

OUT OF THE blue

Soft blue and rich oak combine to create a modern kitchen in Maggie and Adrian's 15th-century home

CABINETRY

Hand-painted in a specially mixed shade of blue, the **birch plywood furniture** has been sprayed in a protective lacquer and framed by oiled oak

DOOR FURNITURE

The **cast-iron handles** have an antique pewter finish and are by Häfele

FLOORING

The **Indian Stone slab flooring** from Redmoor Building Supplies echoes the original Yorkshire flagstones elsewhere in the house

DURABLE WORKTOPS

With the feel and weight of natural stone, **Amazon Leather Silestone composite** tops the units and the two-tier island. A slight overhang adds interest to the cabinetry

PAINT FINISH

The **decorative paint finish** on the doors was created by using **five coats of specially mixed paint**. Applied with rollers and then stippled and splattered, the doors have been made hard-wearing with **three coats of lacquer**

SHELVING

Solid oak and oak veneer shelves on the island are finished in the same hardwax oil as the cabinetry and offer extra storage between the dining area and kitchen. They're also the ideal place to put empty plates out of the way

BK loves

The colour of the cabinets. Inspired by Sophie Conran's Celadon crockery, the aim was for a shade between a blue hen's egg and a Denbyware ceramic glaze

AS SEEN IN
BEAUTIFUL
KITCHENS
MAGAZINE



MAGGIE AND ADRIAN PORTEOUS LIVE IN A 15TH-CENTURY PROPERTY IN DERBYSHIRE WITH THEIR SONS, NATHAN, NINE, AND DANIEL, SIX

FEATURE TRACEY WILLIAMS PHOTOGRAPHY LU JEFFERY

The post-war utility kitchen in Maggie and Adrian Porteous's home had barely changed since its installation in the 1950s but, with two growing sons, turning the room into a proper family kitchen was high on their agenda. 'We needed to extend to create the space we wanted,' explains Maggie. 'However, because we lived in the Peak District National Park, obtaining planning permission was incredibly difficult as it's a conservation area. The kitchen was part of a much larger project, which included converting a listed barn, so that made the whole process a lot more difficult.'

The couple's perseverance with the project paid off and the minute planning permission was granted to extend their home, Maggie, a shop manager, and retired City worker Adrian contacted kitchen designer Peter Cousins. 'We didn't think twice about who we wanted to do the work,' admits Maggie. 'Peter designed and built my sister's kitchen and the craftsmanship was amazing. We also wanted something a bit different and that would enable us to put our own mark on the property. We knew Peter would be able to do that for us.'

Maggie is a firm believer in mixing and matching, so the entire house is a fusion of modern and traditional

styles. 'I think it's important for the house to show its history,' she explains. 'However, the extension was quite modern with a big lantern skylight, which meant we could be a bit more adventurous in mixing the old with the new. The overall effect is quite seamless.'

Having worked in London, Maggie was keen to reflect their new countryside surroundings in the kitchen. 'I wanted it to have an almost organic feel,' she explains. 'To me, oak was an obvious choice but it was seeing Sophie Conran's Celadon crockery that inspired the blue shade of the painted cabinetry. We keep chickens, too, and wanted the finish to be somewhere between a blue hen's egg and a lovely rich Denbyware ceramic glaze. Peter brought us 24 samples of varying shades with a choice of paint splatter patterns – it was almost too many!'

More decisions ensued as Maggie took the time to work out exactly how she would use her kitchen. The room has been left in a similar layout and she was definite about what cupboards she wanted and what they would accommodate. 'Adrian, on the other hand, was far less scientific,' says Maggie. 'He said, "I don't care what you do, as long as the sink is opposite the window."'

Knowing that the extension would house a dining and living area, an island was chosen to bridge the gap between the two zones as well as to provide substantial worktop space and a place for the sink. 'We nearly gave up at the kitchen's planning stage,' remembers Maggie. 'I'm glad we persevered, though, because we virtually live in this room now – it's almost too good!' BK



GREAT IDEA

Here, designer Peter has created a feature by making the cellar door look like the kitchen units, giving continuity to the room

BUILT-IN APPLIANCES

Making great use of awkward space above the cellar steps, a Neff fridge and freezer have been integrated with false cabinets underneath to provide headroom

'MY BEST BUY WAS THE FLOORING. WE HAVE YORKSHIRE SLABS ELSEWHERE BUT THESE

INDIAN STONE SLABS WERE EASIER TO PUT DOWN AND A FAR CHEAPER OPTION'



SINK AND TAP

The central workstation is home to a stainless-steel inset sink and drainer and a sleek BlancoCleo monobloc mixer tap in brushed steel, both by Blanco

SMART SOLUTION

A wire magic corner fitting in a cupboard allows the couple to make the most of the space inside

COOKING AREA

A multifunction oven and single oven by Neff have been integrated into a tower. On the walls, Blanco Dune Silestone helps to protect them from cooking splashes



PRICE GUIDE
Cabinetry only
£18,000
for this Peter Cousins kitchen

THE KITCHEN AT A GLANCE

DESIGN & CABINETS

- Peter Cousins, 10 Mill Yard, Water Lane, Wirksworth, Derbyshire DE4 4AA (01629 822968) www.petercousins.com
- Bespoke, hand-painted birch ply and oak units

WORKTOPS

- 30mm Amazon Leather Silestone. Price per sq m, from **£400**

FLOORING

- Indian Stone slab flooring, Redmoor Building Supplies. Per sq m, from **£14.50**

SINK AND TAP

- One-and-a-half-bowl inset sink in stainless steel, for similar try BlancoClariss 6S, Blanco **£248**
- BlancoCleo 6100 Cruciform monobloc mixer tap in brushed steel, Blanco **£149**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- Built-in single oven, for similar try B16P42, Neff **£855**

- Built-in multifunction oven, for similar try C67P70, Neff **£1,150**
 - Five-zone induction hob, for similar try T44T80, Neff **£1,050**
 - K5604 fully integrated fridge, Neff **£489**
- APPLIANCES (not shown)**
- Canopy extractor hood, Elica **£199**
 - Fully integrated freezer, Neff **£519**
 - Fully integrated dishwasher, Neff **£495**

For stockists, see page 144

