



DREAM KITCHEN

Tim Higham gives Shaker style a clever and contemporary update



DESCRIBE THE ORIGINAL SPACE

This was previously a small kitchen in a Victorian terraced house, with a built-on conservatory in a poor state of repair. Tired of meals squashed around a tiny table, owners Ali Cooper and Jon Watts, along with Ali's two children, were ready for a change. The couple decided to knock down the conservatory and extend over its footprint and over the side return, knowing that that would more than double the kitchen in size.

WHAT WAS YOUR DESIGN BRIEF?

This was to be a room simply for cooking and eating, so I didn't have to worry about where to include a sofa or TV area. Ali, who subscribes to the "less is more" school of thought, was adamant that she didn't want walls lined with cupboards. Nor did she want an island, as that would have reduced the available space for a large dining table. She wanted the room to appear spacious, with

furniture that had a freestanding feel and character, but the room also had to function perfectly for a family who love entertaining.

HOW DID YOU PLAN THE LAYOUT?

Ali chose a Britannia range cooker for its family-size cooking capacity, which became the natural starting point. It needed to have worksurfaces on either side and the sink close by, so we sited most of that run under the skylights, which usher in natural light. The area was only large enough for a few base units, so we added a freestanding dresser against another wall. Its lower section was designed to hold crockery, while the top part has oak shelves for groceries, glasses and bottles. Space was also left for a Corian shelf on which to stand the microwave and other items.

WHAT INSPIRED THE CABINETRY?

All of our furniture is made to order in our workshop, so I had the flexibility to design something that would suit this room exactly. The handle-less design that we created is a

contemporary take on traditional Shaker furniture, and I knew the design's clean lines and substantial frames would suit the crisp, linear feel of the new scheme. We built the furniture with chunky legs to give it a greater sense of being freestanding.

WHAT MATERIALS WERE USED?

The timber cabinets painted in Farrow & Ball's subtle, soft Pavilion Gray shade work well with the fresh feel of the white walls. We chose Corian for the worktops. It's a very smooth and practical solid surface; I also like the way its slender shape accentuates the linear design of the cabinets.

WHAT IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS?

The handle-less Shaker design in combination with the crisp Corian looks modern, but the cabinetry still has the attractive sturdiness you would expect from a handmade kitchen. The furniture's unfitted feel blends well with Ali's vintage dining table and pendant lights, resulting in a look that's designed to last. ■

WORDS AMELIA THORPE | PHOTOGRAPHS DARREN CHUNG

FACT FILE

DESIGNER Tim Higham at Higham Furniture, 0800 047 0235, higham.co.uk.
BUDGET £15,000, plus appliances.
SOURCES Cabinets and dresser, Handle-less Shaker, Higham Furniture (as above). **Painted in** Pavilion Gray, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com. **Worktop and sink**, Cameo White, 0800 962 116, corian.co.uk. **Tap**, Perrin & Rowe, 01708 526361, perrinandrowe.com. **Range cooker**, Britannia, 0800 073 1003, britanniainliving.co.uk. **Fridge** (just seen), Miele, 0845 365 6600, miele.co.uk. **Similar pendant lamp**, Elemental, 020 7247 7588, elemental.uk.com. **Similar flooring**, Reclaimed oak, Lassco, 020 7394 2100, lassco.co.uk.