

AS
SEEN IN
BEAUTIFUL
KITCHENS
MAGAZINE



An exposed brick mantel and a central workstation crafted from oak are the main attractions in Kerrie and Andrew Cresswell's spacious barn conversion

ISLAND OF DREAMS



RIGHT Kerrie can still chat to guests while she is preparing meals thanks to the kitchen's proximity to the dining room. The design is a place that the whole family can enjoy and has become the heart of their home

BELOW RIGHT A stylish drum cupboard located at the end of the island has been topped using clear, toughened glass with polished edges, creating a sharp contrast alongside the striking Nero Assoluto granite worksurfaces and warm oak cabinetry. Both worksurfaces reflect light around the room, emphasising the contemporary aesthetic. Kerrie loves the glossy finish of the granite and, despite never having it in her kitchen before, is very pleased she chose it



The focal point of the Cresswells' contemporary kitchen is the capacious island and curved drum cupboard, which also serves as a breakfast bar. For similar stools, try Atlantic Shopping. Solid oak cabinetry contrasts well with the granite worktops and African Blue slate floor tiles from Connelly Home Centre, while brushed-nickel bar handles complete the look. For similar, try The Handle Studio



LEFT The family's much-loved black and chrome range cooker is surrounded by an exposed brick mantel, built to mirror the archway in the dining room. A chimney extractor hidden by the brickwork removes cooking odours. The island workspace is just a few steps away, creating an effective working triangle to make preparing meals easy

RIGHT Kerrie's drum cupboard is one of her favourite elements in the scheme. It stores casual dining essentials, such as funky placemats and New Wave china by Villeroy & Boch, something Kerrie bought as a present to herself for the new kitchen

CENTRE RIGHT This neat bank of appliances, finished in sleek black to match the granite worktops and slate flooring, consists of a built-in microwave, warming drawer and coffee machine. 'I don't drink coffee, so this is Andrew's indulgence,' smiles Kerrie. 'He's a bit of a gadget man. The warming drawer is mine, though. I use it to heat plates and sometimes to take the chill off red wine'

BELOW RIGHT A clever magic corner offers ample storage in an awkward space. 'Dean recommended this for the shape of the cupboard, so that I could fit more inside,' explains Kerrie. 'It's the chocolate store. Not mine, the kids', of course!'



Chosen to complement a chiller in their utility room, the couple's 30cm-wide CDA wine cooler sits neatly between solid oak cupboards in the island and is perfectly placed when the couple are entertaining friends and family. 'It creates another feature in the kitchen,' smiles Kerrie. The 15-bottle cooler boasts an LED display and smoked UV-protected glass to shield the wine from sunlight damage



My top tip... for successful planning is to take your time. Looking at pictures of kitchens helped, too. They gave me a better idea of what I wanted'

Most people would be delighted to inherit a kitchen with as-new appliances but that wasn't the case for Kerrie Cresswell and her husband Andrew, a company director, when they moved into their four-bedroom barn conversion in Nottinghamshire. 'The previous owners loved their country-style kitchen but it just wasn't to our taste, even though all the appliances had barely been used,' recalls Kerrie.

Keen to make their own mark on the property, the couple knew that installing a new kitchen was a priority. They started speaking to local companies but were not able to find one that could provide the sort of classic wooden scheme they had in mind. However, flicking through a copy of *Beautiful Kitchens* provided Kerrie with more than just design inspiration. 'We saw a stun-

ning scheme by Dean Fairhurst Bespoke Kitchens & Interiors, based in Newark, near where we live, and decided to pay the showroom a visit,' explains Kerrie, mum to Charlie, 11, and Finley, five.

After talking to designer Dean Fairhurst about what would work in the large space, Kerrie and Andrew settled on a scheme of bespoke solid oak furniture with Nero Assoluto black granite worktops and a capacious central island. 'I really like the oak wood – it's rich and in keeping with the style of the house,' says Kerrie. 'Plus, I've never had granite before. It looks fantastic when it's clean and polished. I really like the finish.'

