

THE UK'S
BEST
PROPERTIES
REVEALED!

25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

AUGUST
2023

SEE INSIDE MORE REAL HOMES THAN ANY OTHER MAGAZINE

Dream houses to inspire

CLEVER UPDATES AND TOP DESIGN
IDEAS FOR EVERY ROOM

• Vibrant • Relaxing
• Colourful

■ GARDENS FOR
ENTERTAINING

■ CONTEMPORARY
KITCHENS

■ VERSATILE LIVING SPACES

■ SLEEK BATHROOMS

Natural beauty

MAKE THE MOST OF SUMMER
WITH THE BEST OF ALFRESCO LIVING

Architectural
new build

Mediterranean
farmhouse

1960s
deckhouse

Idyllic
country cottage

Revamped
beach house

WORTH THE WAIT

After dreaming of a new kitchen for 20 years, one couple took the plunge and the result is a thoughtful blend of old and new

FEATURE RUTH CORBETT | PHOTOGRAPHY DARREN CHUNG

BIGGER AND BETTER
'Relocated to a new extension – with French doors opening onto the patio and lovely garden beyond – the kitchen is now a space that can be used all day long,' says Valarie.



PROJECT DETAILS

OWNERS

Peter and
Valarie Edwards

PROPERTY

Victorian cottage

WORK

A new
rear extension
incorporating a
kitchen-diner

LOCATION

Colchester

Twenty years ago Peter and Valarie Edwards began a sympathetic upgrade of their four-bedroom cottage, gradually making each room fit for family life, while ensuring the property's Victorian heritage remained intact. With a natural flair for interiors, Valarie was keen to bring personality to their most recent project, the kitchen.

1 FINDING THE RIGHT CHARACTER

'We were after a characterful kitchen, rather than a box-fresh, showroom look,' explains Peter. 'So although we wanted classic, high quality units with a centre island and up-to-date appliances, we hoped we could work in some existing antique pieces, to give it a cosier feel.' They hired design consultant Emma Davies, at local firm, Davonport, having been impressed with the quality of the service and portfolio of styles in the showroom.

2 THE HEART OF THE MATTER

At the kitchen's heart is a central island. Designed to incorporate cupboards and drawers, as well as having breakfast bar seating, it's positioned within easy reach of the hob and ovens, making it a useful food prep table. 'Natural daylight was essential, and to bring extra light into the space, skylights and a porthole have been fitted,' explains Peter.

3 A STRIKING CONTRAST

Shaker-style cabinetry with exposed butt hinges was chosen for its classic look. The couple selected brass fittings for the hand-painted units, while the island and other surfaces are topped with hard-wearing white quartz. 'For the flooring we choose a big ceramic tile in a light colour that is easy to keep clean,' says Valarie.

4 STYLISH TOUCHES

A butler sink with brass taps, positioned in front of the large sash window, creates a sleek focal point, and blinds in a William Morris print add pattern and colour. Outside of the main cooking zone, a breakfast cupboard/drinks cabinet houses coffee gadgets at worktop level, and above this several shelves finished with mirrored glass are back-lit to show off a selection of fine cut glassware. 'It's a lovely mix of contemporary and traditional,' says Peter. 'We have a TV in here too, which is great for watching sports. It's a multifunctional room, which is just what we wanted.'

davonport.com



ALL IN THE DETAIL

A William Morris print on the blinds, brass taps and hardware and the porthole window all enhance the traditional style of the units.

Shaker-style units, Davonport. Cabinetry in Slate IV, Paint & Paper Library. Island in Studio Green, Farrow & Ball. Single oven; steam oven; warming drawer; induction hob; fully integrated dishwasher, all Miele. Integrated fridge, Liebherr. Burnished brass handles, Armac Martin. Worktop, Silestone Eternal Statuario. Double Butler sink, Shaws. Ludlow Bridge tap in Antique Brass, Abode. Blind in The Brook in Tapestry by Morris & Co, Jane Clayton. Similar pendant lights, Original BTC. Chopping boards, Nkuku, have this look. Woven bar chairs, Lloyd Loom. Source similar balloon-back dining chairs, 1stDibs



**'THE EXTENSION'S APEX ROOF
IS PRACTICAL BUT IT ALSO
ADDS CHARACTER INSIDE'**



TOP TIP

Hide an extractor fan that isn't pretty with a decorative covering that matches the kitchen units

Country look

RIGHT Incorporating unattached elements into your kitchen is perfect if you are hoping to channel a country aesthetic. Drawing on traditional kitchen design, here bespoke wood in-frame base cabinets were teamed with freestanding pieces, including a moveable island, plate rack and wicker storage baskets, to create a welcoming, lived-in feel.



Tall order

ABOVE A separate pantry is an invaluable addition to fitted and freestanding kitchens alike. 'Since the pantry is an individual piece of furniture, it can be designed to complement or contrast existing pieces,' says Richard Davonport, managing director at Davonport. 'Adding drawers and shelving to your pantry can also save room elsewhere; consider a dedicated appliance drawer, which can clear worktop areas, while an internal spice rack can free up cupboard space.' Prices for Davonport kitchens start at £50,000.

Characterful touch

RIGHT While you can mix and match cabinetry styles in a fitted kitchen, it is limited. With a freestanding design, you can reach a whole new level, as seen in this space. Here, open shelving replaces conventional wall cupboards, creating a display of copper pans and kitchenalia, while the cabinet combines closed storage with reclaimed vegetable drawers for a vintage-inspired display of crockery and chinaware.

