



A confident blend of granite and wood surfaces add warmth and character to this extended kitchen, while the painted cabinetry brings a feeling of timeless elegance to the light and airy room.

SOUL FOOD

An open-plan kitchen, in keeping with the character of the property, was order of the day.

PHOTOS TONY TIMMINGTON WORDS AMELIA THORPE



‘This is traditional cabinetry, but the clean lines and fresh colours bring the scheme right up to date.’



All good things come to those who wait, so the saying goes. David Ladbury, couldn't agree more, at least as far as this super-sized kitchen in Hertfordshire was concerned. 'My clients came to me with plans to add a small extension to the rear of their home, we drew up the design for the new kitchen and the installation was scheduled, but then everything was called to a halt,' he recalls. 'The couple had always been disappointed with the small size of the extension permitted by planning control, but suddenly some legislation was changed, so they decided to re-apply for a larger room.'

Eventually everything fell into place, and the couple could go ahead with the larger extension. There was room for laundry equipment to be installed in a separate utility room, leaving even more room to create a spacious design in the kitchen, complete with

dining area by the large windows.

'My client's brief was to create a family space with some soul,' says David. With parts of the existing house dating back several hundred years, the property itself is full of character and it was important to ensure that the extension looked and felt in keeping with the rest of the house. Together, the couple opted for a fresh take on traditional design, choosing simple framed furniture, hand painted in a soft willow green. 'I think we all felt that something flat, shiny and

ultra-modern would have been totally wrong for this space, but neither did we want anything too ornate or 'country cottage' in terms of style,' explains David. 'This is traditionally made cabinetry, but the clean lines and fresh colours bring the scheme right up to date.'

To create a focal point in the room and to add character, David designed a panelled chimney breast with a simple overmantel to house the range cooker, fitting it neatly to one side of the steel ceiling joist necessary ➔

KITCHEN PROFILE

Hand built Edwardian style furniture adds soul and character to this newly completed extension to a family home in Hertfordshire. Hand painted in Jasmine White with a Willow Green island, the furniture is topped with slender work surfaces of Angola Black granite and finished with accents of oak and chrome for a smart and contemporary look.

Kitchen: John Ladbury and Company, Unit 11, Alpha Business Park, Travellers Close, Welham Green, Hertfordshire, AL9 7NT. Tel: 01707 262966. johnladbury.co.uk. Kitchen prices from £25,000.

Above The spacious room incorporates a shaker-style dining area, bespoke storage, a curvy island with breakfast bar and a flat screen television – all combining to make it the heart of this period property.

Right The powerful Falcon range cooker is framed by a bespoke overmantel and two spice cupboards, hidden on either side. A subtle willow green painted glass splashback matches the colour of the island.



Above The unusual shape of the island adds softness to the large room, while a wall of units are built in to accommodate the appliances.

Left The muted colour of the island is stylish and understated, stopping the structure from being too imposing. The oak drawers have been engraved with the family's favourite snacks.

for the extension structure. His next step was to create a distinctively shaped island, complete with a drum-like section topped with an oiled end grained oak chopping block. 'The island is designed to add interest in the centre of the room, and the curves add softness to the look,' explains David. 'It was important to avoid having a big, square lump of an island stuck in the middle of the space,' he adds.

As a family with young children, David's clients love to entertain at home, so as well as a large dining table, they also needed plenty of storage space for food, crockery and glassware. Opposite the range cooker, David built another wall of cabinetry to house the large American-style fridge/freezer and pantry cupboard. 'This helps draw people into the room and, like the curved shapes on the island, softens the look,' explains David. 'It's all about adding character and warmth to the design – the soul that my clients wanted.' ■

STOCKISTS INFORMATION

APPLIANCES

1092 Deluxe range cooker, £4,500, at Falcon; C54L60 microwave, £567; K3990X6 fridge/freezer, £2,350; both at Neff; G5170 SCVi dishwasher, £960; CVA3660 coffee machine, £1,560; KWT 4154 UG-1 wine cooler, £1,392, all at Miele.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Perrin & Rowe Alsace 4776 mixer, £600; Perrin & Rowe Aquitaine 4746 mixer, £480, both at Triflow Concepts; Classic Shaker 900 sink, £516, at Shaws; Rotondo RUK 100 ceramic sink, £385, at Franke; Angola Black granite worktops, from £260 per linear m; Willow Green glass splashback, from £430 per sq. m; Astro Lappato 60cm x 60cm floor tiles, £58 per sq. m; all at John Ladbury and Company. See kitchen profile for details; Similar bar stools, from a selection, at Simply Bar Stools; Similar vintage pendant lights, from a selection, at Transpotters; Similar dining table and chairs, from a selection, at OKA.

**All prices are approximate. For stockists, see page 160.*

