

Best of both WORLDS

Dave Kirkpatrick wanted a modern kitchen, but his partner Jayne Russell preferred traditional furniture. By combining the two styles the couple have created a design that suits them both

FEATURE CAROLINE FOSTER • PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES UNDERTON

Most kitchen designers are so busy focusing on the transformation of their clients' properties that they have no time to spare on their own. Dave Kirkpatrick, a designer for Loline Interiors, and his partner Jayne Russell longed to make their mark on their own kitchen, and finally their chance came. 'Together we'd redeveloped two houses with a view to selling them on and made sure that the decoration was neutral and the kitchens were very standard in style, so there was never any emotional involvement,' recalls Dave. 'That all changed when we spotted our present home, which required complete refurbishment. The house had great proportions and just tugged at our heartstrings, so we both felt strongly that this place would reflect our style.'

Extensive construction work was needed to bring the house and kitchen up to scratch, and the couple chose to remain in the property while the work was carried out. 'It was hell – the novelty wore off after two months,' says Dave, 'but it moved the project on, as we were on site to make instant decisions.'

DECIDING ON A STYLE

As the couple sat down to develop plans for the interior, they quickly found out

that while Dave preferred contemporary design, Jayne loved all things traditional. 'It came as a surprise to both of us, because in the past we'd been so like-minded when developing a property,' laughs Dave. 'So, we decided to merge our ideas.'

Uniting their preferred styles to form a working kitchen was a challenge and Dave initially had his doubts. 'It was never a case of me imposing my preferences on the design, as Jayne has a great sense of style, though I sometimes worried how it would all look when installed,' he admits. 'I like contemporary design, so we combined the modern appliances and granite worktops I favoured with traditional oak and cream cabinetry that Jayne really wanted.'

TWEAKING THE LAYOUT

Although the configuration of the kitchen, dining and living rooms didn't particularly suit their busy lifestyle, Dave and Jayne resisted the temptation to knock down walls to create one large space. 'We decided

that we'd prefer to keep the three rooms separate, but create more of an open-plan feel by remodelling the doorways and making them wider,' explains Dave. 'By doing this we now have a feeling of continuity as one room flows into the next, though I can still shut myself away ▶



CABINETRY

Dave and Jayne chose a mix of handpainted Eden Classic furniture in cream and natural Eden Oak units, both by Second Nature. The tongue-and-groove panelling and subtle distressed finish on the cream cabinetry fitted into Jayne's idea of a traditional-style kitchen



'We decided NOT TO SKIMP at all because we didn't want ANY REGRETS when the kitchen was complete. Therefore, we included everything on our WISH-LIST'

Kitchen FACT FILE



THE OWNERS Dave Kirkpatrick, a kitchen designer, and Jayne Russell, a sales executive, live with Oscar, their terrier puppy

THE HOME A 1920s four-bedroom detached house in Bedfordshire

THE CABINETRY Handpainted, solid oak units from the Eden Classic range with solid oak cabinetry from the Eden Oak range, both by Second Nature

PRICE GUIDE

£12,700

starting price for a similar Second Nature kitchen from Loline Interiors, cabinetry only

COLOURFUL COOKING

Keen to inject colour into the scheme, Jayne chose a China Blue dual-fuel range cooker by Falcon and a matching chimney extractor hood. She was inspired by the eye-catching blue flecks in the granite worktops, which continue up the wall behind the cooker to form a curve-edged splashback

Advice from the DESIGNER

DON'T assume that a designer look has to be expensive. Choose one furniture style or colour and carry it through to adjoining rooms to make everything flow.

DO use cabinetry to hide unsightly wires and pipes. We created an overmantel around the window with a 20cm void at the back to hide electrical wiring and a soil pipe from the upstairs bathroom. By doing this we were also able to include two useful storage cupboards for mugs, herbs and spices.

DON'T always head for the larger, well-known retailers when you're shopping for finishing touches. Try looking in the smaller, local shops because they can often offer you something unique without a huge price tag.

DESIGNER'S TIP

'Find a company that will design a kitchen for you as an individual, not steer you away from what you want. It's also important to feel relaxed with a designer, so pick someone you like' **DAVE KIRKPATRICK**

in the living room when I'm watching football, so I don't annoy Jayne,' he laughs.

CHOOSING APPLIANCES

Despite being short on time during the working week, the couple share an interest in cooking and were keen to include high-quality appliances in their new design. 'Jayne originally trained as a chef and is what I would call an intuitive cook, as she can create a fantastic meal without following a recipe,' says Dave.

Speed, as well as quality, was also an important consideration. 'We included a steam oven and a multifunction model in the kitchen, because we often come home late from work and need to cook good food quickly. At the weekend, when

SLIMLINE STORAGE

Narrow cupboards either side of the main sink form part of an oak overmantel, providing a handy place for coffee cups and saucers



KNIFE DRAWER
A solid beech insert with a knife block keeps cutlery organised



we have more time, we'll use the range,' explains Dave. 'We wanted appliances that fitted in with our lifestyle but didn't compromise on the quality of our meals.'