Determined to match her appliances to the luscious shade of the granite surfaces, Kerrie carried out lots of research and sourced entirely black models, enhancing ►

DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Dean Fairhurst at **Dean Fairhurst Bespoke Kitchens & Interiors**, The Stables, Carlton Hall, Church Lane, Carlton-on-Trent, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG23 6LP (01636 821222) www.dffurniture.co.uk
- Bespoke solid European oak furniture from the Oakley range

WORKTOPS

- Nero Assoluto granite. Price per linear m **£200**
- 20mm clear toughened glass. Total cost **£200**

SINKS & TAP

- 2 x BlancoClaron 340-U undermounted single-bowl sinks in stainless steel, Blanco, each **£450**
- 4868CP Oberon U-spout monobloc mixer tap in chrome with separate rinse, Perrin & Rowe **£200**

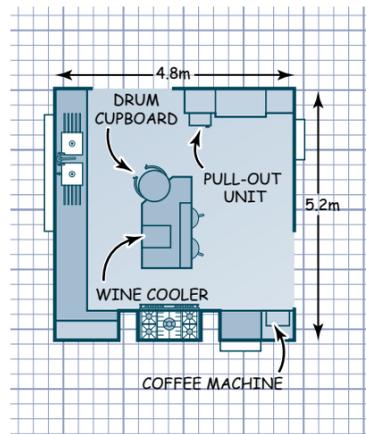
APPLIANCES (shown)

- I092 Deluxe dual-fuel range cooker, Falcon **£3,500**
- M8161-2 built-in microwave, Miele **£650**
- Built-in coffee machine, for similar try CVA3660, Miele **£1,600**
- Built-in warming drawer, for similar try ESW5080-29, Miele **£700**
- 228FIRB Reflection American fridge freezer, Amana **£5,000**
- Existing built-under wine cooler, for similar try FWC300, CDA **£320**
- 2 x DishDrawer dishwashers, for similar try DS605, Fisher & Paykel, each **£500**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Canopy extractor hood in stainless steel, Miele **£560**

☎ For stockists, see page 136



GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a Dean Fairhurst Bespoke Kitchens & Interiors design **£15,000**



Two black DishDrawer dishwashers ensure that dirty crockery doesn't pile up on worksurfaces, while neutral walls create a light, airy feel. For a similar shade, try Dulux's Chiffon White. The grey Roman blinds came from Hillarys

the kitchen's contemporary design. 'I didn't want stainless-steel appliances because I had them in my last house. I wanted to come away from that and have something a little bit different,' she explains. 'I like things to match, so I've chosen a black mirrored fridge freezer, range cooker and dishwashers, as well as slate flooring.'

In the centre of the room sits an impressive island, complete with a stylish, glass-topped drum cupboard. 'The island is the room's main feature,' says Kerrie. 'When you walk into the house, the round cupboard with the glass is practically the first thing you see. It took quite a while for Dean to make but it's definitely my favourite part of the kitchen. The children spend a lot of time there; while I'm cooking, they sit on the bar stools and do their homework or we'll have dinner there. It's lovely to look at and is also quite versatile.'

Another focal point is the large range cooker, as it's framed by a mantel of exposed brickwork that was designed to echo a similar wall in the dining room. 'Since our house is quite contemporary and minimalist, we wanted to link the kitchen with the nearby dining area and that seemed like a simple way to do it,' explains Kerrie. 'The kitchen's absolutely ideal for entertaining because the dining room is very close, so I can talk to guests while I'm cooking, and then go through to eat.'

Now that the kitchen is finished, Kerrie and Andrew say they are happy with their choice. 'It's the centre of the house and we have to walk through it a lot,' smiles Kerrie. 'It works so well and I've got everything I need. Even now, every time I walk in, I just love it.'



My favourite... appliances are the dishwashers. I like the way they create a feature in the kitchen and aren't just tucked away. They're also great for doing half a load in one drawer'



ABOVE The large fridge freezer, finished in black mirrored glass, provides ample storage for chilled food. It also dispenses filtered water and cubed or crushed ice. A pull-out larder at one side houses dried goods

FAR LEFT Dovetail joints bear testament to the quality of Dean's craftsmanship. Pull-out drawers house the family's crockery, cutlery and utensils

LEFT A pair of sinks allows one bowl to be used for washing vegetables, while the other is ideal for soaking pans. The chrome Perrin & Rowe tap has a U-spout to minimise splashes