

Subtle, stylish, sophisticated

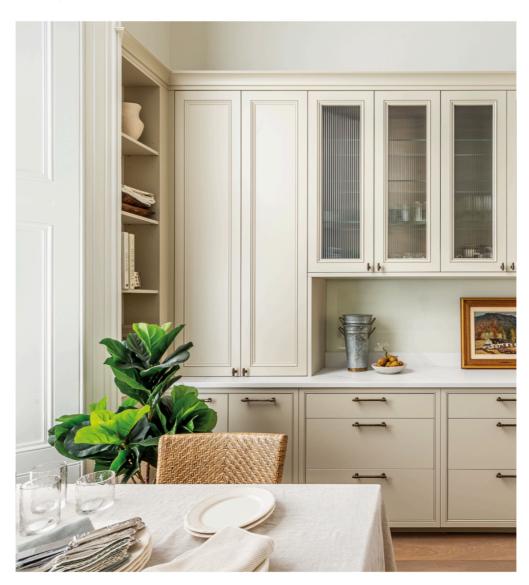
Painted in a soft stone shade to blend with the warm tones of the wooden floor, antique brass handles and bespoke cabinetry add to the individual character and beauty of this classic kitchen >

Words: Amelia Thorpe Photography: Jonathan Bond Styling: Chantel Elshout

COVER

A built-in extractor. from Elica, has been concealed in a curboard above the gas hob, from Miele.





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leff Double doors hide a dresser cupboard with internal shelves, while the Miele fridge-freezer is integrated into tall housing on the right

and burnished beauty. "We also included two wall cupboards with reeded glass panels to break up the look, with internal glass shelves to create an area for displaying attractive glassware and china," she adds.

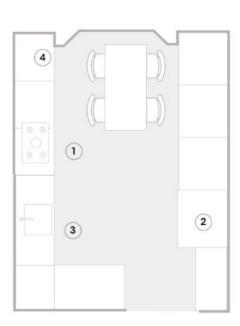
As the ceilings are nearly 4m high, the cabinets are made to taller dimensions than the standard height. "Any shorter and they would have looked stunted in the space," explains Chantel, who specified a simple cornice to complete the top of the cupboards. "The extra height also offers a little more storage, which was important to the homeowners."

The height of the ceiling also presented a certain challenge with the lighting, as downlights and pendants on ultra-long drops would not have been practical solutions. Instead, LED strips placed along the top of the wall cupboards wash a glow up towards the ceiling, adding soft glamour in the evenings, while those below illuminate the worktops and provide practical task lighting. "Hidden in the shadow gaps at the very top of the glass splash backs, the LEDs are discreet but very effective," says Chantel.

In keeping with the airy feel and tranquil mood of the room, the walls are painted in a lighter shade of the same stone colour of the cabinets, with matching glass splashback. "Both shades are gently neutral, but with a degree of warmth that adds to the soft hues of the room," explains Chantel. The worktops are made of stain and scratch-resistant Compac Unique Calacatta surface, designed to offer the natural and timeless beauty of real marble with the durable qualities of quartz.

The finishing touch in the new kitchen is a central dining table, positioned so that the homeowners and their guests can enjoy the sunshine that streams through the window as well as the views of the garden. Stylish rattan chairs, a large houseplant, linen cloth, and open shelves used to display attractive ornaments and books draw attention through the room towards the eye-catching window and the greenery beyond. "Details like these add personality," says Lavinia. "Although the colours are subtle, they aren't bland - together with the timber floor, there is plenty of warmth and softness in this room and a sense of restrained elegance that is absolutely in tune with my couple's style." >





## The PLANS

Updating the kitchen allowed a retired couple to create a space that not only looks good buy also boasts generous storage, all while making the most of the room's double-height ceilings.

- 1 Cooking appliances Atall housing unit accommodates an oven, warming drawer, and combination microwave.
- 2 Fridge-freezer Now moved away from the window and dining table, the new chill zone is more easily accessible and less of an obstruction in the room.
- 3 Wet zone Placed close to integrated bins and fully integrated dishwasher, the sink has a regular mixer as well as a mini boiling-water tap.
- 4 Cutlery drawer This is in easy reach of both the dining table and dishwasher.



The **cabinetry**, made by Davonport for Chantel Elshout Studio, includes drawers lined in grey-stained oak.





cupboards are lined in greystained oak with glass shelves and reeded glass door panels.

> Handmade antique brass **handles**, from Ged Kennett Contemporary Metals, finish the timeless cabinetry with a modern touch.

## ..... SOURCEBOOK

Interior design Dargie Lewis Designs 020 7786 6840

Kitchen design Chantel Elshout Studio 020 7720 7859

chantelelshout.com

Cabinetry Davonport 0845 468

0025 davonport.com

Appliances Gas hob, fridge-freezer, oven, combination microwave, warming drawer Miele 0330 160 6630 miele.co.uk Extractor, Elica 01252 351111 elica.com Taps Perrin & Rowe 01708 526361

perrinandrowe.co.uk Sink Blanco blanco.com

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