

AS  
SEEN IN  
BEAUTIFUL  
KITCHENS  
MAGAZINE

# A PRIME LOCATION

Moving the kitchen to the rear of their home allowed the Perrymans to create an open-plan scheme

Katie loves her character oak veneered central island as it boasts plenty of deep storage drawers. It also features period-inspired columns and subtle vertical fluting on the frames that complement the couple's Edwardian Arts and Crafts house. The reproduction windows were supplied by Clement Steel Windows and the blinds were made by Lyn's Soft Furnishings using fabric from Prestigious Textiles





Katie opted for a dual-fuel Britannia range cooker because she likes its gas burners. Behind, French glazed Storm tiles from Fired Earth's Moustier range complement the granite worksurfaces, while on the underheated floor, Papyrus Tumbled limestone tiles in different sizes from Mandarin Stone were chosen as they don't show marks

**RIGHT** A large fridge freezer easily meets the needs of a family of five. To the left are large storage cupboards for dry goods, such as pasta and rice

**BELOW** Attractive curved cabinetry either side of the sink breaks up the linear run of furniture. 'The wet area needed to sit below the window, so we installed two radius units either side to soften the look,' says designer Jonathan

**BOTTOM** The couple chose Stoneham's Lullingstone range because Katie particularly liked the integral trays and small drawers, which get a lot of use



'I wish we'd known that our double-bowl sink needed a tap with a large arch to stop it splashing on the granite that hangs over the central section. Luckily, designer Jonathan changed ours when we discovered it'

KATIE PERRYMAN



Katie Perryman and her husband Mark, who is a partner of an investment management company, planned to completely renovate their Edwardian house in Surrey when they bought it two years ago. 'We decided we really wanted to focus on the kitchen as it would be the centre of the house and we knew we would be spending a lot of time in there,' explains Katie, mum to Sam, seven, Toby, five, and Hannah, three.

With the original kitchen tucked away in the dining room at the front of the property, it didn't get much light. 'The back of the house is south facing and there's also a lovely view of the garden and the surrounding trees, so we wanted to make the most of it,' says teacher Katie. 'Also, the original kitchen was broken up into disjointed sections so I couldn't cook and keep an eye on the children at the same time.' With this in mind, the family decided to site the new kitchen at the back, knocking down two walls to create a larger space.

Next, Katie set about visiting kitchen companies, including nearby Thyme for Kitchens. 'I wanted to use

a local company as I thought it would make communication easier,' explains Katie. 'As well as finding the owners easy to talk to, the curved units from the Lullingstone range by Stoneham Kitchens immediately caught my eye in the showroom. I really wanted to base my kitchen around its attractive rounded cabinetry as I felt it would fit the symmetry of the rest of our house. I also liked the quirkiness of the furniture, such as the dedicated slots for storing handy trays and pull-out drawers.'

Designer Jonathan Bilson focused more on practicality than the room's appearance. 'Once I explained that the aesthetics of the kitchen were my priority, between us we came up with a design that was both practical and in line with the symmetry of the room,' recalls Katie. 'For instance, the sink was originally going to be over to one side with the dishwasher adjacent to it but I asked for it to be in the middle of the bay window as this would make everything feel more balanced.'

Once the layout was finalised, the family chose the cabinetry's finish, opting for character oak veneer that



A Neff microwave and warming drawer have been sited next to the door leading to the dining room so food can be transferred to the table quickly. Katie particularly wanted these twisted satin nickel handles from Stoneham Kitchens to add character. The walls are painted in calm Natural Calico by Dulux

**BELOW** A farmhouse-style sink comes in useful when washing fruit and vegetables. It has been paired with a Franke Trispray tap that has been modified with a large swan-necked spout so water won't splash or spray on the worksurface. The tap comes with a pull-out rinse, which can be used to wash food off plates, before putting them in the dishwasher, or clean the sink. Grooves carved into the surrounding Blue Pearl granite worktop create a useful place for crockery to drip dry

## DESIGN & CABINETS

- Jonathan Bilson at **Thyme for Kitchens**, The Old Post Office, Middle Street, Sher, Guildford, Surrey GU5 9HF (01483 203737) [www.thymeforkitchens.co.uk](http://www.thymeforkitchens.co.uk)
- Handmade character oak veneer furniture from the Lullingstone range by Stoneham Kitchens

## WORKTOPS

- Blue Pearl granite. Price per sq m **£508**
- Solid walnut. Price per sq m **£650**

## SINK & TAP

- VBK720 undermounted double-bowl Belfast ceramic sink, Franke **£458**
- Trispray monobloc mixer filter tap in Silk Steel with separate rinse, for similar try Tradition, Franke **£704**

## APPLIANCES (shown)

- SI10T6SLXK Sigma dual-fuel range cooker in black chrome, Britannia **£3,380**
- Built-in microwave, for similar try C54L70N, Neff **£545**
- Canopy extractor hood in stainless steel, for similar try ELIBLOCHT, Elica **£186**
- Built-in warming drawer, for similar try N22H40, Neff **£375**
- SBSes7155 integrated American-style fridge freezer; Liebherr **£3,299**

## APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated dishwasher; Neff **£654**

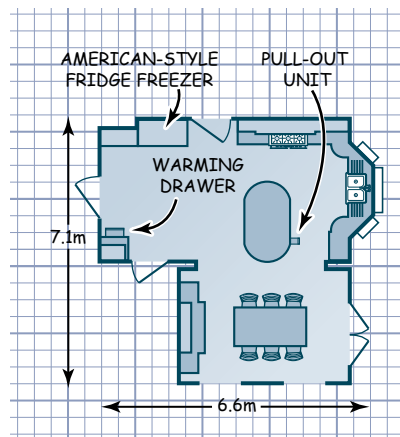
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*My favourite...* design element is the symmetry throughout the kitchen. We wanted to reflect the architectural feel of our Arts and Crafts house. For instance, the granite is cut at a curved angle and we have lots of smooth lines?

included two rounded cupboards. They also chose Blue Pearl granite worktops but were careful not to go overboard. 'We didn't want all the surfaces to be granite because I felt it would look hard and cold,' explains Katie. 'So we chose walnut for the island and the dresser.'

It wasn't all plain sailing, though. 'I had sleepless nights about that walnut worktop,' admits Katie. 'Some friends and family said I was mad to have such an impractical material. However, Mark and other friends agreed with me, so we stuck to our guns and I'm glad we did, as it really is a wonderful feature. It does take some effort to keep it looking good but it's worth it when we're standing around it with friends enjoying a glass of wine.'

The whole family loves sitting in the kitchen that, as hoped, gets the sun all day long. 'We have a lot of friends and family over now because there is plenty of space. We even had my parents' ruby wedding celebration here – the kitchen really came into its own catering for 60 people,' concludes Katie. 'I'm just so pleased that as well as being practical, we made sure it also looks beautiful.' **BK**



## GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a Thyme for Kitchens design **£15,000**