

'Every little detail has been designed for us'

Bespoke oak cabinetry and a striking round island defines Chris and Suzanne Germany's welcoming farmhouse kitchen

AS
SEEN IN
BEAUTIFUL
KITCHENS
MAGAZINE

MADE-TO-MEASURE CABINETRY

Bespoke **solid European oak furniture** is a nod to the heritage of the family's rustic home. **Hammered-iron knobs** contrast with the rich colour of the timber **WORKTOPS**

Dark **Nero Assoluto granite** surfaces cover both the round island and the rest of the cabinetry **MANTEL**

The bare brick chimneybreast has been replaced with a smooth plastered wall. A **traditional mantel**, painted in Dulux's **Twisted Bamboo 4** to match the walls, frames the Aga and hanging utensils





CIRCULAR ISLAND

After using several **life-sized templates** to compare different shapes of **workstation**, the couple settled on a round design for their new room **UPSTANDS**

Brick-style **tumbled marble tiles** from Dean Fairhurst Bespoke Kitchens & Interiors add definition and texture to the simple walls

FOOTSTOOL

For similar, try the **Macy leather footstool** from Darlings of Chelsea

‘MY BEST BUY WAS THE MONEY I SPENT RECONDITIONING THE EXISTING AGA. IT LOOKS LIKE NEW BUT COST FAR LESS’



CHRIS AND SUZANNE GERMANY LIVE IN A FARMHOUSE IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

WITH THEIR FOUR-YEAR-OLD TWINS, ALEX AND EMMA, AND DOG, DRAKE

Last modernised nearly three decades ago, Chris and Suzanne Germany’s 200-year-old farmhouse was ready for a new lease of life, yet it was only a last-minute change of heart that saw the kitchen completely overhauled.

‘We’ve been farming in the area for years as a family but Suzanne and I lived in a nearby village,’ explains Chris. ‘When the chance came up to buy this farm, we didn’t think twice about it – the opportunity to stamp our own identity on the house made us even more enthusiastic.’

However, as ideas to simply update the kitchen with new tops and sinks gradually progressed into larger-scale decisions, the couple realised that revamping it just wasn’t going to be enough. ‘It didn’t take long for us to appreciate that it made sense to do the kitchen along with the rest of the house,’ admits Chris. ‘In fact, as soon as we owned the house, a new kitchen became one of the first tasks.’

Keen on keeping everything as local as possible, the couple scoured kitchen showrooms in the area. ‘The house is probably a couple of hundred years old, so we wanted something that wouldn’t look out of place, but also not too contrived,’ explains Chris. ‘I’d always fancied a wood kitchen but we kept ▶

BK says

This pull-out table is a smart solution for a kitchen with limited workspace or one with no room for a dining table and chairs



RECYCLED AGA

The Germanys bought a **reconditioned top** and **two new lids** to revamp their existing Aga



WET AREA

A Franke **double-bowl sink** has enough room to soak large Aga pans and is paired with a **Triflow tap** that provides filtered drinking water by turning the central lever. It also has a separate rinse attachment that pulls out to wash fruit and vegetables

DRUM CUPBOARD

Curved doors allow for **extra storage space** for dishes in the island

INTEGRATED APPLIANCE

One of the solid European oak doors conceals a Miele **dishwasher**, which is located close to the sink, so crockery can be rinsed before being loaded into the machine to be washed



WORKSTATION

The circular island boasts an **integral table** that offers room for the children to sit and draw





BK loves

The neat wine rack above the coffee machine. A smart use of space, wine racks can be positioned almost anywhere in your kitchen to fill awkward gaps

FLOORING

The existing vinyl floor has been salvaged and the gaps filled in with pieces that served as plinths previously. For similar, try **Rustic Ash tiles** from the **Knight-Tile** range by Karndean

DRINKS STATION

Mirroring the larder unit on the opposite wall, this worktop-mounted cabinetry is home to a **built-in microwave** and Chris's **Nespresso coffee machine** with a slim **warming drawer** between the two and a cupboard to the side. Above, an oak **seven-bottle wine rack** makes the most of what could otherwise have been wasted space



our options open.' Despite a brief flirtation with a hand-painted design, it was seeing a kitchen in rich oak in the Dean Fairhurst Bespoke Kitchens & Interiors showroom that finally – and quickly – swayed their choice.

Creating a family-orientated design was a priority, but the couple had a few ideas of their own, too. 'We wanted rounded edges, mainly for the children's safety, and Suzanne wanted pan drawers. We also thought an island would work really well,' says Chris.

As the scheme began to come together, designer Dean Fairhurst provided the couple with templates on trestle tables offering several variations on the island. This made it much easier for them to visualise Dean's ideas and reach a decision. 'We tried various shapes but it was the circular one that really stood out,' recalls Chris. 'We hadn't seen anything like it before and it ended up looking fantastic.'

Aside from the unusually shaped island, Chris and Suzanne saw their bespoke design really come into its own as the cabinetry took shape; despite its subtle modern look, it blends beautifully with the beams of the house. 'Buying off-the-peg is very restrictive and we would have needed a lot more in the way of units,' explains Chris. 'Working with Dean has meant that every detail has been designed for us, right down to the number of shelves.'

A prime example is the larder unit, which is filled with storage solutions, from copious shelving to carefully designed racks that put the back of the door to good use. Dean created Suzanne's pan drawers with an eye for aesthetics, too; the inspiration behind the six-drawer design was a traditional merchant's chest. 'Looking back, it's hard to believe we weren't going to replace the kitchen,' smiles Suzanne. 'We're both so glad we changed our minds because the kitchen has made the house and we absolutely love it.'

FEATURE TRACEY WILLIAMS PHOTOGRAPHY CLIVE DOYLE

'WE GET THE MOST USE OUT OF THE COFFEE MACHINE. WHEN WE CAME TO RESET IT, CHRIS HAD ALREADY MADE MORE THAN 2,000 COFFEES!'

SMART FOOD STORAGE

Standing floor to ceiling, a **larder** utilises all the space behind one of the kitchen doors. **Internal racks** house herbs and spices

COOKING OPTIONS

A Miele **ceramic four-zone hob** and **single oven** are useful when the Aga is turned off



PRICE GUIDE
Starting price
£15,000
for a Dean Fairhurst Bespoke Kitchens & Interiors design

THE KITCHEN AT A GLANCE

DESIGN & CABINETS

- Dean Fairhurst at **Dean Fairhurst Bespoke Kitchens & Interiors**, The Stables, Carlton Hall, Carlton-on-Trent, Newark, Notts NG23 6LP (01636 821222) www.dffurniture.co.uk
- Bespoke solid European Oak cabinetry with glass and mesh doors from the Woodhouse range

WORKTOPS

- Nero Assoluto granite. Price per linear m **£250**

FLOORING

- Existing vinyl. For similar try Rustic Ash tiles, Karndean. Price per sq m, from **£21**

SINK AND TAP

- KBX12034-34 undermounted double-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke **£460**
- Doric Trispray monobloc mixer filter tap in chrome with separate rinse, Franke **£703**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- Two-oven Aga top plate **£1,087**
- 2 x Aga lids in chrome, each **£325**
- H5240 built-in single oven, Miele **£1,200**
- M8161-2 built-in microwave, Miele **£650**
- KM5801 Hi-Light four-zone ceramic hob, Miele **£647**
- CVA3660 built-in coffee machine, Miele **£1,550**
- ESS3060-10 built-in warming drawer, Miele **£450**

- Fully integrated dishwasher, for similar try G23435Ci, Miele **£1,034**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated undercounter fridge, Miele **£535**

For stockists, see page 144

