

BK
says

When planning an island, remember to factor in plumbing and electricity before the flooring is laid

AS
SEEN IN
BEAUTIFUL
KITCHENS
MAGAZINE

BESPOKE CABINETS

Oak furniture from the Premium range by Edwin Loxley has been painted in a specially mixed grey shade. For similar, try Illusion by Dulux. An unpainted oak island sits centrally within the kitchen and features a breakfast bar at one end and a Miele wine cooler to the side

WORKTOPS

Grigio Nuvolo Arenastone tops the cabinets and island

SEATING

The Tokyo bar stools came from barstoolworld.co.uk

FLOORING

Large rectangular Keano porcelain floor tiles from Raycross Interiors are stain-resistant and feature grey grout to tie in with the shade of the painted cabinetry

Grey MATTERS

A new extension was the perfect excuse for Christina and Peter Smith to create the kitchen of their dreams



CHRISTINA AND PETER SMITH LIVE IN A FIVE-BEDROOM HOUSE IN SURREY WITH THEIR CHILDREN, JESSICA, 23, AND MATTHEW, 20, AND CATS, CASPER AND MILO

Having lived in their Surrey home for 10 years, Christina and Peter decided that, as their children had grown up, it was high time to update the kitchen. 'We were drawn to this house originally because of the stunning outlook and light rooms,' explains Christina. 'However, the kitchen was in dire straits and we wanted to give ourselves, and the house, the kitchen we deserved.'

First, the old units needed to be completely ripped out. 'The cabinetry was MDF and oak veneer, and there was a lino floor,' says Christina. 'We had tried updating it, but eventually we became fed up of supergluing drawers back together!'

The couple decided to create an extension at the back of the house for an orangery, with the new kitchen and utility area opening directly onto it. 'The extension would allow us to create a single liveable space, with it extending the full depth of the property,' recalls Christina. 'I also wanted to make sure I was able to see the back garden while I was preparing food or cooking in the kitchen.'

Christina and Peter took their time looking through interior magazines and visiting kitchen

showrooms. 'I made a scrapbook from tear sheets and then decided to combine the best bits from our preferred choices,' explains Christina.

The couple wanted a contemporary look mixed with traditional style. With that in mind, they visited five different kitchen companies to get a feel for what was available. They finally decided on Raycross Interiors to undertake the redesign of their new kitchen. 'Raycross had previously installed a fabulous new bathroom for us and its meticulous project management and high standard of installation led us back,' smiles Christina.

Designer Martin Battrick at Raycross Interiors suggested combining grey painted cabinetry and state-of-the-art appliances with an oak island and larder cupboard. The end result is a stunning combination of neutral tones, coupled with a feeling of space as the eye is led from one end of the kitchen to the orangery at the back of the house and onto the garden and fields beyond. 'Having a combination of painted units and oak, plus a single floor covering throughout is the thing that we appreciate most,' reveals Christina. 'The kitchen works well because of the contrasts between satin-finished painted elements, surfaces with the warm colours and textures of oak and porcelain flooring.'

The Smiths' kitchen is a good example of how teamwork has proved a success. 'The key people – Martin at Raycross Interiors, the electrician and the tiler – all took great pride in their workmanship and it really shows,' says Christina. **BK**



SPLASHBACK
The **Antique Crackle** tiles from Imperial Bathrooms have a lovely lustrous finish



CARVED BOARDS

Pull-out chopping boards in the island have the names of different foods carved into them

APPLIANCES

Two built-in single ovens, a microwave and coffee machine, all by Miele, have been positioned symmetrically in a bank of cabinetry

UTILITY

The kitchen leads through to a utility area, where a **Belfast sink** by Franke can accommodate bulkier items that need to be washed. An accompanying **Eiger tap** by Franke echoes the tap in the main kitchen. The integrated **American-style fridge freezer** came from Siemens



BK loves
...the splashback made using glazed, brick-shaped tiles

'MY TIP IS TO PRESERVE NATURAL LIGHT AT ALL COSTS. OTHER DESIGNERS TRIED TO PERSUADE US TO LOSE A WINDOW BUT MARTIN HELPED US KEEP IT'



PRICE GUIDE
Total cost
£68,000
for this
Raycross Interiors
kitchen

WET AREA
An Eiger tap sits near two Kubus sinks in Polar White, all by Franke. Christina and Peter say their favourite purchase is the Zip boiling water HydroTap

THE KITCHEN AT A GLANCE

DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Martin Batrick at **Raycross Interiors**, 19 High Road, Byfleet Village, Surrey KT14 7QH (01932 346336) www.raycross.co.uk
- Bespoke painted oak cabinetry and unfinished oak furniture with glass doors from the Premium range by Edwin Loxley

WORKTOPS

- Grigio Nuvolo Arenastone. Price per sq m **£629**

FLOORING

- Keano porcelain tiles. Price per sq m **£77**

SINKS & TAPS

- VBK710 Belfast undermounted single-bowl ceramic sink, Franke **£351**
- KBG110-50 Kubus undermounted single-bowl Fraganite sink in Polar White, Franke **£286**
- KBX110-16 Kubus undermounted half-bowl Fraganite sink in Polar White, Franke **£172**
- 2 x Eiger C-spout monobloc mixer taps in chrome, Franke, each **£166**
- B100 boiling filtered water HydroTap in chrome, Zip Heaters **£1,300**

APPLIANCES (shown)

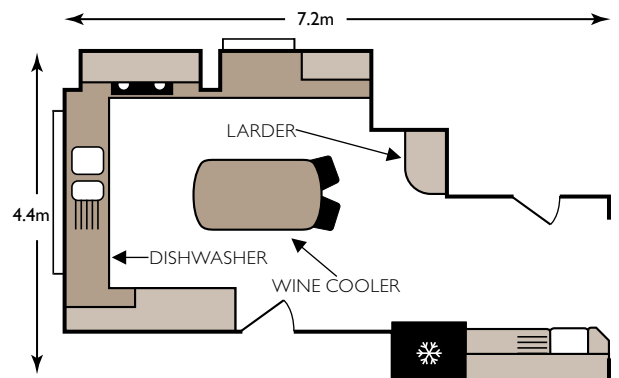
- 2 x H5240B built-in single ovens, Miele, each **£1,057**
- M8261-2 built-in microwave, Miele **£820**
- KM371G five-burner gas hob, Miele **£1,057**
- Elibloc HT canopy extractor hood in stainless steel, Elica **£292**
- CVA3660 built-in coffee machine, Miele **£1,527**
- KA62DA70GB integrated American-style fridge freezer, Siemens **£1,845**
- KWT4154UG1 built-under wine cooler, Miele **£1,363**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated dishwasher, Miele **£940**
- Freestanding condenser tumble dryer, Miele **£736**

☎ For stockists, see page 135

PLAN SCALE 1cm:1m



FOOD STORAGE

The **curved larder** not only provides plenty of food storage but also softens what would have been a sharp corner between the kitchen and utility room. 'We love the curved larder as it leads the eye into the utility area,' says Peter

