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'I LOVE ITS CLASSIC COUNTRY CHARM'

An extension helped to create a spacious kitchen and dining area in a traditional farmhouse kitchen



Lisa Leek, 30, lives in Gloucestershire

Before

An arched wall divided the original kitchen and breakfast room, and a dated brick-built island took up space in the centre.

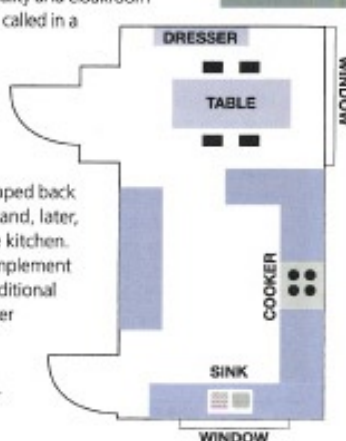
When Lisa Leek, 30, and her husband Chris, 31, made the move from London to Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire, they chose a 17th-century Cotswold-stone farmhouse. 'Chris grew up in this area and he's happy to have come back,' says Lisa. 'We love living in the countryside and still have the benefits of good road links to London.'

With help from both sets of parents, Lisa and Chris demolished the arched wall that separated the original kitchen and breakfast room. They also knocked through walls to the adjoining study, utility and cloakroom to enlarge the kitchen even further. The couple then called in a team of builders to level the floor and ceiling.

'As it's so old the house has no straight lines, so it helped to have units custom-made to give a neat finish,' says Lisa. They chose Woodchester Cabinet Makers, who planned the design and layout to make best use of the space. Before the units were fitted, local decorator Mark Pontin stripped back the black-stained beams to reveal the natural oak and, later, once the units were in place, he painted the entire kitchen.

The couple chose fresh green for the units to complement the pale stone flooring and oak beams, giving a traditional look that was enhanced by modern appliances. After four months of hard work the transformation was complete and Lisa and Chris could finally enjoy cooking and entertaining in their new-look kitchen.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



CLEVER IDEA

Separate sets of double wall cupboards are a better way to create a country look than an uninterrupted run of units.

WORKTOP

The black granite provides contrast to the green cabinets, stone floor and white walls, and sits well with the modern chrome and stainless-steel finishes.

WOODWORK

Paint in Cooking Apple Green by Farrow and Ball gives a country feel that blends perfectly with this style of kitchen. The colour is fresh and easy to live with.

CUPBOARD DOORS

Round doorknobs in chrome create a subtle but effective link with the kitchen's new appliances and taps.

SINK

A double farmhouse sink is typical of country style and gives ample space for washing up. A tall curved mixer tap with porcelain lever handles completes the rustic arrangement.

RANGE COOKER

The modern range cooker makes entertaining a breeze. The graphite grey and stainless steel link with the dark worktop and contrast with the units.

FLOORING

Pale travertine tiles have a subtle natural pattern. Four different-sized tiles are arranged in a classic pattern, known as Roman Opus. The outline of the tiles adds a subtle geometric design and interest to the open floor.

"We celebrated our first Christmas in the new kitchen with both our sets of parents. It was a very special occasion!" says Lisa

{ MAKEOVER £29,280

THE KITCHEN WALLS
are not completely
FLUSH, SO WE HAD
the units made to fit'
says Lisa



- 1 The elegant tap has lever handles that are easy to use with wet hands. The spout swings aside to allow full use of the sink below.
- 2 A pull-out cupboard holds pots and pans conveniently close to the cooker.
- 3 Holes set in a diamond shape are an old-fashioned ventilation technique that now make a great design feature.



DRESSER

Tongue-and-groove-backed shelves, with glazed doors and an open section in the centre, provide a display area.

DINING TABLE

The table legs are painted green to match the units, while the oak top ties in with the beams and the chairs.



TEXT: NAHLE ELJAIM • PHOTOGRAPHS: ALISON HAMMOND

THREE OF A KIND

Traditional-style taps set the nostalgic mood in a period kitchen



◀ Retro chrome tap, £163.38, Franke

Garda chrome monobloc mixer, £74.99, Wickes

▲ Helmsshore chrome kitchen monobloc, £210.60, Shaws

SHOPPING LIST Walls painted in White Tie Estate emulsion, £25 for 2.5 litres, Farrow and Ball. Travertine Corinth floor tiles, £38 a sq metre, Mandarin Stone. Shaker-style units, painted in Farrow and Ball's Cooking Apple Green, £18,000; handmade oak dresser, £2500; all Woodchester Cabinet Makers. Doorknobs, from a selection by Dartington Ironmongers. Angola black granite worktop, from £300 a linear metre, Bristol Marble. Graphite dual-fuel range cooker, £2200; graphite chimney extractor, £470; both Britannia. Dishwasher, £450; fridge-freezer, £300; both Neff. Double bowl farmhouse sink, £305, Villeroy and Boch. Ionian two-hole sink mixer tap with lever handles, £230, Perrin and Rowe. Dining table, £1300; chairs, £135 each; both Parlour Farm. Roman blinds, £650, Loose Ends Fabrics. Knives on rack, £150 for a set of three, Global Knives. China from a selection by Royal Doulton. Cookware from a selection by Gordon Ramsay for Royal Doulton

WHAT IT COST

- Floor tiles **£1330**
- Units (including fitting, plumbing and electrics) **£18,000**
- Worktop (including fitting) **£4500**
- Dresser **£2500**
- Appliances **£2950**
- Total £29,280**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE 'WHERE TO BUY' PAGE AT BACK OF ISSUE