

idealthomemagazine.co.uk *More Ideas ♥ More Tips ♥ More Style*

BRITAIN'S BESTSELLING
HOMES MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2010 £3.20

Ideal Home

974 FRESH IDEAS for every room

*New-season looks
& best new buys
from the
high street*

FAST FIX
Update your
bathroom
for under £100

Be inspired!

**5 AMAZING
REAL HOMES
3 GORGEOUS LOOKS
FOR BATHROOMS**

BUYER'S GUIDES

SHAKER KITCHENS
BIG FAMILY TVS
SIGNATURE SOFAS
WASHER-DRYERS
KETTLES

HOW TO DO *boutique hotel style*



US \$8.99 AUS \$9.95 NZ \$10.95

October 2010
£3.20
BATCH 28/9/10

♥ STEAL THE STYLE FROM OUR FAVOURITE
LUXE HOTEL ♥ ADD A 'WOW' SOFA
♥ MIX OLD & NEW – THE NO-FAIL WAY



**AMAZING ROOM
TRANSFORMATIONS**
3 Inspirational
Kitchens



WE LOVE THEM
– SO WILL YOU!

10

New Feature
Wallpapers



EASY RECIPES
Scrummy
Sunday Roasts



**BEST BUYS &
EXPERT ADVICE**
Complete Guide
to Lighting

WOODCHESTER

Cabinet Makers

'Our reused kitchen looks brand new'

BEFORE



The Smiths refurbished their old units to get a hand-made look at a fraction of the price

For where to buy items shown, turn the page

Clare Smith had always wanted her children to grow up in the countryside, so when her journalist husband Phil went freelance, the family leapt at the chance to leave London for the Cotswolds. Unfortunately, their new home didn't have the idyllic country kitchen they had been dreaming of – instead, they were faced with a gloomy room that hadn't been touched for years.

The couple initially hoped to fit a new kitchen, but the position of the range meant there wasn't much scope for a change of layout. 'The units were solid oak, so we began to think about refurbishing instead of replacing,' says Clare. They asked a local kitchen company to renovate the cupboards, fit a new worktop and add extra storage, including Clare's much-loved larder. 'My friend had one and I had major larder envy,' she says. 'I'm only 5ft 11in, so they designed each shelf so I could reach it. It's totally built to suit us.'



Country cooker
The old cream range blends into the new scheme perfectly

Take the 60-second tour

THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom Victorian house in Selsley, Gloucestershire, bought three years ago.

WHAT IT COST

Cabinetry refurbishment, painting & iroko worktop £5,000
Granite worktop £200
Larder & dresser £3,200
Top £240
Tiles £120
Dishwasher £646
TOTAL £9,406

WHO LIVES HERE

Clare Smith, her husband, Phil, and their children, Ella, six, and Jamie, three.

WHAT THEY DID

Refurbished the old oak units, renovating and repainting them for a fresh look. They also replaced the scruffy tiled worktops and splashback, and had extra storage built to match the new-look units, including a larder unit and country-style dresser.

THE LOOK

Modern country, with cream-coloured units, iroko worktops and a classic farmhouse-style table and chairs.

LESSONS LEARNED

'Set aside some time to make a mood board – it's well worth it. I cut out lots of pictures from magazines of things I liked, and it helped me be clear about how to create the look I wanted.'



THE LAYOUT Everything stayed in the same place, with an L-shaped run of units and a large table and chairs at one end of the room. A new larder and dresser were made to fit the space at the far end



3 UPDATES FOR TIRED KITCHEN UNITS

1 Buy new doors If the carcasses are sound but you don't love the door style, you can simply buy new doors. Check all dimensions first as unit sizes may vary. Or get new doors tailor-made to fit your units by a company like Just Doors.

2 Apply fresh paint Wood doors can be sanded and repainted with eggshell

paint for a smart new look. For melamine doors, try a specialist spray paint for kitchen units – there's no sanding required.

3 Change the worktop A new worktop and splashback can revitalise a run-of-the-mill kitchen. Invest in natural wood, stone or a composite for a timeless update and add a matching upstand

Turn over to find out how Clare and Phil created their new kitchen >>>

KITCHEN IDEAS *Revamped units*



IDEA Swap full-depth wall cabinets for shallow ones to make a room feel more open

Country views
The muted colours and clutter-free feel let the views across the Severn Valley make more of an impact. 'The view seemed lost before, but now it's a real feature,' says Clare



Food cupboard
The new larder is Clare's favourite feature. Its shelves were built to fit her storage jars and boxes perfectly



Bespoke dresser
Clare and Phil enjoy cooking, so this dresser was built to store their collection of recipe books. It fits neatly into what was an unused area of the kitchen



How we did it

“Our kitchen company covered each door panel with MDF to hide the fussy Gothic-style pattern, then sanded and painted the frames and replaced the handles. They also removed the old open shelving beside the sink, which made the room look crowded. We kept the layout and appliances but we had a new larder and dresser built to match the revamped units, and replaced our old oven with an integrated dishwasher. We also got rid of the blue tiled worktop and replaced it with an iroko one, adding cream tiles behind the range. Removing the shelving, replastering and tiling cost around £2,000, and the work took two weeks.”

WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN

Cabinetry refurbishment and iroko worktops, around £5,000; **dresser**, from £1,200; **larder**, from £2,000; Premium Black granite worktops (by AGA), £200; all Woodchester Cabinet Makers. **Cabinets** painted in Bone estate eggshell, £42.50 for 2.5ltr; walls painted in White Tie estate emulsion, £26.50 for 2.5ltr; Farrow & Ball, Ionian 4072 **tap**, £240, Perrin & Rowe. **Cracked Brick Cream tiles**, £60 per sq m, Tile Trader. **Blinds** made in Up in The Air, £39 per m, Vanessa Arbuthnott. For similar **table and chairs**, try the Cargo American oak, from £999 for a table and four chairs, Frances Hunt. **Pendant light**, from £180, Trainspotters. **Chopping board**, £9.50; **enamel jars**, £15 for three; all Marks & Spencer. **Tea towels**, £5.99 for five, Sainsbury's. **Bread bin**, £65, Salt pig, £16; all Nigella Lawson range, John Lewis. For similar **mixing bowl**, try Divertment's, £20.50

For stockist details, turn to page 216

FEATURE AND STYLING: AMELIA THORPE PHOTOGRAPHS: ROWLAND ROGUES-ONEIL PLAN: PERSONAL ID