

AS SEEN IN
Beautiful
KITCHENS

LAYOUT
Sarah and Peter opted for clear zoning in the kitchen, with a cooking area, formal dining space and a TV snug. This keeps the children out of the main kitchen area but also ensures the couple can keep an eye on them from the peninsula

'We've mixed PERIOD with MODERN'

Sarah and Peter Chapman paired sleek lacquered units with rustic beams for a country kitchen that packs a contemporary punch

FEATURE SHARON SMITH
PHOTOGRAPHY TONY TIMMINGTON

Kitchen FACT FILE

THE FAMILY Sarah Chapman, her husband Peter, a banker, and their sons Freddie, 8, and Samuel, 5
THE HOME Four-bedroom Grade II converted barn in Hertfordshire, with parts dating back to the 16th century
THE PROJECT Redesigning the existing kitchen, including building work and new cabinetry

PRICE GUIDE
£20,000

for a similar John Ladbury and Company kitchen, cabinetry only



MAIN SINK AREA
A Swiss Pro tap by Franke makes a glamorous statement against the backdrop of fuchsia glass from Deco Glaze. Draining grooves have been integrated into the Silestone work surface

HOW TO...

MAKE A MODERN KITCHEN WORK IN A PERIOD ROOM

Bold but balanced should be your mantra. Choose ultra-sleek cabinetry with plenty of gloss but at the same time, keep the palette neutral and natural. Greys, taupes and whites all segue happily with period features while brights will fight with it.

When it comes to flooring, stick to a style that looks like it could have been there for decades – stone is a perfect option although a convincing look-alike will also serve the purpose. Steer clear of wood, especially in a room with beams, and anything too lurid. While bright cabinetry doesn't work in this type of property, splashes of your favourite shade will. Deploy it in pendants, splashbacks, accessories and furniture to lift the design and unite different areas of an open-plan space.



DESIGNER'S TIP 'Sarah was keen to create three zones in the room, so I suggested a peninsula to provide a break between the areas while keeping an open-plan feel' IAN LAWRENCE

APPLIANCES
As a keen weekend cook with a love of Sunday roasts, Peter wanted two ovens and a microwave with a warming drawer below, all flanked by an in-built larder cupboard to the left, an integrated fridge and a freezer to the right. A wine cooler and induction hob are conveniently sited on the peninsula

3 GET THE LOOK Professional taps



B&Q
The Cooke & Lewis Tronto spring-neck tap, £139, has been given a sleek update with a black finish



CDA
Get designer looks with the CDATM4 chrome chef-style tap with pull-out spray. Priced around £390



FRANKE
This über-modern Centinox tap with pull-out nozzle costs from £535 in chrome



PREP ZONE
This area on the peninsula features a second smaller Kubus sink by Franke and a boiling-water tap, allowing the couple to be kettle-free, cutting down on clutter

Sarah and Peter Chapman turned a Grade II listed barn conversion into a stunning family home. Sarah explains how they gave the kitchen a modern twist...

What was the existing scheme like?
It had country-style pine cabinets, a terracotta floor, yellow walls and was spread between two separate rooms that led off a central corridor. Both parts were small and had very little natural light.

How did you plan to change it?
We decided to knock the two rooms into one and raise the ceiling to expose the original roof beams. This would maximise space and light and create a feature out of the

property's historic roots. Some of the beams date back to the 16th century, although the previous owners rebuilt the outer shell of the barn. When we moved in, the house consisted of lots of smaller rooms. We wanted to create fewer, larger living spaces. The kitchen was our first project – as a family with young children, it's the most important part of the house.

Why did you choose a contemporary look?
Luckily, Peter and I have similar taste and we both like ultramodern, streamlined design with no clutter. We didn't want a country scheme and thought this style would be a striking contrast with the beams.

Where did you find your kitchen designer?
John Ladbury and Company were recommended by an acquaintance. We immediately liked the designer, Ian Lawrence, and thought he would be easy to work with. We felt the price was reasonable, too.

Was it easy to decide on a layout?
We wanted a large room with clear demarcation of zones for cooking, dining and a TV area for the boys, so that I could keep an eye on them while preparing meals. Ian devised a plan to include a peninsula that separates the different parts of the room and also provides lots of extra storage and work space. There's even capacity for the hob and a

