TO THE MANOR BARN

This couple decided to extend and invest in their Cotswolds home to enhance their lifestyle.

Owners Les and Claire Halpin and their cat Binks, have lived in this 200-year-old barn conversion near Tetbury, Gloucestershire since 2002 and recently embarked on a two-storey extension. Les is a company director and Claire is a conservation volunteer for the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

So what was on their wish list for the new kitchen? “The design of the central peninsular was our idea although kitchen designer Tim Buckingham put in all the other features,” says Les. For their new 40 sq m hand-designed kitchen the couple used Woodchester Cabinet Makers. They sourced the appliances independently and settled on European oak cabinetry with chrome bar handles and emerald pearl granite worktops. Opposite the central island unit the cooking zone features a range cooker, combination oven, warming drawer and pullout larder for storing groceries and essential condiments and ingredients. Les continues, “We also had a particular desire having lived in the US, for cold water and ice on tap – so space for an American style fridge freezer was high on the list of requirements.”●●●

Real homes

"The light-filled kitchen is a contemporary functional space complete with European oak cabinets, modern appliances, pearl granite worktops and soft limestone flooring."

"This project was designed to be our dream kitchen and ensuite bathroom. We didn't really have any major budget constraints, as we knew we wanted to spend the money rather than have any regrets later on. Essentially we wanted to add value to our lifestyle and were prepared to invest in the property in order for us to gain benefit and value and essentially to save on the costs and hassle associated with moving," says Les.

The central peninsular unit features ample storage and shelves to display recipe books, plus an additional integrated fridge. A double bowl gamekeeper sink sits flush underneath the window, with the dishwasher located next to the main sink.

The integrated washing machine and dryer are located in the utility part of the kitchen which also features a single stainless steel sink close to the stable door for easy access when gardening. Even Binks should be happy – rather than cut holes in the beautiful oak doors, there's even a cat tunnel that's been built especially for him. SAs the new walls are somewhat narrower than the existing ones we were able to install a cat tunnel into the wall cavity with a flap on each end to prevent draughts. It didn't take Binks too long in training and he's quite happy with it although it still doesn't prevent him from bringing in local wildlife!" smiles Claire. ●

Details

Kitchen design Woodchester Cabinet Makers
01453 835 580
www.woodchestercabinetmakers.co.uk

Miele Cooker hood DA424V, Dishwasher G2552SCi, Integrated fridge K621 Ui-1, Combination oven H4020BM, Warming drawer EGW4061-14, Washing machine W2839 WPM, Tumble dryer T4839ci
0845 365 6600 www.miele.co.uk

Maytag American style stainless steel fridge freezer GC2225GEKS **0844 499 0101**
www.maytag.co.uk

Mercury Dual Fuel range cooker in stainless steel RC1090 **0870 756 1236**
www.mercury-appliances.co.uk

Harsa Double bowl gamekeeper sink
0845 201 3040 www.sinks.co.uk

Franke ARX11035 stainless steel undermounted sink
01614 366 280 www.franke.co.uk

Perrin & Rowe Mimas single lever sink mixer tap with 'C' spout in chrome
01708 526 361 www.perrinandrowe.co.uk