



'This wood is just so warm'

Give in to the warmth and texture of solid oak, as the Osbornes did

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

BEFORE



Doing up the kitchen was the biggest job facing Kathy and Matthew Osborne when they bought their Kent home. 'It was too small, with a half-wall dividing the cooking and dining areas,' says Kathy. 'It had orange, green and brown tiles, melamine units and Formica worktops.' This was a far cry from the kitchen they wanted - something light and elegant with loads of storage.

By knocking out the annoying half-wall, the couple had the whole space to play with and, as a keen cook, Kathy set about planning a better layout that included a central island unit where people could perch and chat to her while she worked. When it came to choosing units, a bespoke, hand-painted kitchen was originally top of the couple's wish list. 'We like painted kitchens because you can update them easily with new paint,' says Kathy, 'but we spotted this one in a magazine and visited the showroom to see it. It was well made, chic and looked bespoke with its beautiful curved end units, so we decided to get it. If I wanted to, I could still update it with a lick of paint, so really, this kitchen is just as timeless.'

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
the couple created their new kitchen

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THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, detached Thirties house in Kent.

WHAT IT COST

Units and island.....	£15,175
Appliances.....	£7,526
Worktops and splashback.....	£2,500
Sink and tap.....	£797
Flooring.....	£1,100
Stools.....	£825
Paint.....	£195
TOTAL.....	£28,118

WHO LIVES HERE

Kathy Osborne and her husband Matthew. The couple moved here in August 2010. Their son and daughter have now left home.

WHAT THEY DID

Removed a half-wall to turn the kitchen and an adjoining dining area into one space. They rearranged the layout to make it more practical and added a central island.

THE LOOK

Luxurious country, with curved solid-oak units, rounded granite worktops and splashback, and a big range cooker.

LESSONS LEARNED

“You must be organised and plan well. We arranged the schedule so that the tradesmen fitted in with one another. We shopped around, using the internet and showrooms, and always asked for the best price from several suppliers. I got quite a few discounts that way.”



THE LAYOUT An island occupies the centre, with units and the range along one wall. Opposite the garden doors are floor-to-ceiling larder cupboards in matching oak



Welcoming space
Kathy's gorgeous oak units and island warm up the large, light kitchen. 'The island is such a friendly focal point of the room,' she says

Love their
STYLE?

THESE UNITS ARE BY
NEPTUNE ££. FOR SIMILAR,
TRY TOM HOWLEY'S
TRADITIONAL OAK £££
OR SOLID WOOD KITCHEN
CABINETS' SHAKER
RANGE £



Natural beauty
The veined texture of the pale granite worktops and splashback add interest to the neutral colour scheme



Larder cupboard
As well as holding dry goods, the tall unit also conceals the fridge-freezer



Island life

The island serves as a place to eat. 'It's also practical because it provides storage and work space,' says Kathy



How we did it

“I planned the layout myself, with help from our kitchen designer. The central island was the starting point, then we positioned the oven in the middle of the run of units. There are only two wall units, to give an open feel, but I went for a tall cupboard at one end of the room instead, which hides appliances and serves as a larder. We wanted white granite for the worktops and splashback as it's durable, goes well with the oak and helps to keep the room light. The Amtico flooring is hard wearing and practical – ideal as we have a dog and lots of guests. A local tradesman installed the units for us for £2,000 and fitting was included in the price for the flooring. The whole project took 12 weeks.”

**Where to buy
ITEMS SHOWN**

Henley solid oak **units**, £540 for a 440mm one-door base **unit**, Neptune range; hand-spun wooden **leg for island**, £250; Kashmir white granite **worktops** and **splashback**, £325 per sq m; Suffolk solid oak **bar stools**, £275 each; all Surrey Furniture & Kitchens. For a similar **range**, try the Falcon 1000 Deluxe DF, £3,060, CookersAndOvens. Falcon super-flat **hood**, £818, Marks & Spencer. Elba ELK 651 **ceramic sink**, £441; Swiss Pro **tap**, £356; all Franke. Amtico limestone **flooring** in Biscuit, £70 per sq m, Carpet Creations. **Walls** painted in Joa's White Estate Emulsion, £32.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. 1.7ltr Dome **kettle**, £74.50, Dualit. Artisan stand **mixer**, £399, KitchenAid range, John Lewis. For similar **steamer**, try Prestige's 18cm, £50, Amazon.co.uk. For similar **teapot**, try the Coombe stoneware, £30, Jasper Conran range, Debenhams. Large **mugs** in Pumice, £25, Toast

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