ACCESSORISING THE SPACE

Although the couple consulted with other designers at Loline Interiors regarding the kitchen's layout, Jayne was firmly in charge of furnishing the room. Inspired by the blue flecks within the granite worktops, she painted some of the walls a soft powder blue, which is echoed in the range cooker. 'I felt I needed a strong colour to break up the cream units and I was keen to include texture so that the room didn't look bland,' explains Jayne. 'I think it's important to have a home you can chill out in, so I've tried to create a relaxed style that isn't contrived.'

THE FINISHED ARTICLE

After months of upheaval, Dave and Jayne finally have a house that reflects ►

WORKTOPS

The couple's Blue Eyes granite worksurfaces have vibrant azure flecks and an elegant waterfall edge profile. 'I didn't consider any other material - it had to be granite,' explains Dave. 'It's so practical and easy to clean'



CABINETY BANK

Dave chose to stack his multifunction oven, steam oven and coffee machine, all by Neff, to ensure movement around the kitchen is kept to a minimum. Dry goods are stored next to the ovens in a spacious larder-style cupboard



HANDLES

Solid pewter D-shaped handles from Second Nature were chosen for their tactile design



INSPIRED DESIGNS CREAM AND OAK



BREAKFAST BAR

The island unit has a curvy oak overhang set into the granite worktop, providing an informal spot for a cup of coffee. The Icon leather bar stools are by Calligaris



their personalities. 'We set out to create a dream home that would provide the perfect antidote to our busy lives,' smiles Dave. 'This kitchen incorporates every element of our individual wish-lists and, unlike our previous properties, is entirely personal to us and a place that we feel emotionally attached to. As a designer, to create my own kitchen is a blessing, but also one of the toughest assignments I'd ever had, largely because I had too many options available to me. However, despite my concerns at the beginning of this project, I couldn't be happier and I think we've created a kitchen that has heart and soul.' ■

DINING ROOM

A widened doorway links the kitchen to a formal dining area. The white ash table and matching upholstered chairs are by Universal Furniture. The Searchlight Hale crystal chandelier came from GW Supplies and adds to the room's sense of grandeur

SHOP THE LOOK

CABINETRY

■ Handpainted and solid oak furniture from the Eden Classic and Eden Oak ranges, both by Second Nature from Loline Interiors. A similar kitchen, cabinetry only, starts from **£12,700**

WORKSURFACES AND SPLASHBACK

■ 30mm **Blue Eyes granite**, Second Nature. Total cost, including fitting **£7,500**
 ■ 40mm **Rustic Oak**, Second Nature. Total cost, including fitting **£512**

FLOORING

■ **Summer Oak vinyl** from the Art Select range by Karndean, Spectra Carpets. Price per sq m **£32.45**

APPLIANCES

■ Deluxe dual-fuel range cooker in China Blue, Falcon **£4,200**
 ■ Built-in multifunction oven, Neff **£803**
 ■ Built-in combination steam oven, Neff **£982**
 ■ Chimney extractor hood in China Blue, Falcon **£1,200**
 ■ Built-in coffee machine, Neff **£1,275**
 ■ Fully integrated fridge, Neff **£2,080**
 ■ Built-under wine cooler, Caple **£399**
 ■ Fully integrated dishwasher, Neff **£549**

SINKS & TAPS

■ Belfast undermounted double-bowl ceramic sink, Franke **£495**
 ■ Undermounted single-bowl ceramic sink, Franke **£345**
 ■ Decadence monobloc mixer tap in chrome, Abode **£339**
 ■ Hot and chilled filtered water tap in chrome, In-Sink-Erator **£569**

FINISHING TOUCHES

■ Icon black leather bar stools, Calligaris, each **£236**
 ■ Hidcote six-lamp traditional ceiling light, David Hunt at Ocean Lighting **£350**
 ■ Striped blinds made by The Old Vicarage Curtain Co in Adagio Aqua fabric by Voyage Decorations **£300**
 ■ Solid pewter D-handles, Second Nature, each, from **£8.20**
 ■ Searchlight Hale 12-light crystal chandelier, GW Supplies **£460**
 ■ The Heights double pedestal dining table in white ash, Universal Furniture, sourced through Willis & Gambier **£1,320**
 ■ Upholstered dining chairs, Universal Furniture, sourced through Willis & Gambier, each **£250**
 ■ Ancona multi-column radiator, The Radiator Company **£1,250**
 ■ Pale Chambray matt emulsion paint, Laura Ashley. Price per 2.5l **£24.99**
 ■ Pebble matt emulsion paint, Laura Ashley. Price per 2.5l **£24.99**

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150