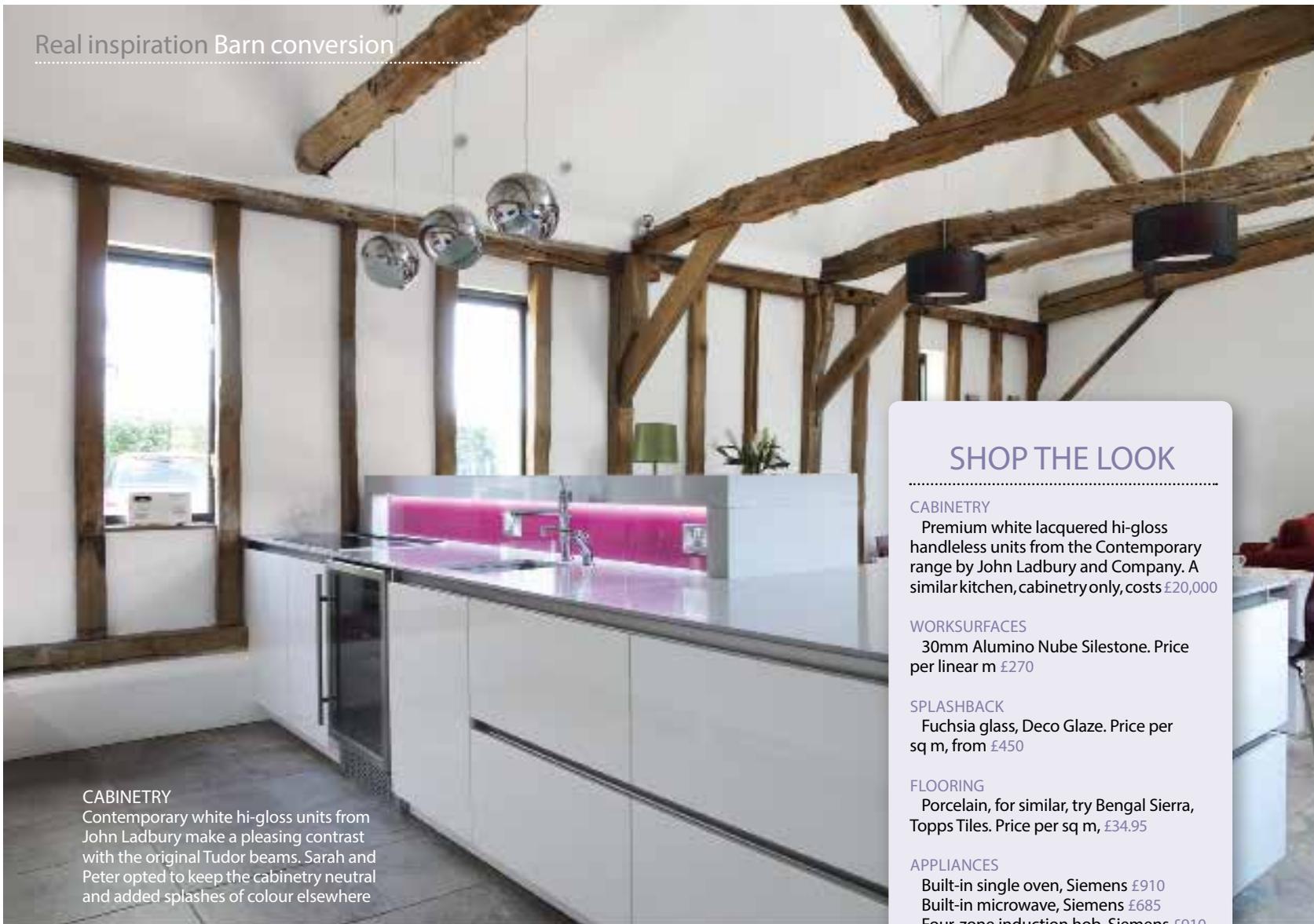
second prep sink and we prepare food, dine or just read or chat with friends over a glass of wine here.

What about the colour scheme?
We chose white hi-gloss cabinets without handles for a sleek, modern look and also as a neutral backdrop because I wanted to introduce the bright colours I love into the room. It was a toss-up between pink and purple for the glass splashback, but in the end I plumped for pink and brought in a dash of purple elsewhere with the dining chairs.

How long did the project take?
About six months, but we were lucky because we moved into our



EXTRACTOR
Another of Peter's ideas, the downdraft for the hob rises out of the worktop and glides easily out of sight when not in use



CABINETRY

Contemporary white hi-gloss units from John Ladbury make a pleasing contrast with the original Tudor beams. Sarah and Peter opted to keep the cabinetry neutral and added splashes of colour elsewhere

two-bed annexe next door, which has a kitchen, and so we escaped the mess and inconvenience. It also meant I was on site to answer any questions as they arose.

Were there any problems along the way?

It was difficult finding suitable ceiling lights because of the long drop from the beams. When we did eventually find a design we liked, the electrician had his work cut out due to the height of the roof, but eventually we got there.

What do you like most about the finished scheme?

I love it all, especially the pink splashback for its eye-catching beauty, and also the way the peninsula opens out into a large square at one end. Ian said I'd need this extra worksurface for when I come in laden with shopping bags, and he was right; as soon as I get through the door I plonk them here. I think my kitchen is superb – it's both practical and beautiful.



SHOP THE LOOK

CABINETRY

Premium white lacquered hi-gloss handleless units from the Contemporary range by John Ladbury and Company. A similar kitchen, cabinetry only, costs £20,000

WORKSURFACES

30mm Alumino Nube Silestone. Price per linear m £270

SPLASHBACK

Fuchsia glass, Deco Glaze. Price per sq m, from £450

FLOORING

Porcelain, for similar, try Bengal Sierra, Topps Tiles. Price per sq m, £34.95

APPLIANCES

- Built-in single oven, Siemens £910
- Built-in microwave, Siemens £685
- Four-zone induction hob, Siemens £910
- Downdraft extractor, Best £1,800
- Built-in warming drawer, Siemens £440
- Fully integrated fridge, Neff £550
- Fully integrated freezer, Liebherr £650
- Wine cooler, Siemens £525
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Siemens £700

SINKS AND TAPS

- 110-55 Kubus undermounted single-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke £370
- 110-34 Kubus undermounted single-bowl prep sink in stainless steel, Franke £265
- Swiss Pro single-lever monobloc mixer tap in stainless steel, Franke £520
- Corvus top-lever monobloc mixer tap in chrome, Abode £170
- Basic boiling-water tap in stainless steel, Quooker £940

FINISHING TOUCHES

- Dining table, for similar, try white lacquered, BoConcept £400
- Dining chairs, for similar, try Purple Victoria Ghost, Lakeland £65
- XS bar stools in faux leather and chrome, Atlantic Shopping, each £80
- Newton white storage sideboard, Dwell £500
- Round pendant lights, for similar, try Milagrochrome, Lights4living.com, each £30
- Black pendant lights, for similar, try Colette, Lights4living.com, each £30
- Purple Roco Verre wall clock, Contemporary Heaven £55

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 133