



← **BESPOKE CABINETS**

The Davidsons chose **Shaker-style tulipwood furniture** by Woodchester Cabinet Makers, **hand-painted in Radicchio and Bone**, both by Farrow & Ball

FLOORING →

Kate wanted the warm tones of a Cotswold stone floor but also something hard-wearing, so chose this **Seashell Alea limestone** from Mandarin Stone

↓ **DINING AREA**

The **wooden table** provides the perfect place for Kate to read to the children. For a similar design, try The Cotswold Company's Farmhouse Style table

AS SEEN IN
BEAUTIFUL
KITCHENS
MAGAZINE

RIGHT ON TIME

The Davidsons chose colour to add personality to their kitchen, finished in time to welcome baby number three



KATE AND RICHARD DAVIDSON LIVE IN A VICTORIAN PROPERTY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE WITH CHILDREN, BEATRICE, FIVE, DULCIE, THREE, AND WILLIAM, NINE MONTHS

Standing in the middle of the Woodchester Cabinet Makers showroom, a pregnant Kate Davidson and her husband Richard had a decision to make. 'Should we get the kitchen done before the baby's arrival or wait to start the project afterwards?' recalls Kate. Already parents to two daughters, Kate, a full-time mum, and Richard, a scriptwriter, had their hands full. 'I think we knew that if we waited, it would be even harder to get started once we had three children,' laughs Kate. 'So, in the end, my due date became the impetus to get going and get going quickly.'

Having bought their Victorian home about three years earlier, Kate and Richard had inherited a kitchen that was in dire need of an update. 'It hadn't been touched for years,' says Kate. The small kitchen was separated from an even smaller utility room by a thick retaining wall, with a leaking lean-to beyond. 'When we bought the house, we knew the kitchen was the area that needed attention,' explains Kate. 'We asked everyone for ideas and eventually, a plan began to take shape.'

Their first step was to remove the dividing wall between the old kitchen and utility, replacing it with a steel joist in the ceiling to support the structure. Then it was a case of demolishing the old lean-to, and replacing it with a new extension with double doors leading out onto the south-facing garden. 'This created one large room with ▶



BK says A peninsula is an easy way to define different zones. The Davidsons have used theirs to separate the kitchen and dining areas

COOKING AREA

Kate uses the **three-oven gas-fired Aga** frequently. Designer Tim added a bar to the shelf above for hanging cooking utensils



BK loves
...mixing and matching cabinetry colours



DRESSER-STYLE CUPBOARD

The original Victorian dresser was restored by Woodchester Cabinet Makers and painted in Bone by Farrow & Ball. The inset panels are perforated metal

'I REALLY LIKE THE WAY THE NEW ROOM IS "ZONED" INTO DINING, COOKING AND UTILITY AREAS. IT HAS EVERYTHING WE NEED, YET STILL FEELS SPACIOUS'



PRICE GUIDE
Starting price
£15,000
for a Woodchester Cabinet Makers kitchen

lots of natural light,' remembers Kate. 'It also made extra space for dining, cooking and a utility area, without feeling cramped.'

Following a friend's recommendation, Kate and Richard met with designer Tim Buckingham of Woodchester Cabinet Makers. 'As soon as we walked into the showroom, we felt the furniture would suit a period house,' recalls Kate. 'I don't like flouncy, traditional styles, so Tim's simple and restrained designs were much more up my street. Plus, I loved the fact that we could choose any colour we wanted.'

Colour, admits Kate, is something that she adores. 'If you can be bold with colour, the result can be more pleasing than something pale, which could look washed out in a large room like this,' she advises.

After poring over paint charts, a shade of red was their choice, much to Tim's surprise. 'Most people go for creams, greens and light blues, so this was a bit different,' he laughs. 'But now I can see why Kate and Richard chose it, as it adds real warmth and vibrancy to the room.' The couple then decided to paint some of the cabinetry in pale Bone by Farrow & Ball, to provide balance, with a pewter-coloured Aga and grey-toned Grigio Argento granite worktops for contrast.

Everything was considered, and with the clock ticking, the kitchen was completed just in time, including the restoration of an original Victorian dresser cupboard. 'Everything had to be planned meticulously, working backwards from Kate's due date,' recalls Tim. Fortunately, baby William was in no hurry. 'He arrived a week late, so we even had time to admire the new room before he appeared,' smiles Kate. **BK**

FEATURE MEL RUSSELL PHOTOGRAPHY ROWLAND ROQUES-ONEIL



BUILT-UNDER OVEN

Built into one side of the peninsula, a multifunction oven by Neff is handily positioned below the main prep and serving area of the kitchen

WET AREA

The one-and-a-half-bowl Ariane sink is complemented by an Olympus monobloc mixer tap, both by Franke. Kate and Richard visited Bristol Marble Company's stone yard and chose Grigio Argento granite for their worksurfaces

DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Tim Buckingham at **Woodchester Cabinet Makers**, Unit N6A, Inchbrook Trading Estate, Woodchester GL5 5EY (01453 835580) www.woodchestercabinetmakers.co.uk
- Bespoke, hand-painted tulipwood cabinetry with solid birch furniture

WORKTOPS

- Grigio Argento granite, Bristol Marble Company. Price per sq m **£350**

FLOORING

- Seashell Alea limestone tiles, Mandarin Stone. Price per sq m, from **£64.14**

SINKS & TAP

- ARXI60D Ariane undermounted one-and-a-half-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke **£436**

- Olympus C-spout monobloc mixer tap in Silk Steel, Franke **£208**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- Three-oven, gas-fired Aga in Pewter, from **£6,995**
- C67M70 built-in multifunction oven, Neff **£846**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated larder fridge, Neff **£511**
- Fully integrated freezer, Neff **£432**
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Neff **£590**

For stockists, see page 135

PLAN SCALE 1cm:1m

THE KITCHEN AT A GLANCE

