

REAL KITCHENS PLANNING TRENDS SHOPPING EXPERT ADVICE

# BEAUTIFUL KITCHENS

## Living INSPIRATION

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SOLUTIONS  
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■ HOW TO CREATE A FEATURE FLOOR ■ CHOOSING SINKS AND TAPS

## 5 TIPS FOR TAPS

- It's important to choose your tap according to whether you have a high or low pressure system.
- If the tap is to be fitted into the worksurface (known as deck mounted), make sure that the arc of the tap is large enough to allow the water to run into the middle of the bowl.
- Try tap controls before buying, as if anyone in the family has restricted hand manoeuvrability, some levers/handles will be easier to operate than others.
- Remember that it's possible to reduce the pressure of incoming mains water if the flow is too fierce, simply by adjusting the stopcock.
- Matt finishes will always look better for longer than shiny mirror finishes unless, of course, you're prepared to polish with a dry cloth every day.

▼ **MONOBLOC** Newform's QB single-hole monobloc mixer tap turns on and off by turning a block. In chrome or brushed steel, around £308 from Tap Centre



▼ **THREE-HOLE MIXER** The contemporary Oasis tap features modern crosshead handles in a chrome finish. Priced from £540 by Second Nature



**DESIGNER TIP** 'THE MOST POPULAR TAPS AT THE MOMENT ARE THE TRIFLOW MODELS AND INSTANT HOT WATER TAPS' CHERYL LONGFIELD, DESIGNER, ROUNDHOUSE

## TAPS CHECKLIST

**MATERIAL DECISIONS** Steel or chrome taps suit most contemporary schemes, while brass, nickel and gold finishes may look better in period-style rooms.

Try Perrin & Rowe or for bronze taps, try Eclectica.

**STYLE CHOICES** For a space-saving, minimal look, a monobloc mixer tap is your best bet.

It only needs one hole in the sink or worksurface and can have either crosshead handles or levers to control temperature and flow through a single spout. Other options include a three-hole mixer, which consists of a spout and two separate crosshead handles or levers. Pillar taps are a great choice to complement a traditional-style kitchen.

**ADDED CONVENIENCE** The latest idea is the hot water tap that will dispense water hot enough (98-100°C) to make drinks, fill up pans for cooking and sterilise bottles. Some have built-in filters and all need space for a two- to three-litre tank beneath the worksurface. Look at models from Quooker, Zip Heaters and Franke (see box, right).

**UNDER PRESSURE** Your hot water pressure should measure above 0.1 bar to allow a high-pressure tap to function correctly. Cold water pressure shouldn't be a problem as it will be coming direct from the mains. If you have a combi boiler, unvented high-pressure system or a gravity-fed system with a pump, then a high-pressure tap can be used. As a guideline, single-lever mixer taps operate best with a high-pressure system. Individual hot and cold pillar taps and taps that have two separate controls for hot and cold can be used with a low-pressure system.



▼ **SPRAY TAP** This Fuji monobloc mixer by Franke has a single lever control and pull-out hose extension for rinsing. Available in chrome or Silk Steel. From £176 at Tap Centre

▼ **PILLAR** Mayan Bibcock deck-mounted pillar taps with crosshead handles, shown in Inca Gold, cost around £246 from Perrin & Rowe by Triflow Concepts. Also available in chrome, nickel and pewter

▼ **FILTER** Triflow's TF-KT32C monobloc mixer tap has a C-spout and central filtered water lever. It is available in chrome, nickel or pewter and costs about £460. Kitchens by Roundhouse start from £25,000

## HOT WATER ON TAP

De-clutter your worksurface and have practically unlimited hot water to use for drinks, filling pans, sterilising bottles, making instant sauces or even for warming platters and serving bowls with a hot water tap. The vacuum tank sits beneath the worktop and provides from three to seven litres of hot, filtered water, depending on the model. A Quooker boiling water tap costs around 3p per day to run, and is available in six finishes and four designs. Shown here is the Modern version in Polished Chrome, from £790. You can also try the Little Butler hot water tap by Franke, In-Sink-Erator's Hot Water tap or Zip's Hydrotap.



