainless steel grill barbecue underneath. Handily,

it can even be left outside to become part of your herb garden when not in use.

£89 including stainless steel tongs. Available at Clippings, 020 7060 7422, clippings.com

STACK THEM UP

Brabantia has added these stackable storage jars to its kitchen range. Modular, airtight and available in a variety of sizes, they'll keep pasta, pulses, coffee and other foods fresh. Choose from light or dark mint and grey for a stylish and practical addition to your shelves. From £5.95. brabantia.com



SAUCE POT

Nailing perfect sauces is a breeze with the Juicer & Fat Separator from Sebastian Conran's Universal Expert range. The integrated strainer reserves tasty juices from the roasting tray – switch the lid, and it becomes a citrus juicer. The porcelain jug looks suitably stylish, too. £34 at West Elm, 0800 404 9780, westelm.co.uk



Feel good food

Eat to feel and look your best with *The Art of Living Well*, £25, Ebury Press, by Jasmine and Melissa Hemsley. The tasty recipes all use natural ingredients and are free from refined sugar and gluten. Snap it up for £20 (inc free UK p&p) by calling 01206 255800 and quoting 'Beautiful Kitchens'. Another tome all about flavour and goodness is *Fast Vegetarian*, £25, Octopus, by the fast-food visionaries at Leon. Buy at the special price of £17.50 (inc free UK p&p) by calling 01903 828503 and quoting, Vegetarian/CON549.



PICK YOUR OWN

Finetune your culinary prowess at Thyme at Southrop Manor Food School in the Cotswolds. Cooking with produce that you'll pick fresh from the manor gardens, The Instinctive Cook course (£185 per person) will run on Wednesday 16 July and Wednesday 13 August at Thyme House, 01367 850174, thymeatsouthrop.co.uk



LEFT & ABOVE From Heavenly Honeycomb Crunch to Dreamy Vanilla, Sally's ice creams are foodie heaven. RIGHT Sally's Simply Special seasonal flavours are made using 100 per cent natural and local ingredients

In conversation with: **THE ICE CREAM MAKER**

Handmade in the Kent countryside, Sally Newall's Simply Ice Cream is the flavour of summer



LEFT Daughter Jessica helps out with a delivery to nearby Potten Farm Shop BELOW Sally making her bestselling honeycomb flavour RIGHT Simply Ice Cream is made the old-fashioned way, by hand in small batches



Saturday Kitchen's James Martin once described Sally Newall's Simply Ice Cream range as 'the best bought ice cream available.' High praise, but worthy praise, too. Despite now supplying Waitrose nationwide, as well as selected independents and farm shops in the south east, Sally and her husband Robin still make all their ice cream by hand in the country near their Kent home. Popular flavours for summer include Sublime Strawberry and Mango, Lime & Passionfruit, while classic staples including vanilla and a legendary honeycomb are year-round favourites.

Sally attributes the success of the company to her product's unique taste and texture. 'Our ice creams are not mass-produced by a machine, so they're very smooth and creamy,' she says. 'We only use natural ingredients and the range is free from nasty preservatives and stabilisers. It's what we consider real food,' she adds.

Simply Ice Cream started as a kitchen table business some 25 years ago when former caterer and mother of four, Sally, began making ice cream for weddings, using an old recipe she had adapted over the years. 'People kept asking me where they could buy it, so it was a natural progression to create a product that we could put into shops,' she says. Sally started experimenting with different flavours at home and, in 2005, approached a local farm shop about stocking her ice cream. The response was overwhelmingly positive and, in just over a year, Simply Ice Cream was available to buy in a further four shops in the area. At the time, it was just Sally and Robin working to meet the growing demand for their product, while also juggling full-time jobs and parenthood. 'Robin and I were making ice cream in our kitchen from 9pm to 1am when the kids were in bed,' recalls Sally.

Keen to expand the company, she decided to recruit a local design firm to create stylish, recyclable packaging. 'I wanted the pot to reflect the pureness of our product, as well as look really attractive, too,' she explains.

Today, Sally has a team of 12, and has relocated production from the family kitchen to an outhouse on their land. 'I'm very lucky to have family close by to help out,' she says. 'Mum's just next door and I couldn't do it without Robin. And, with ice cream on tap, working from home certainly has its perks!'

With 31 flavours to choose from, Simply Ice Cream costs around £4.99 for a 500ml tub. 01233 720922, simplyicecream.co.uk



It's a family affair: Jessica, William, Natasha and Matthew love to sample mum Sally's ice cream
BELOW Where possible, Sally sources local fruit to make Simply Ice Cream's special seasonal flavours



Raymond Blanc's KITCHEN STORY

The two Michelin-starred chef and patron of Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons reveals his passion for simplicity, Chopin and steak

My kitchen is quite small but it's fine for me, as I spend most of my time at Le Manoir. I live in a beautiful 1920s house with lovely original features, which we've just finished renovating. We tried to create an open-plan cooking/living space but, sadly, we couldn't get planning permission. I like my Aga for its classic style, but my two Gaggenau ovens epitomise modern functionality *and* beauty. I love my kitchen – it's warm, friendly and unassuming.

