

'We went for full-on country'

Traditional farmhouse style is back - make it your own, like the Phillipses did in their kitchen

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Having survived 12 winters without heating in their kitchen, Clare and William Phillips decided it was about time to make the room more comfortable. In addition to heating and insulation, this part of their 350-year-old Cotswold stone cottage, near Stroud, also required underpinning. 'At the same time as fixing all this, we thought we'd replace the wobbly MDF units and level out the floor,' says Clare.

The couple found a local cabinet-maker to design and build Shaker-style units. Their old cupboard doors had been painted blue and Clare decided to have the new units finished in the same shade. She swapped the lino flooring for country-style reclaimed flagstones and splashed out on hard-wearing granite worktops. 'We were going to have cream ones, but I fell in love with the green granite,' she says.

Keen to make space in the kitchen for a small dining area, Clare and William relocated their freezer and washing machine to an outbuilding and asked their cabinet-maker to build a table and L-shaped bench to fit in one corner of the room. The dimensions of the table were designed to match the width and height of the couple's dining-room table, so they can push the two together when entertaining. 'We're thrilled with the finished result,' says Clare.



Neat seat
Built-in seating painted in the same shade as the kitchen units fits in with the relaxed country look

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THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom cottage near Stroud, Gloucestershire, built in the 17th century.

WHAT IT COST

Units, table and bench.....	£11,000
Worktops.....	£2,600
Flooring.....	£1,000
Sink and tap.....	£426
Appliances and splashback.....	£2,077
Wood-burning stove.....	£1,890
TOTAL.....	£18,993

WHO LIVES HERE

Clare and William Phillips, and their children Beatrice, 15, and Samuel, 13. The family moved into the house in May 1999.

WHAT THEY DID

Built a new roof with two skylights. Added insulation to the ceiling and internal walls, and replastered. Ripped out the old kitchen and replaced it with bespoke cabinets, granite worktops and a built-in seating area. Swapped the

lino flooring for flagstones and installed a wood-burning stove in an alcove.

THE LOOK

Welcoming country style, with blue-painted units, granite worktops and a flagstone floor.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Think about how much space you really need. We considered building an extension, but decided against it as we would have had to pay extra for more units and flooring. We found that we didn't need more space after all.”



THE LAYOUT There's a run of base units on either side of the kitchen, with a dining area at one end and a wood-burning stove at the other. The sink is beneath the window, with the range cooker opposite

Shaker palette
A cream and black range cooker contrasts with the blue-painted units. The couple had a wood-burning stove fitted to make the room cosier

**Where to buy
ITEMS SHOWN**

Bespoke Shaker units with Häfele Satin Chrome handles; bespoke dining table and storage bench, all £11,000, Woodchester Cabinet Makers. For similar paint for units, try Sky Blue Intelligent Eggshell, £23 for 1tr, Little Greene. Verde Veneto granite worktops, from £362 per linear m, Bristol Marble & Granite. ARX 160 stainless-steel sink, £278; Eiger tap in Silk Steel, £148, both Franke range, Kitchen Appliances 123. C54R60 built-in microwave, £459. Neff range; 90CHIM cooker hood, £179; S8K90 stainless-steel splashback, £129, both Belling range; all Appliance Source. Classic 90FT range cooker in Cream, £879, Belling range, John Lewis. Pioneer Oven wood-burning stove in Classic Black, £1,890, Clearview Stoves. For similar flagstones, try the New Fossil Mint, £36 per sq m, Masco Architectural Salvage. Cushions, from left: Embroidered floral cushion, £65, Snapdragon range, Notonthehighstreet.com; Dandelion One cover in Pale Green, £32; Hedgerow cover in Grey/Green, £36, both Angle Lewin range, St Jude's. Cast-iron 5ltr casserole in Cream, £40, Cook's Collection range, Sainsbury's

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How we did it



“ We hired a local builder to replace the roof over the kitchen, insulate and replaster the walls, and level the concrete floor, which took eight weeks and was done at the same time as other work in the house. We set up a makeshift kitchen in our dining room to use while the work was going on. The bespoke units were installed two weeks after the building work was finished. The layout we chose provided a dining area at one end of the room, but meant we lost cabinet space, so we had extra storage built into the L-shaped bench. The fitting took three weeks and the cost was included in the £11,000 price tag of the units, table and bench. Last of all, we asked a specialist to build a new chimney and paid £1,110 to have the wood burner fitted into an alcove. ”



Hidden depths

Under-seat storage within the bespoke bench is handy for stowing away bulky cookware, making up for lost cabinet space



Country chic

Hand-built, blue-painted cabinets, smart granite worktops and reclaimed flagstones give this trad kitchen a luxury feel



Love their
STYLE?

THE UNITS ARE FROM
WOODCHESTER CABINET
MAKERS [££](#). FOR SIMILAR,
TRY HOMEBASE'S ARUNDEL
[£](#) OR JOHN LEWIS OF
HUNGERFORD'S
SHAKER [£££](#)

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Clare and William created their new kitchen