☎ For stockists, see page 144

#### PLATE RACK

Everyday crockery is stored on a rustic-style plate rack and has a display shelf above

#### SINK AREA

A Franke double-bowl Belfast ceramic sink is accompanied by a Perrin & Rowe Oberon tap and a Quooker Design boiling water tap

#### WORKTOPS

Bale Beige marble surfaces from Quality Marble have a tabletop profile and continue as a splashback behind the sink



'MY TOP TIP IS TO MAKE SURE YOU CHECK AND RECHECK EVERY DIMENSION, ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE BUILDING YOUR KITCHEN OR LAYOUT FROM SCRATCH'



two of its ranges with the help of designer Jamie Ellis. Now known as the Edwardian design, their kitchen features framed cabinet fronts, pilasters and a stunning oak mantel above the Aga. Soft cream units echo the marble worktops. 'Although it's grander than a typical farmhouse, we kept to a classic scheme,' says Claire. 'I love natural products, such as wood and stone, and it was important that the design flowed from the kitchen through to the rest of the house.'

'We knew we wanted an Aga and bar stools at an island, so Harrison could sit there and be with us while we cook,' continues Claire. Engraved drawers on the dresser and the Butler's pantry add an individual touch. 'The only downside is that once Harrison learnt to read, there was no keeping him out of the cake drawer!' laughs Claire.

Now that the kitchen is complete, Claire and Alan have a well-planned, elegant scheme. 'It had always been our dream to design our own home and when everything came to fruition, we felt a great sense of achievement,' she smiles.

**PRICE GUIDE**  
Cabinetry only  
**£66,000**  
for this Charles Yorke kitchen

**DINING AREA**

An existing pine dining set has been painted in Farrow & Ball's Clunch, then waxed and distressed. A tongue-and-groove-backed Welsh dresser matches the cabinetry.

**THE KITCHEN AT A GLANCE**

**DESIGN & CABINETRY**

- Jamie Ellis at **Charles Yorke**, Prospect Close, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire NG17 7LF (01623 756080) [www.charlesyorke.com](http://www.charlesyorke.com)
- Bespoke European oak furniture with hand-painted European oak units from the Edwardian range



**WORKTOPS**

- Bale Beige marble, Quality Marble. Price per sq m, from **£800**
- Travertino Walnut marble, Quality Marble. Price per sq m, from **£800**
- 60mm oak. Price per sq m **£764**
- 40mm oak. Price per sq m **£150**

**FLOORING**

- Napoli limestone, Stratford Tile Warehouse. Price per sq m **£69.99**

**SINK AND TAPS**



- VBK720 Belfast double-bowl ceramic sink, Franke **£458**
- 4866 Oberon C-spout monobloc mixer tap in chrome with separate rinse, Perrin & Rowe **£261**
- Design instant boiling water tap in chrome, Quooker **£732**
- ISE65 waste disposal unit, In-Sink-Erator **£185**

**APPLIANCES (shown)**

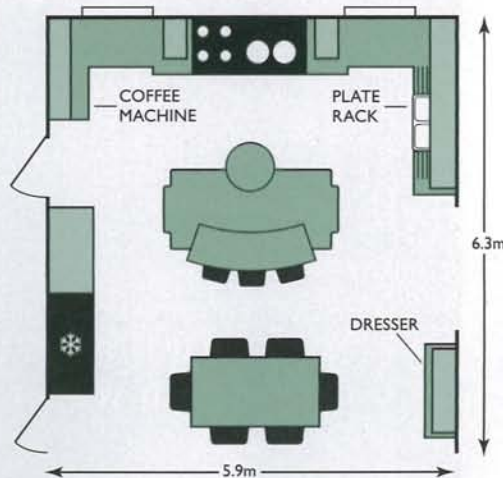
- Three-oven AIMS electric Aga with separate module in Black **£11,540**
- Built-in microwave, for similar try M8161-2, Miele **£643**
- CVA3660 built-in coffee machine, Miele **£1,494**
- Integrated fridge freezer with wine cooler, for similar try SBSes7155, Liebherr **£4,000**



**APPLIANCES (not shown)**

- Fully integrated dishwasher, Miele **£1,579**

For stockists, see page 144



'I WISH I'D ALLOWED FOR MORE POWER POINTS. WHEN YOU START A KITCHEN FROM SCRATCH, IT'S THAT KIND OF THING YOU HAVE TO THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT'



#### TRADITIONAL-STYLE SINKS AND TAPS

Jessica chose to have a **monobloc with a rinse** and a **three-hole mixer tap** both in gold, by Perrin & Rowe. The **Classic Double Bowl 800 sink** came from Shaws of Darwen, while the **bronze boiling water tap** is by Quooker. Jessica says it's the gadget the family get the most use out of as it provides instant hot water for making tea and coffee

also got on really well with designer Jennifer Moss. She seemed to be on our wavelength and, as luck would have it, she was able to recommend a builder who could manage the whole project.'

