

# Made for ENTERTAINING

Malcolm Burke wanted to create a bright and sociable kitchen for his friends and family

FEATURE VIVIENNE AYERS · PHOTOGRAPHY BRENT DARBY



**DINING AREA**  
Having space to entertain was imperative. Glass doors here open out to the garden – perfect for summer soirees

## Kitchen FACT FILE

**THE FAMILY** Malcolm Burke, a partner at Ernst & Young, and his sons Alex, 19, and Nathan, 16  
**THE HOME** A three-bedroom cottage dating from around 1850 in a conservation area in Surrey  
**THE PROJECT** Creating a modern kitchen for entertaining

**PRICE GUIDE**  
**£26,000**  
for a similar bespoke kitchen by Higham Furniture, cabinetry only

**CABINERY**  
Malcolm wanted to combine modern function together with timeless looks. He selected bespoke Shaker-style cabinetry from Higham Furniture hand-painted in Dimity eggshell by Farrow & Ball. Baseline cabinets have been made taller than usual because of Malcolm's height

**CUPBOARD**  
Beside the Neff fridge freezer is a shallower unit that conceals a Panasonic microwave, shelving for cookery books and drawer space for groceries



As a keen cook who loves to entertain, Malcolm Burke's priority was to create a kitchen that was stylish as well as functional when he bought a pretty period cottage nearly two years ago. 'When entertaining, it seems odd to me to dine in a separate room to the one you cook in,' Malcolm says. 'People tend to hang around in the kitchen when I'm preparing food anyway, so I thought a larger space with

a dining area would provide a more sociable experience.' The work was to be part of the renovation of the whole cottage, during which time it was almost entirely gutted.

**LAYOUT REDESIGN**  
The existing kitchen was an awkward dog-leg shape, with a cloakroom encroaching on it. Malcolm's first step was to change the layout to enlarge the space, so the walls were

knocked through to open it up. Keen to have an airy feel, Malcolm removed a bay and instead installed Victorian-style French windows in line with the main wall. This boosted the natural light and meant the doors could be opened onto a patio area and the garden – ideal for summer entertaining.

Pale flooring helped to set the tone for the scheme. Malcolm chose limestone slabs to keep the look light, and had underfloor ►

**DESIGNER'S TIP** 'When the room was opened up a vertical post had to be left in to support the RSJ and it also created a different depth to the room as the wall was stepped. We disguised this detail by putting the fridge freezer in the deeper section and building larders for storage in the shallower part' **TIM HIGHAM**





**DRESSER**  
Located in the dining area, this has curved corners to soften the look



**SINK AREA**  
The Subway sink by Villeroy & Boch is teamed with a timeless Franke tap



**CUTLERY STORAGE**  
Soft-close drawers are made from oak



### Beautiful Kitchens LOVES

Clever design has made the most of the space – with a fridge freezer taking up a deeper part of the room and a shallower larder next to it forming a continuous run of units.

Higher than average base units mean Malcolm no longer has to bend forward while prepping food.

The room has a simple, seamless style. Furniture such as the wooden-topped dining table echoes the look of the cabinetry.

**WORKING TRIANGLE**  
With a specially made 'chimney' housing a Westin canopy extractor hood, the cooking zone sits opposite the sink area and a few steps from the fridge freezer

heating put in. Having looked at lots of brochures, he already knew he wanted off-white painted cabinets to keep the room bright.

### BESPOKE FURNITURE

Interior designer Amanda Erritt, who was working with Malcolm on the house renovation, recommended kitchen company Higham Furniture, so Malcolm arranged to meet designer Tim Higham. Tim's suggestion of Shaker-style units ticked all the right boxes. 'I also wanted the kitchen to be modern without losing character – a combination of both contemporary and traditional,' explains Malcolm. 'Tim offered a design that was sympathetic to the age of the house and with the functionality I wanted.'

Tim created a computer-generated mock-up that gave Malcolm a good idea

of how all the furniture would look together and because Malcolm is 6ft 5in, the pair decided that the base units should be taller than usual. Another key ingredient in the scheme was an island. 'I'd never had one before but I thought it would be a practical use of space,' says Malcolm. 'It allows my sons Alex and Nathan to sit down nearby while I cook without having to be at the table and means they can see the TV. It's also provided a place to put a wine fridge and an integrated dishwasher.'

### UNIQUE SOLUTIONS

Tim had one major problem to solve. When the room was opened up, it left a stepped wall and a vertical post to support the RSJ. This was cleverly disguised with an American-style fridge freezer and a larder to house the microwave, plus shelves and drawers for groceries. Extra

### ISLAND

A Nero Cosmos granite-topped central workstation provides an area for informal eating with room for Neptune bar stools and a Caple wine cooler. Pendant lights from Original BTC create a focal point above the island



storage was provided near the dining area with a custom-made dresser. This features curved end panels and stained-oak worktops, which differentiate it from the rest of the room without causing it to clash with the cabinetry elsewhere. Malcolm chose granite worksurfaces for the working part of the scheme as a contrast to the white units.

As a final flourish, the classic look was finished off with a bespoke cooking area, created by building a chimney and mantel to house a Westin canopy extractor, with a smart range cooker by Britannia below.

'The kitchen works well for me as a place to entertain,' says Malcolm. 'The dinner parties I've hosted already have gone very well, as did Christmas dinner – my first ever as a cook. Now I'm looking forward to entertaining family and friends through the summer.'



### SHOP THE LOOK

**CABINERY**  
Bespoke hand-painted tulipwood Shaker units by Higham Furniture. A similar kitchen, cabinetry only, costs from £26,000

**WORKSURFACES**  
Polished Nero Cosmos granite, Sabre Stone. Price per sq m £630  
Stained full-stave oak. Price per linear m £240

**SPLASHBACK**  
Bespoke back-painted glass, for similar, try Maldon Glass. Price per m, from £190

**FLOORING**  
St Arbois limestone, Hard Rock Flooring. Price per sq m £81.60

**APPLIANCES**  
Dual-fuel range cooker, Britannia £1,500  
Freestanding microwave, Panasonic £70  
Canopy extractor hood, Westin £670  
American-style fridge freezer, Neff £1,800  
Integrated wine cooler, Caple £320  
Fully integrated dishwasher, Miele £900

**SINK AND TAP**  
Subway XU undermounted one-and-a-half-bowl ceramic sink, Villeroy & Boch £335  
Helena monobloc mixer tap in SilkSteel, Franke £130

**FINISHING TOUCHES**  
Suffolk dining table, Neptune, from £595  
Suffolk dining chair, Neptune, each £180  
Suffolk bar stools in Limestone, Neptune, each £235  
Wine glass chandelier, Dwell £199  
Drop one pendant lights, Original BTC, each £120  
Waisted bow handles, Acorn Ironmongery, each from £3  
Two Slot NewGen toaster in Lime, Dualit £150  
Home of Style Pyramid kettle in Lime Green, Homebase £40  
Nespresso Maestria Crema coffee machine, Magimix £350  
Laguiole Tonic forks, John Lewis, set of six £27  
House napkins, John Lewis, set of four £10  
Summer Brights tableware, John Lewis, from £2  
24cm round casserole in Teal by Le Creuset, John Lewis £105  
Colourworks measuring bowls, Papyllon £10.50  
Colourworks spoons, Papyllon £6.99  
LSA jug, Papyllon, each £22.99  
Tea towels, Herdy, each £8  
Mugs, Herdy, each £10.50  
Dimitry Estate eggshell, Farrow & Ball. Price per 2.5 litres £50

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