

The

ENGLISH HOME

Celebrating the essence of English style

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A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Four beautiful homes given a new lease of life

First impressions

Smart decor, flooring & lighting for halls

Embrace pattern

from delicate florals to botanical motifs

Made to measure

Built-in storage to control clutter

Antiques

The aesthetic investment

Chic in the country

William Yeoward's insightful approach to rural style



CLASSIC DAMASKS | KITCHEN ISLANDS | GUEST ROOM BUYS





Light pours into the kitchen through French doors, which lead onto a courtyard garden, making this a sublime spot at which to take breakfast.

RIGHT A climate- and temperature-controlled wine fridge is only one of the sophisticated features of this granite-topped kitchen island. Other appliances include a five-zone induction hob, preparation sink and Zip Hydrotap.



EASY ELEGANCE

This Georgian kitchen was remodelled to combine classic looks with a sophisticated design and layout that cleverly incorporates state-of-the-art appliances

The owners of this kitchen, set within a generously proportioned Georgian home in the Bath countryside, had a bold vision for how it should complement the rest of their refurbished home. They wanted it to possess a timeless elegance, be welcoming to visitors but also carry top-of-the-range accessories and fittings. Most important of all, however, was that it should have an Aga at its heart.

What awaited Tim Wood, who was appointed the task of turning the owners' dreams into reality, was a dimly-lit room that hadn't been altered in over 25 years. "It was a lovely room but I think some of the kitchen cupboards were about 70 years old," recalls the John Makepeace-trained designer of bespoke furniture, kitchens and bathrooms.

Tim soon realised that he had his work cut out for him, but his labours have been

rewarded with dramatic effect. Where once there stood two old cupboards, slim French doors now frame a view of the Bath countryside and connect the kitchen to the conservatory. On the other side of the room, more French doors open onto a small courtyard garden and allow daylight to spill in. "I think it's important for a kitchen of this quality to have some views, plus quite a lot of light pouring in, which is what it now has," observes Tim.

From another elevation of the kitchen, a door leads to a generously proportioned utility room. This room complements the kitchen with additional expansive storage cupboards, Belfast sink and worktop, but also provides a discreet area for the washer and dryer.

Fundamental to this kitchen design was an island unit which, in addition to offering a useful workspace, anchors together these various elements of the room. ▶

Kitchen Case Study



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Under-unit lights in the larder make it easy to locate dry goods. In the main kitchen area, bespoke wicker baskets introduce a soft touch to the cabinetry and are perfect for storing away tea towels and general kitchen accessories. The island unit doubles as a seating space and helps to draw the various elements of the room together. A specially commissioned mosaic with a nautical theme complements the Aga.

As is to be expected, the cream Aga now occupies pride of place in the principal work area, yet its homely appeal belies a modern edge — a theme that runs throughout the kitchen. The programmable electric stove is ideal for the owners, who are often away. “You can also turn an electric Aga up or down, which is brilliant, and you don’t need a flue, either,” adds Tim.

The owners love to entertain so the traditional stove is supported by a hob and two Gaggenau ovens, one of which is a combination steam oven. “There is a very large catering space and the different systems are useful in the event of caterers coming in and needing to use the kitchen,” explains Tim. He also persuaded the owners to install a hob identical to the one in their London home, for the sake of their convenience.

Other fittings include a Zip HydroTap, which provides instant boiling water and matches the nickel-plated taps on the double butler’s sink, and state-of-the-art fridges with motorised shelves and stainless steel interiors that are hidden behind finely honed cupboard doors. A programmable lighting system and under-floor heating complete the luxurious edge. “In the morning, there’s nothing nicer than coming down in your pyjamas and maybe barefoot or wearing

very thin slippers and feeling that warmth when everything outside is snow and ice,” says Tim, pointing out that heating is often an overlooked element in kitchen design.

Taking inspiration from the house’s Georgian detail, including the symmetry, ceiling and window heights, Tim introduced similar elements to the kitchen. Most evident in the refined height and width of the kitchen cupboards, these have electronically adjustable shelves, racked cutlery drawers as well as deep, pull-out drawers making it easy to store, and access, pots and pans. The neat brass knobs appearing on all the cabinet doors are specially manufactured replicas of an original Georgian design.

By way of a nod to the rural location, a series of wicker baskets, woven by a local supplier, interrupts the expanse of painted cabinetry in the kitchen. The owners also commissioned a local artist to produce a mosaic bearing a ship motif for the wall above the Aga, an individual touch that completes the look. ■

SHOPPING DETAILS

The elegant components of this kitchen will translate well into almost any home

UNITS: Doors with moulded frame to fielded panels, hung on satin chrome butt hinges. Drawers made with finger joints in oak on hidden, soft-close, under-mounted metal runners, all bespoke by Tim Wood.

WORKTOPS: Island unit in Rain Forest Green granite; other worktops in Verde Savannah granite with DuPont edging, all supplied by Tim Wood.

SINKS: Normandy double bowl sink and Belfast sink in utility room, both Brass and Traditional Sinks.

TAPS: Alsace sink mixers with lever handles and rinse (4776PF); Picardie monobloc sink mixer with lever handles (4761PF), both in brushed stainless steel finish, Perrin and Rowe.

APPLIANCES: Two-drawer fully integrated dishwasher (DD 6051 H), Fisher&Paykel; fully integrated dishwasher (DF 461-560); oven in stainless steel (BO 270-110); combination steam oven (BS270-110); microwave (BM 211-100); fully integrated coffee machine (CM 210 - 110); warming drawer (WS 260-110); Two integrated fridge/freezers (RB 491-200); temperature-controlled wine fridge (RW 404-260); induction hob (CI 491-110), all Gaggenau.

FLOORING: Limestone tiles. Similar available from Limestone Gallery.