

UTOPIA

# KITCHEN & BATHROOM

LATEST TRENDS

LOVES... STYLE | DESIGN | TRENDS

£4.75 SEPTEMBER 2017

REAL HOMES

Ask the Experts

Top kitchen designers reveal their biggest do's and don'ts

UTOPIA LOVES

Price tag

Living the dream with our ultimate wish list

Pure  
Luxury

TILES IN THE BATHROOM

RANGE COOKERS

BRAND NEW PRODUCTS

COMPETITIONS

SURFACES



The entire property was renovated from top to bottom last year and the large barn adjacent to the house was converted into a large (950 square foot) open plan, double height kitchen and living room.


# SIZE MATTERS

A converted barn with wonderfully high ceilings and original beams, reinforced by steel, makes the ideal space for a large, contemporary kitchen and dining area.

REAL HOMES

## THE owners

Fred and Hannah Scarlett live in this late Georgian, detached six-bedroom house set in an acre of private land in a small village in the South Downs with their three children, Otto, 10, Bella, 9, Caspar, 7, and their two enormous Labradoodles, Strudel and Myrtle.



Fred, a property developer in central London and his wife, Hannah, a stay at home mum, are both accomplished chefs with a real passion for food, so the kitchen space was the most important part of the entire property renovation.

“Our family life is based around the kitchen, and we love the two large islands, so the children can be eating or doing homework, and we can be prepping food at the same time. The old kitchen was much smaller, and this new space has allowed us not to get in each other’s way constantly.”

Fred and Hannah Scarlett, homeowner

### THE designer

The space was huge and the owners loved to cook and entertain as well as having three growing children. Having such a big space to work with allowed us to design the layout with two islands, one which has their second dishwasher and storage and the other island which houses two wine coolers and space for informal seating on the back. As with spaces this size it’s important to get the flow right and not try to overfill the room. Tim Higham, owner and head designer, Higham Furniture

# F

red and Hannah Scarlett wanted a simple, elegant kitchen to sit in proportion with the extremely large space and, as keen chefs, it was crucial the space would not only look great but also function properly as a kitchen.

“We wanted to be able to entertain with ease and raise our family around food and cooking,” says Hannah. “We didn’t want fussy details or to compromise the space as a kitchen. The stone and the cabinet colours add to the strength and confidence of the design and the tall, feature units stand proud as individual pieces of furniture. We also loved the build quality and attention to detail of Higham’s, they have painstakingly developed kitchens and cabinetry that are as well made as they are beautiful.”

The Higham team, led by owner and head designer, Tim Higham, were certainly spoilt for space with this kitchen design.

“The scale and height, although amazing for a kitchen and dining room space, did present a few challenges and we also needed to work around the steel beams holding the room up,” said Tim. “The 2.2m long Lacanche bespoke range cooker that Hannah and Fred selected is a serious piece of kit and this is the largest range cooker we’ve ever worked with.”

Fred and Hannah opted for unfussy Shaker style furniture with no moulding. The entire kitchen is bespoke, from the layout to cabinetry details, heights and sizes allowing balance and symmetry to be created where it was needed. There are two wine fridges on one island and a second dishwasher.





The exposed steel beams and wooden trusses give this kitchen a more industrial feel – working well to give a contemporary twist on the older building. “I think we have created a unique, traditional-contemporary kitchen whilst maintaining the industrial feel of the space. The space flows and combines what Hannah wanted to achieve – a serious cook’s kitchen with lots of family and entertaining space where everyone can mix,” said Tim Higham.



The couple set their hearts on this incredibly large Lacanche Vezelay range cooker which would have swamped a kitchen any smaller. An American style fridge-freezer was also essential given the size of the family and the entertaining. They also have a Quooker tap and enjoy the luxury of having two dishwashers, ensuring the surfaces stay as clear as possible.





“The room works for all the family, with plenty of space allowing things to be kept stored away and well organised. It allows them space as a family, so the parents can cook and socialise and the children can get on with their homework all at the same time.”

Tim Higham, owner and head designer, Higham Furniture

Tim Higham recommends getting your kitchen designer involved as early on in the planning process as possible, particularly if your kitchen will be bespoke.

“Any necessary compromises are then made early on and the bespoke nature of the kitchen is not compromised later in the process,” said Tim. “For most people, the way they live is essential to what they want to achieve, for example, if they enjoy cooking or socialising their kitchen will need to reflect that.”

“We needed a bespoke option, given the tricky building, with ancient wonky walls, and exposed steel girders,” says Hannah. “Out of all the companies we met with, Higham gave us the confidence that they would be able to cope with the unusual space, and they did an amazing job.”

Despite the challenges, the design team at Higham have certainly created a stunningly spacious kitchen full of impressive appliances and storage space. The contemporary space has been cleverly crafted inside a restored barn dating back to the 1800s which makes it even more impressive.

### THE details

A bespoke kitchen made by Higham Furniture and known as the Scarlett Kitchen. Painted in Little Greene Intelligent Eggshell, French Grey and Deep Space Blue. Handles from Armac Martin, knobs in polished nickel. [higham.co.uk](http://higham.co.uk)

Bespoke freestanding extractor. [westin.co.uk](http://westin.co.uk)

Lacanche Vezelay range cooker and hob [lacanche.co.uk](http://lacanche.co.uk)

Integrated Siemens SN66M050GB dishwasher x 2 [siemens-home.bsh-group.com](http://siemens-home.bsh-group.com)

Quooker classic PR07-VAQ tap [quooker.co.uk](http://quooker.co.uk)

Fred and Hannah opted for a simple shaker style kitchen which further complements the overall elegant design. They love the Deep Space Blue contrasting with the Super White Quartzite worktops.