

ALL CHANGE

A modern scheme with traditional touches hits the right note in Christine and James Lewis's new kitchen extension

Feature **AMELIA THORPE**
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Project profile

THE OWNERS Christine and James Lewis, who are both retired

THEIR HOME A 1920s house in Hampshire

THE PROJECT The existing kitchen was extended to create a multifunctional space with direct access to the garden

ROOM SIZE 4.5 x 5m (kitchen area only)

DESIGNER Helen Munro at Roundhouse

CABINETRY Bespoke Urbo matt lacquer handleless units with oak trim by Roundhouse. Kitchens start from £30,000

BUDGET Undisclosed

Cool contrast

'White and grey can be a very cold combination, but there are so many elements here that add gentle warmth, creating a relaxed, calm mood, rather than a sterile one,' explains Roundhouse designer Helen Munro



On the tiles

Practical porcelain flooring was chosen for the kitchen and dining zone. It's durable, easy to maintain and can stand up to muddy shoes coming in from the garden

LEFT

Linear looks

Built-in Neff ovens are perfectly aligned to echo the streamlined style of the rest of the cabinetry

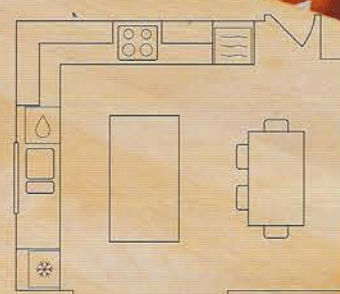
BELOW LEFT

Sew smart

Christine uses a pair of painted apothecary cupboards to store her embroidery threads, patterns and other sewing equipment



The layout



'HAVING A LARGER KITCHEN HAS TRANSFORMED THE WAY WE ENTERTAIN. IT FEELS EASIER AND MORE RELAXED TO BE ABLE TO CHAT WITH FRIENDS AND COOK AT THE SAME TIME'

As only the third owners of this 1920s red-brick house in the Hampshire countryside, Christine and James Lewis might have been tempted to opt for a traditional country-style kitchen to complement the age of the property. 'We did that when we moved in 21 years ago,' says Christine. 'Now it was time for something different.'

And it wasn't just the tired old oak cabinets that needed updating. 'With frequent visits from our family and grandchildren, we wanted to replan the whole layout in order to create a larger kitchen with room for a dining table, a comfortable seating area and

direct access to the garden,' explains Christine. 'Basically, we needed a kitchen that was more suited to the way we live now.'

It was the couple's son Patrick, of London-based Patrick Lewis Architects, who suggested increasing their existing space by adding a contemporary extension to the side of the house, complete with sliding doors leading outside and a large rooflight. The old kitchen has been transformed into a cosy sitting room at one end and a window-facing workspace for Christine's embroidery projects at the other.

Patrick invited Helen Munro of Roundhouse to come up with a practical layout and design bespoke cabinetry, as he had worked

with the company before. 'We wanted a light, bright and modern scheme, which was also smart and sophisticated,' says Christine. 'It was to be the complete opposite of the fussy feel we'd had before but still sympathetic to the rest of the house, so Patrick designed a striking blue central island using traditional joinery techniques to contrast with the modern handleless units.'

'The new kitchen looks very clean, but not clinical,' continues Christine. 'We opted for a shade of grey that's soft and creates a sense of calm, while the wood detailing, oak worktop and other timber elements in the room echo the country style of the original house.'



One direction

The bespoke island faces the large sliding patio doors so Christine can enjoy beautiful garden views while working

RIGHT

What's in store?

Behind the modern grey exterior lies beautiful oak interiors, which lend a more traditional feel

'I LIKE CONTRASTS BETWEEN OLD AND NEW, PALE AND DARK, BECAUSE THEY ADD INTEREST AND CHARACTER'



Sleek surface

Polished engineered quartz is hardwearing, nonporous and easy to clean, making it a hygienic, as well as good-looking kitchen worktop



All in a row

Thanks to customised drawer inserts, selecting herbs and spices is quick and easy

DESIGN SOLUTION *Designer Helen Munro explains...*

Can you describe the new layout?
It's a simple L shape, which lends itself to the rectangular aspect of the room. Tall cabinets at both ends start and finish the design, with a sweep of work surface in between. There are two main work zones included: the cooking area and sink.

Was storage an important factor?
Christine enjoys cooking and often makes her own preserves with fruit from the orchard and vegetables from the plot in the garden, so she

needed sufficient storage space for large pans, utensils and equipment. It was important that she could put everything away easily to keep the look uncluttered, so there's a mix of cupboards, plus deep and shallow drawers to cover all her needs.

Tell us about the cabinetry design
The soft grey lacquer of the units is sophisticated and its matt finish is soft and subtle. Oak detailing emphasises the linear design of the cabinetry and the slender white quartz worktop completes the

sleek finish. Together they create a contemporary backdrop to the traditional centrepiece island.

How did you choose the colour scheme?
Christine and James wanted a clean and unfussy look and we spent a lot of time testing a range of greys on mock-ups of the cabinets to find the right shade with just enough softness. The white worktop provides fresh contrast, while oak accents, such as the draw pulls, island, windowsill, table and chairs, boost the sense of warmth.

The details

CABINETRY Bespoke Urbo matt lacquer handleless units with oak trim, from £30,000, Roundhouse. **Cabinetry paint**, Steel Grey 2 eggshell, £32.40 for 2.5 litres, Dulux. **Bespoke island workstation** with a solid distressed oak worktop, £2,280, designed by Patrick Lewis Architects and made by Eastburn Country Furniture. **Island paint**, Pebble Drift 1 eggshell, £32.40 for 2.5 litres, Dulux

SURFACES Zodiac Snow White engineered quartz worktop; white back-painted glass splashback, prices on application, both

Roundhouse. Light Grey polished porcelain floor tiles, £39.98sq m, World's End Tiles. For similar red quarry floor tiles try Hadley Reclaimed, price on request. Smoked, distressed and natural oiled bevelled oak floorboards, £60sq m, Planks of Petersfield

APPLIANCES Built-in single oven, £720; built-in combination microwave, £670; four-burner gas hob, £291; fully integrated fridge freezer, £715; fully integrated dishwasher, £769, all Neff. Elibloc 9 80 2M built-in extractor hood, £183, Elica

SINK AND TAP Kubus KBX undermounted one-and-a-half-bowl sink, £464, Franke. Tara Classic monobloc mixer tap in polished chrome, from £414, Dornbracht. Evolution 200 waste-disposal unit, £236, InSinkErator

FINISHING TOUCHES Ebbe Gehl Mira table, £650, John Lewis. Wishbone in walnut with natural cord chair, £750, would suit this scheme; Akari 23A pendant light, £187, both The Conran Shop. 30-drawer chests, from £1,290 each, Kent and London. Original BTC Hector small pendants, £130 each, SCP