

Formerly
Period House

Period Homes & INTERIORS

Beautiful interiors and clever ideas for homes with character

NOVEMBER 2010 | £3.60

SIMPLE *vintage style*

WIN!
kitchen equipment
worth over
£2,300

- * Guide to the latest flooring trends
- * Berry shades for a dramatic look

4 elegant homes to enjoy

KITCHENS

- * Be inspired by a modern country kitchen
- * Wonderful worktops

Bathrooms
BRILLIANT
BRASSWARE

Sitting comfortably

the best in lounge furniture

Plus

PROPERTY * AUCTION NEWS * EXPERT ADVICE * KITCHEN CORNER * COMPETITIONS





FEATURE AMELIA THORPE PHOTOGRAPHY: DARREN CHUNG



Above The versatile island provides a central food prep area for Mary. **Left** There's a real country feel to the kitchen but the Shaker-style units are finished with sleek steel bar handles to offer a contemporary edge.

Work and play

A new kitchen has become the hub of the home for a couple who love both cooking and entertaining.

No sooner had Mary and David Black bought their new home to begin their retirement in the Cotswolds, than things began to get busy.

Very busy, in fact. "Three weddings over three summers, a massive renovation and building project, and the births of two grandchildren with a third on the way – so much for a quiet retirement!" laughs Mary.

While she and David were helping out with the wedding plans for daughter Kirsty and sons James and Robert, they had also decided to revamp the layout of their new home. "Much as I love the idea of a quaint little cottage in the country, I also enjoy light and space," explains Mary. "We ended up extending the house quite considerably, as well as opening up the loft area, to make it more suited to our lifestyle and to improve the flow on the ground floor." Planning a new kitchen in their traditionally-built property was high on their list of priorities, particularly because they love to entertain, and the existing space was smaller than they would have liked. It was also at the front of the house, facing away from the beautiful garden views at the rear.

"We decided to combine the existing study/sewing room and utility room into >>



Left Full-length floor and wall units painted in Farrow & Ball's Pointing provide ample storage space for the busy chef.

Right This section of overhanging worktop is ideal for pulling up a bar stool to assist the chef.

Below far left A sleek undermounted sink is partnered by a granite worktop for a stylish and hardworking wet zone.

Below left Opting for a second sink on the island is great when rinsing veg for a speedy supper.

Below far right Clever storage ensures that pans always to hand and in the right place.

Below right Simple cutlery sits pretty in roomy compartments ready for a family feast.



one, to make room for a new kitchen, and to build a large extension adjoining it. This paved the way for a spacious family area with vaulted ceiling and lovely views over the garden," she says.

When construction work began, Mary and David took a well-earned break from all the wedding planning to visit local kitchen companies.

"We went to Woodchester Cabinet Makers' showroom and, quite frankly, they were amazing, with such great furniture on offer. They were very flexible, and there was no hard sell," recalls Mary. The couple chose a hand-painted kitchen in a simple Shaker style, designed to complement the country location of their home. "The house has been an enormous project for us, and we knew we weren't going to be putting



in another kitchen for a long while, so the design had to be timeless and built to last," she adds.

Listening to Mary and David's brief, Woodchester owner, Tim Buckingham, began to develop a clean-lined scheme to maximise the airy feel of the room. A central island with an extended worktop forms the social centre, while a sweeping L-shaped run of units provides ample storage as well as lots of work space for food preparation and cooking. "We added the overmantel with corbels to bring a touch of character to the place and frame the Aga," explains Tim.

The electric three-door Aga was the subject of a great deal of discussion for the couple. "David really wanted it, after we'd used one on holiday," says Mary. "He was >>>





Above The new family room creates a spacious area for entertaining guests and relaxing.

Left A glass-fronted dresser links the kitchen with the dining area. It is ideal for displaying Mary and David's ornaments and glassware.

very keen, but I was absolutely adamant that I didn't want an Aga. I thought it would mean having to re-learn how to cook. But now that I've got used to working with it, I just can't stop singing its praises."

Whether it's supper with a few friends or a big family party, Mary and David both enjoy cooking, so they added in a bank of Neff appliances for flexibility and extra capacity, plus a separate run of units to house an integrated fridge and freezer. A glass-fronted dresser gives a streamlined display area for tableware together with other treasured items; it also links the kitchen to the informal dining area and family room beyond.

"We are kitchen people," smiles Mary. "However many guests we have and whichever room we start off in, we invariably congregate in this room at some point. Everyone seems to be as happy here as we are. As well as providing a practical workplace, it's a very welcoming spot and a lovely place to be."

**SUPPLIER'S
DETAILS**

Woodchester
Cabinet Makers:
Tel:01453 835580
www.woodchester
cabinetmakers.co.uk