My ideal kitchen would be open-plan and large enough for a sizeable pantry and a double fridge-freezer with an ice-maker.

Only close family members would be on my dream dinner party list. I'd have my two sons because they're great company, and my partner Natalia, who has a fantastic sense of humour. My eldest son, Sebastian, is a theatre director and my youngest, Oli, has just created an app called Henri Le Worm. The aim of the app is to encourage children to connect with food and to understand where it comes from. I've created all the recipes for it, and Simon Pegg has done the voices – it's a fantastic concept. I'm very proud of both my boys.

Working at Le Manoir is like going to the opera every day. You're constantly creating the most extraordinary food in a spectacular environment. But sometimes, I crave simplicity, so when I come home in the evenings I'll prepare something light such as smoked salmon with lentils, chickpeas or homous. Occasionally, I'll pan-fry a steak – I'm a guy after all.

My most notorious kitchen nightmare happened when I was 12-years-old. I was cooking for my mother for the first time and decided to make pancakes in a Pyrex dish, which I put directly on to the flame – it exploded

everywhere. There was caramel all over the ceiling and in my mum's hair. Thankfully, disasters like that don't happen any more!

My grandmother was an amazing cook, as is my mum. She's 91 but even to this day, she'd be so hurt if people didn't eat her food. She taught me that cooking is an act of love. My passion for seasonality and the provenance of produce comes from her – as does my zero tolerance on wasting food. Most importantly, she showed me how sacred the dinner table is. It's where families gather to chat, debate, laugh – everything.

My favourite kitchen product is my own set of knives. I know I'm not really supposed to say that but I spent 14 years creating them, so of course I'm going to use the fruits of my labour. When you have amazing food, you want to cook it well, and this requires the best equipment. My top tip is to buy a decent set of knives. You only need three: one for chopping, one for vegetables and a small all-purpose knife.

I don't play music in the kitchen at Le Manoir but at home I'll go for classical – something very serene like Chopin or Beethoven. I want music to lift me up.

I've trained 27 Michelin-starred chefs. It's very exciting to be part of a revolution in British food. Chefs are connecting with farmers and fishermen more now, and consumers are far more knowledgeable these days. We want our produce to be local, organic and ethical. That's a big change from 50 years ago when food was a mere commodity.

Raymond Blanc OBE is the chef-patron of two-Michelin-starred Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, 01844 278881, manoir.com, raymondblanc.com



Araguani chocolate sabayon with crunchy praline – one of Raymond's delightful desserts



Raymond Blanc kitchen utensils, from £12 for a slotted spoon

A light supper such as smoked salmon is on the menu after a day in Le Manoir's bustling kitchen

Raymond's dream kitchen would be large enough to accommodate a double fridge freezer, like this model from Sub-Zero & Wolf, £15,048



Music by Beethoven or Chopin helps Raymond to unwind in his kitchen at home



ADDRESS BOOK

Useful contact details for the main kitchen companies, appliance manufacturers and fixtures and finishes for your scheme. Find this issue's extra stockists on page 136

COMPLETE KITCHEN SOLUTIONS

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adaptations.uk.com
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B&Q 0845 609 6688 diy.com
BARNES OF ASHBURTON 01364 653613
barnesofashburton.co.uk
BESPOKE KITCHEN DESIGN 0800 169 3979
bespokekitchendesign.co.uk
BETTA LIVING 0808 149 8214
bettaliving.co.uk
BRITISH STANDARD 020 7870 7688
britishstandardcupboards.co.uk
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kitchensbybroadway.co.uk
BULTHAUP 0844 846 7810 en.bulthaupt.com
BURBIDGE 024 7667 1600 burbridge.co.uk
CAPLE 0117 938 1900 caple.co.uk
CHALON 020 7351 0008 chalon.com
CHAMBER FURNITURE 01959 532553
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CHISELWOOD 01522 704446 chiselwood.co.uk
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PORCELANOSA 0800 915 4000
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For additional stockists turn to page 128

STOCKISTS

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Why it works...

COLOURFUL SHEER CURTAINS BRING A WHOLE NEW MEANING TO BATHING A ROOM IN LIGHT

Sheer curtains have long been a favourite for large expanses of windows as they soften glare, create a lovely diffused light and bring a little privacy. Add a splash of colour to those sheers and, like filters for theatre lighting, you'll instantly create a sense of drama. We love the idea of sunshine yellow casting a golden glow all summer long, but it could equally be a cool blue or fresh green. Can't find a shade you like? Get creative with some simple whites and machine dye – it couldn't be easier.