

# KITCHEN BATHROOM BEDROOM

THE ESSENTIAL KITCHEN BATHROOM BEDROOM MAGAZINE **THE UK'S NO.1** £

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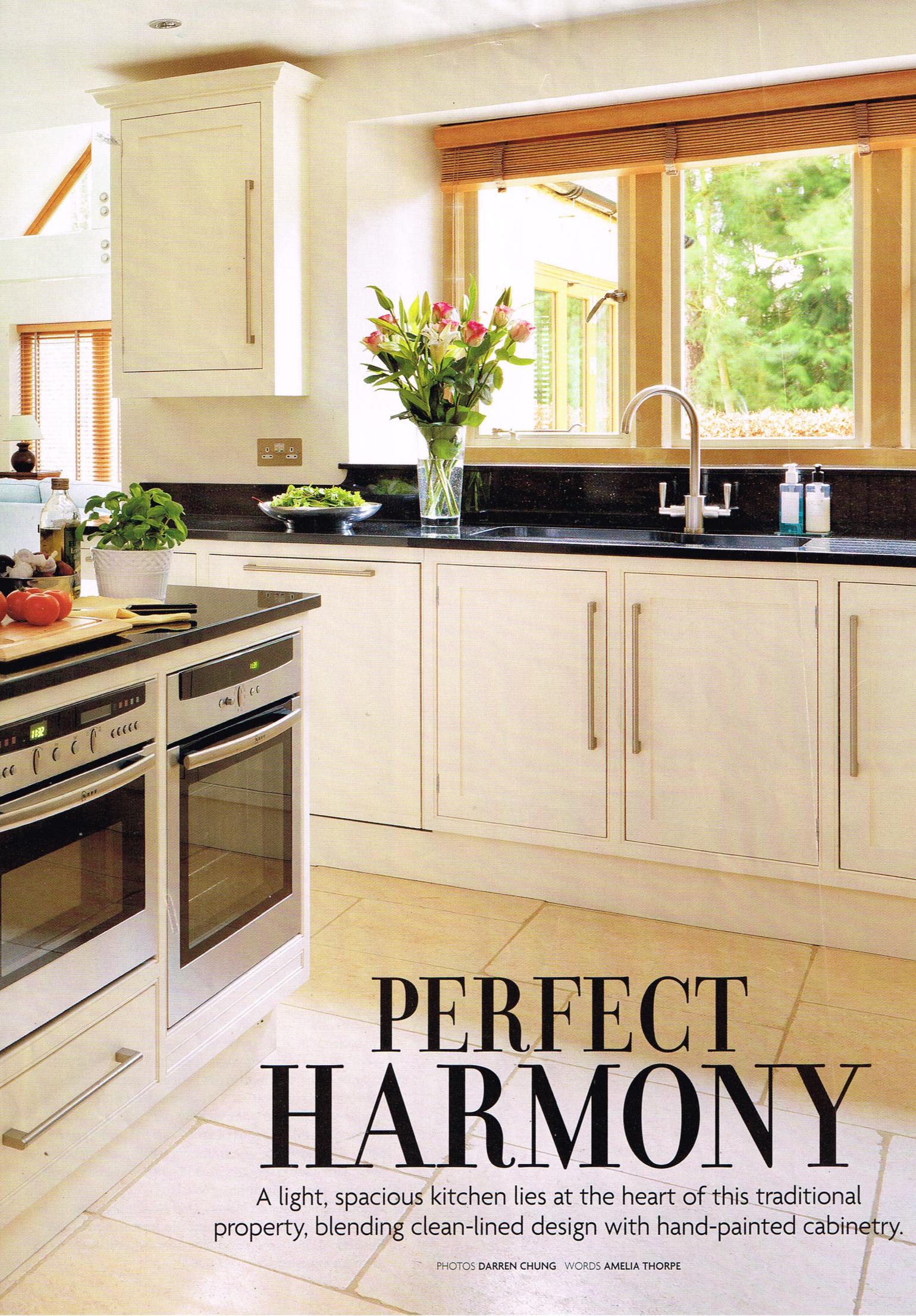
A HOUSE OF ELEGANCE

SHOWER ROOM GLAMOUR





The hub of this home exudes a real country feel while Shaker-style units, finished with sleek steel bar handles, give it a contemporary edge.



# PERFECT HARMONY

A light, spacious kitchen lies at the heart of this traditional property, blending clean-lined design with hand-painted cabinetry.

PHOTOS DARREN CHUNG WORDS AMELIA THORPE



#### KITCHEN PROFILE

Crisp, clean-lined Shaker-style furniture, custom-made by Woodchester Cabinet Makers, is painted in Farrow & Ball's Pointing for a fresh finish in this light and spacious kitchen. Bold Star Galaxy granite worktops, speckled with gold, add sparkle and contrast, while sections of rich European oak worktop provide a feeling of warmth. A glass-fronted dresser painted in Old White, also by Farrow & Ball, plus a decorative overmantel, add character. Streamlined chrome bar handles give a contemporary finishing touch.

**Woodchester Cabinet Makers, Unit N6A, Inchbrook Trading Estate, Woodchester, Nr. Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 5EY.**  
Tel: 01453 835580. [www.woodchestercabinetmakers.co.uk](http://www.woodchestercabinetmakers.co.uk)  
Kitchens are priced from £15,000.



No sooner had Mary and David Black bought their new home to begin their peaceful 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 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. ➤

**Top left** The versatile island provides a central food prep area for Mary.

**Far left** These perfectly integrated ovens ensure extra cooking capacity.

**Above** A section of overhanging worktop is ideal for pulling up a bar stool to assist the chef.



*'I was absolutely adamant that I didn't want an Aga. But now I've got used to working with it, I can't stop singing its praises.'*

'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, too,' 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 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.' ➔

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

**Far right** Sturdy solid birch compartments are designed to sort cutlery.

**Right** Star Galaxy granite is set off by gold flecks. The set of coasters with 'embarrassing' family photos was a gift to Mary and David from their children.

**Opposite page** This large glass-fronted dresser links the kitchen and dining area. It is perfect for displaying favourite ornaments and glassware.







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

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 in it as we are. As well as providing a practical workplace, it's a very welcoming spot and a lovely place to be in.' ■

#### STOCKISTS INFORMATION

##### APPLIANCES

Electric three oven Aga, £8,265, at Aga. Oven, B15P42NO, £818; combination microwave, C67M70NO, £980; induction hob, N44K30NO, £540; extractor hood, D5855, £256; integrated large larder fridge, K4624, £705; G5624 integrated freezer, £380; S54T09 integrated dishwasher, £564; all at Neff. Star Galaxy granite worktops, £376 per linear m., at Woodchester Cabinet Makers. See kitchen profile for details.

##### FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Olympus tap, around £194; Top Lever tap (on the island), from around £136; GAX 120 undermounted sink set, £424; RUX110

undermounted sink (island), around £210, all at Franke. Similar Iris bar stools, from £99 each, at John Lewis. Pendant lights, price on request, at The Famous Little Lamp Shop. Antique Gold floor tiles in large Opus pattern, around £74 per sq. m., at Tiles of Stow. Oak blinds, made to order, at Stephen Ramm Fabrics. Similar dining chairs, Lydia, £89 each; similar dining table, Malvern, £599, at John Lewis. Similar LSA Everyday flowers vase, £10, at John Lewis. Tom Dixon Mirror Ball large pendant light (above dining table), £378, at Icône.

\*All prices are approximate. For stockists, see page 160.