

Photography by Dave Curtis



Simply Stylish

A contemporary shaker kitchen takes pride of place in the extension of an 18th century Cotswolds cottage



When Deborah and Simon purchased their 18th century cottage in the Cotswolds, they knew that they would need to redesign the kitchen to suit their family. Whilst still in good condition, the previous kitchen wasn't their style. It was a typical example of a 1990's country kitchen and contained a variety of cabinets and appliances all competing for attention.

Something else to contend with was the layout. The Grade II listed cottage had been extended in the 1980s, but the floorplan really needed looking at afresh to get the space they wanted. "The ground floor layout didn't really flow for us," Deborah explains, "but we knew the property was special and we were confident that we could create a lovely kitchen and the other living space we wanted."

They began by replacing part of the 30 year old extension with a new, slightly larger one and, by moving an internal wall, created the open blank canvas they wanted.



Expert Tip

By slightly increasing the depth of the units we were able to increase storage space and keep cabinetry to a minimum

CAROLINE DUNN, Bespoke Kitchen Design

We wanted a design to stand the test of time, but also to feel fresh and even slightly contemporary

DREAM DESIGN

When it came to thinking about the design of the kitchen, Deborah had some very clear ideas and felt they needed to work with a company which could offer them a bespoke service, so they chose their local specialist, Bespoke Kitchen Design in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.

"Deborah came to us with a well-formed brief," says Bespoke Kitchen Design's Caroline Dunn. "She knew exactly how her family and the two children would use the space and she wanted a kitchen and dining room which would work for their everyday life, but could also be used for large family gatherings and grown-up entertaining."

The couple had some thoughts on the look of their new kitchen too. "Deborah and Simon's home has lots of period character and they wanted their kitchen to reflect this, but also to feel fresh and even slightly contemporary," Caroline says. "It had to complement the cottage and the traditional Cotswold stone, but we also wanted it to be light and modern," adds Deborah. "We wanted something which would stand the test of time."

The design Deborah and Simon settled on is a modern take on a traditional shaker kitchen. The styling, such as the flat drawer fronts, is deliberately simple to give a sleek look. The cabinets are handpainted in soft Farrow & Ball colours (Cornforth White and Pavillion Grey) and matched with white quartz counter tops, a classic cast iron double sink and tumbled limestone flags. Deborah and Simon sourced the cabinet handles themselves from a local hardware store.

SPLENDID STORAGE

One of Deborah's special requirements was to be able to keep her new kitchen clutter free. To

achieve this, designer Caroline incorporated plenty of clever storage. A generous island unit means that the space doesn't need to be dominated by wall to wall cabinetry.

Another of the kitchen's special features is a pair of large larder cupboards, one either side of the fridge freezer. The first contains the family's food stores, the second their crockery and glassware. As part of the same unit there is a cupboard in the corner on the counter top which has bi-folding doors and cleverly hides away the microwave and toaster.

"The whole project went very smoothly," says Caroline. "There were remarkably few challenges. We had several meetings to discuss the design and specification of the kitchen and Deborah felt that I understood what she wanted and was open to my ideas. We've created a light, airy and actually quite contemporary space which is perfectly in keeping with the period nature of Deborah and Simon's home."

Contact Details

■ BESPOKE KITCHEN DESIGN kitchens cost from £15,000. Call 01453 791 222 or visit bespokekitchendesign.co.uk.