While the structural work was being carried out, Jessica and Martin, a sales director, had no kitchen, so lived on takeaways. 'Two of the first appliances to be installed were the range cooker and the fridge freezer, so they dictated the colours we used and the kitchen was designed around them,' recalls Jessica. 'After playing around with samples, we decided to go with cream for the cabinets and green for the island.'

The traditional-style cupboards include a tall larder, which houses a microwave and offers a variety of clever storage options. Inside and elsewhere, words have been carefully carved in the oak detailing. 'This sort of thing makes the kitchen very personal to us,' smiles Jessica. Other points of detail are the false drawers and cupboards at each end of the island, which add interest to the unit.

The island itself acts as a dividing line between the cooking and dining areas and has a round oak breakfast bar that extends out from it, although Jessica and Martin are still deciding what stools to add. The rest of the island is topped with granite to provide a vast work surface. 'I had limited space in my previous kitchen, so I really appreciate this, plus the preparation sink is invaluable,' says Jessica.

Designed to help link the dining area to the kitchen, a tall, recessed cupboard has new doors that have been painted to match the cabinets, while the addition of patio doors to the garden means guests can go outside in the summer. 'I think one of the best things about this new kitchen is that it's become a much more sociable room,' enthuses Jessica. 'The classic design means that, hopefully, it won't date and it's now far more in keeping with the period and style of our house.'

FEATURE CAROLYN HARRISON PHOTOGRAPHY BRIAN HARRISON



#### A VISION IN CREAM

Jessica and Martin built their kitchen around the fridge freezer and matching Classic range cooker that are both by Rangemaster. The retro-style radio is by Bush and Typhoon makes similar scales



#### GOLD MIXER TAP

This Phoenician tap from Perrin & Rowe has a gold finish and a matching rinse attachment. The square ceramic prep sink is from Shaws of Darwen

#### BEAUTIFUL CARVED DETAILS

Sitting either side of the curved breakfast bar, two bespoke wine racks are carved with the words 'rouge' and 'blanc'. Between them, the oak shelves provide storage for 12 bottles of wine or Champagne





**PRICE GUIDE**  
Starting price  
**£15,000**  
for a Matthew Marsden Furniture kitchen

## THE KITCHEN AT A GLANCE

### DESIGN & CABINETS

- Jennifer Moss at **Matthew Marsden Furniture**, 28 Liverpool Road, Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire PR1 0DQ (01772 744165) [www.mmffurniture.co.uk](http://www.mmffurniture.co.uk)
- Bespoke oak and hand-painted oak cabinetry with glass units

### WORKTOPS

- Star Galaxy granite, Granite Tops UK. Price per sq m **£230**
- Oak. Price per sq m **£350**

### FLOORING

- Fossil Marfil Lappato Apava porcelain tiles, Casa Ceramica. Price per sq m **£87.50**

### SINKS AND TAPS



- Classic Double Bowl 800 undermounted ceramic Belfast sink, Shaws of Darwen **£400**
- Belthorn undermounted single-bowl ceramic sink, Shaws of Darwen **£200**
- 4771IG Alsace three-hole crook-style mixer tap in gold, Perrin & Rowe **£310**

- 4360 Phoenician monobloc mixer tap in gold with separate rinse, Perrin & Rowe **£267**
- Classic boiling water tap in bronze, Quooker **£935**

### APPLIANCES (shown)

- Classic Deluxe 110 dual-fuel range cooker, Rangemaster **£1,450**
- SXS integrated fridge freezer, Rangemaster **£1,311**
- DF614BE integrated dishwasher, Smeg **£400**



### APPLIANCES (not shown)



- Freestanding microwave, Neff **£297**
- Canopy extractor hood in silver metallic grey, Neff **£239**
- Fully integrated washer dryer, AEG-Electrolux **£495**

☎ For stockists, see page 144



### SPACE STATION

Corners can waste space in a kitchen unless they are properly designed. Here, a bi-fold door opens to reveal a two-tier, rotating wire shelf that holds all of Jessica's cleaning products

**BK says**

There are now lots of great corner solutions on the market, from circular and kidney-shaped pull-out racks to drawer systems

