

GET ORGANISED  
Bespoke storage

# 'Custom-made storage fits my every need'

A mix of built-in, open and concealed storage ensures there's a place for everything in Betty Thompson's kitchen

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

**T**he first decision Betty Thompson made when she moved into her Sussex home two years ago was that the kitchen needed to be updated – and fast. 'The layout wasn't user-friendly at all,' she says, 'and the units were more than 20 years old.' The second decision Betty took was to go down the bespoke route – her kitchen is open-plan to one of the living rooms, so she needed to incorporate lots of storage to keep the entire space clutter-free.

'My brother-in-law recommended a company and I took a drive out to see their workshop in Hampshire,' she says. 'I was so impressed with the quality of the work I saw, and throughout the job they took their time to make sure they got every detail right,' she says. Betty went for a timeless scheme. 'The house has so many period features, I thought it warranted a classic look,' she says. One of the best parts of the new kitchen is a wall of units (see over) that incorporates a larder. 'I really wanted a larder as I grew up with one,' says Betty. 'This one is so big I actually store my microwave – and just about everything else – inside.'



## Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

### THE PROPERTY

A five-bed Regency town house in Hove, Sussex.

### WHAT IT COST

Bespoke units.....£10,540  
Worktops.....£2,072  
Appliances.....£2,210  
Flooring.....£700  
Tap.....£248  
**TOTAL.....£15,770**

### WHO LIVES HERE

Betty Thompson and her

two children – Felix, six, and Sophie, five. The family moved into the house in August 2009.

### WHAT SHE DID

Created one big cooking-eating-living space by expanding the small arched opening that separated the kitchen and living room. The kitchen end was gutted and refitted to get a better layout and more storage.

### THE LOOK

Modern-classic with bespoke, hand-painted Shaker-style units, walnut worktops and quirky cubbyhole wall storage for displaying jars and cookery books. The floorboards were stained to match the worktops for a co-ordinated finish.

### LESSONS LEARNED

**“**Try to select a company who will be patient with you and help you achieve your goals. I have a tendency to over analyse every detail, but the team I worked with had so much time for me.**”**



**THE LAYOUT** The island houses the hob, the run of units on the right contains the sink, and the wall of storage on the left is home to the fridge-freezer and ovens. The big opening leads on to the living area

## Love her STYLE?

BETTY'S UNITS ARE FROM HIGHAM FURNITURE ££. FOR SIMILAR, TRY WICKES'S STAMFORD £ OR PLAIN ENGLISH'S LONG HOUSE £££

### Super storage

Betty kept the cubbyhole shelving that was in the original kitchen as it adds character to the neutral scheme. She decanted pasta and cereal into glass jars, which are displayed along with her collection of glassware. The rest of the units were made by a bespoke kitchen company

**TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW**  
Betty created her new kitchen





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### Smart drawers

The drawers in the island unit were sized to fit the jobs they do – the bottom one is extra deep for pots and pans, the middle one is perfect for plates, and the top drawer is shallow and sectioned for cutlery



**IDEA** Increase storage by including drawers or cupboards in an island unit

### Wonder wall

Betty had a big bank of units – designed to her exact specifications – built around her American-style fridge-freezer. It includes a larder (see below) and enough storage to keep the kitchen clutter-free



### Luxe larder

A combination of shelves, drawers and baskets makes space for everything – even the microwave. The two slim vertical drawers at the bottom are for trays

## How I did it



“ Work began in December – a big mistake as snow delayed everything

so we had no kitchen for Christmas. We were using a box in the garden as a fridge, but it was so cold everything in it turned to ice! Amazingly, the kitchen was finished by mid-January. The installation cost around £2,500 and I also paid £700 to have the floors sanded and stained. Extending the opening between the kitchen and living room was part of other work we had done in the house. ”

### Where to buy ITEMS SHOWN

Bespoke Chunky Shaker-style framed **units** painted in Farrow & Ball's Blackened Estate Eggshell, £10,540; walnut **worktops**, £265 per sq m; all Higham Furniture. DO4SS-5 **double oven**, £530; PGF75FSC3 **hob**, £480; both Smeg. RSH1DBRS American **fridge-freezer**, £900, Samsung. For a similar **table**, try the Farmhouse, from £228, Mercuro. For similar **wooden chairs**, try the Saint Clair, £230 for two, Furniture 123. Norvald **white chairs**, £39.83 each, IKEA. Task **pendant lights**, £133 each, Original BTC. **Glass jars**, for similar, try the Flip jars, from £3.50, Jme. **Blinds**, for similar, try the Timble Cream, from £52, Debenhams

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