

# HOMES & GARDENS<sup>®</sup>

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£4.50

## WINTER GLAMOUR

DECORATING WITH LUSTROUS METALLICS  
THE BEAUTY OF A FROSTY GARDEN  
IDEAS FOR A LAVISH COUNTRY LUNCH

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

TIME TO  
CELEBRATE

*Magical escapes*

FROM SPECTACULAR  
MOUNTAIN RETREATS TO  
A CHIC CITY BOLTHOLE





The most interesting original beams and A-frames were retained, with new steelwork playing an essential supporting role. The resulting rustic-industrial look influenced the design details throughout.

# HIGH & MIGHTY

Structural steel and wooden beams frame striking blue cabinetry in a sociable space



**DESIGNER**  
Tim Higham, director,  
Higham Furniture,  
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## Can you tell us about the project?

The main residence is a late Georgian coach house, which was converted in 1979. This kitchen is in a stable building and part of it had been used as a garage and entertainment room when our clients bought the property in 2016. They have now integrated it with the house and added insulation and heating to create an impressive kitchen-living space.

## What was the project brief?

The owners have three young children and two Labradoodles, so it had to be a good family kitchen that they could also use for entertaining. There were several discussions about the large range cooker, and how to keep the main working area efficient but still fill the space. Large kitchens, particularly those with high ceilings, can feel cold or unwelcoming. Zoning the room into distinct seating, dining and cooking areas helps make it feel more lived in, and an even spread of furnishings can improve acoustics.

## How did the structure influence the design?

Additional steel supports were added to meet building regulations, and walls were built out to accommodate plumbing and electrics. There isn't one straight wall, so nearly every cabinet is made to non-standard measurements. We had little control over the position of the steel supports so the layout had to be designed around them, and plans for Georgian-style doors with detailed mouldings were eschewed in favour of plainer Shaker-style doors to add a calming influence amid the busy structural details.

## Why are there two island units?

We couldn't get one island to work within the steel structure. You'd need a vast one to suit the room's proportions, but that would result in a lot of inaccessible space beneath and worktops that couldn't be reached in the middle. Two islands





The bespoke slimline larder to the left of the window was made to balance the cabinet on the other side of the sink.



The comfortable television area provides a relaxing space for the whole family and is positioned so that the cook can engage with guests while preparing meals.

proved far more practical. One has bar stools and wine coolers to cater for socialising, and the other, between the range and sink, is for the chef.

**Who selected the bold palette?**

The owners chose all the paint colours. The shade used on the islands and dresser is Little Greene's Deep Space Blue. It's incredibly bright, so we called to check we had the right colour; it seemed quite dazzling in our workshops. Often clients make colour decisions using 3cm sq swatches so it's worth double-checking. Now that it's in place, it looks wonderful.

**What was your main challenge?**

The room itself caused the only headaches. The step in the wall, which conceals all the tanking and pipework, was a surprise addition. We made it appear deliberate by aligning the tall cabinetry and extractor at the top. There was also no obvious line to follow, such as a central chimney breast, for the range. Planning is often harder if the architecture doesn't have a direction or focal point. In this case, strong colours helped corral the kitchen into an ordered space and balance the complex architecture.

**WHERE TO BUY**

- CABINETRY** Bespoke Shaker-style furniture painted in Little Greene's French Grey and Deep Space Blue, from £35,000, Higham Furniture, [higham.co.uk](http://higham.co.uk); **32mm Mushroom knobs**, from £15 each; **Kitchen bin pull drawer handles**, from £24 each, both in polished nickel, Armac Martin, [martin.co.uk](http://martin.co.uk). **SURFACES** Main worktops in 3cm-thick Steel grey leathered granite, from £310/sq m; **Island unit worktops** in 3cm-thick Carrara marble, from £550/sq m, supplied by Higham, as before. **Engineered oak flooring**, from £100/sq m, Hakwood, [hakwood.com](http://hakwood.com). **Splashback tiles** in Palermo Grigio Crackle Glaze Ceramic, £71.95/sq m, Tile Boutique, [tileboutiquefarnham.co.uk](http://tileboutiquefarnham.co.uk). **APPLIANCES** CBNES 6256 fridge freezer, £4,440, Liebherr, [myliebherr.co.uk](http://myliebherr.co.uk); **Vezelay 220cm range cooker** in Black, from £12,960, Lacanche, [lacanche.co.uk](http://lacanche.co.uk). **SPC1100 Cache integrated extractors**, from £930 each, Westin, [westin.co.uk](http://westin.co.uk). **SN66M050GB dishwashers**, £719 each, Siemens, [siemens-home.co.uk](http://siemens-home.co.uk). **SINKS AND TAPS** 6625-K4 Iron/Tones undermounted sink, £1,144, Kohler, [kohler.co.uk](http://kohler.co.uk); **Tara three-hole mixer taps** in Cyprum finish, from £1,581; **rinsing spray** in Cyprum finish, from £808, Dornbracht, [dornbracht.com/en-gb](http://dornbracht.com/en-gb). **Quooker Classic Pro7** in polished chrome, £1,210, [quooker.co.uk](http://quooker.co.uk). **FINISHING TOUCHES** Vintage Balloon Cage wall lights in Copper, £79 each; **Brooklyn Copper/Pewter Dome pendant shades**, £99 each, Industville, [industville.co.uk](http://industville.co.uk); **Star spotlights** in Copper, £434, Orsjo at Twentytwentyone, [twentytwentyone.com](http://twentytwentyone.com).

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