

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Kitchen

With beautiful craftsmanship and luxurious finishes, Tim Higham has created a confident and stylish kitchen design

PICTURES ROWLAND ROQUES-O'NEIL | WORDS EMILY PECK

A dramatic kitchen design with plenty of storage takes centre stage in Kate and Ed Haynes' detached house, which took two years to fully renovate. Built in 1880, the home has doubled in size since the couple moved in, as two side extensions, a loft extension and back extension have been carried out. As an interior designer, Kate had a firm idea of how she wanted the space to look but to execute her ideas she turned to kitchen experts Higham Furniture. 'Every now and then you get a project out of the ordinary, like this one,' says Tim. 'I have worked with Kate before and whereas most kitchen companies stick to a standard set of cabinets and door styles, we don't have limitations. So, whenever Kate wants something special, she comes to us.'

Kate's brief was to create a room that felt fresh and streamlined and made use of the height of the kitchen, which could have been seen as quite a daunting space to some. Inspired by American interiors 'where they work with volume and space brilliantly' the most stunning aspect is its 3.4m-high bank of cabinets set into the alcove. 'We thought the design could benefit by the height of the room,' explains Tim, 'and this substantial nook features a fridge and larder unit on each side, drinks area in the middle, integrated TV and glazed storage units above.' The wall cabinets positioned above the range were raked with a slanted back to fit into the pitched roof. 'This makes the cabinetry look taller,' he says. With sophisticated painted, marble and oak finishes plus handleless cabinetry, the brief to create a stylish and timeless family kitchen has certainly been fulfilled here. *CK 111*



TIM HIGHAM

OWNER AND DESIGNER, HIGHAM FURNITURE. Set up 10 years ago, Tim's company designs and builds handmade bespoke furniture for the kitchen. A popular design continues to be the handleless Shaker, shown here, that gives a popular and traditional kitchen style a sleek and contemporary look.



PROJECT DETAILS

CABINETRY Bespoke handleless painted kitchen, from £20,000, designed by Tim Higham of Higham Furniture and Kate Haynes of EHG **FRIDGE-FREEZER** SOV028TB Trilogy, £2,078, Maytag **RANGE COOKER** 1092 Deluxe dual fuel, £3,204, Falcon **DISHWASHER** G4280 Vii, £728 **WINE COOLER** KWT4154UG-1, around £1,600 **COFFEE MACHINE** CVA 6401, £2,109 **MICROWAVE** M6262 TC, £1,199, all Miele **SINK** Edgworth 1.5 Belfast sink, £627, Shaws of Darwen **WASTE DISPOSAL** Evolution 100, £227, InSinkErator **BOILING WATER TAP** £2,499, Quatreau **WORKTOP & SPLASHBACK** 30mm Carrera marble, £200 per sq. m **BREAKFAST BAR** 80mm-thick and 650mm-wide curved American limed oak, £2,500, both Higham Furniture **WALL PAINT** Perennial Grey, £53 per 2.5l, Little Greene **PENDANT LIGHTS** £319 each, Restoration Hardware in America **BAR STOOLS** £60 each, from John Lewis



RAISING THE ROOF

Left: The kitchen's glazed roofing floods the space with natural light, and highlights the beauty of the limed oak and white marble worktops.

This page Built-in appliances and a television are cleverly installed in the kitchen's tallest bank of cabinetry, which is painted in Blue Blood by Paint Library.

'Inspired by American interiors, the most stunning aspect is the high bank of cabinets set into the alcove'

BRIGHT IDEAS

Wrought iron is used for the kitchen entrance and echoed here in the kitchen's pendant lights

ON BALANCE

Units were specially cut to fit the slanted roof and to balance out the height of the opposite stretch of units...

HIDDEN DEPTH

Ample storage space and an inviting bar area make the island a successful design

FLOOR SHOW

Travertine tiles were chosen for the floor due to their elegant finish, enhancing the limed oak and marble worktops beautifully

ESSENTIAL *designer*



CLEVER PLANNING

The kitchen has plenty of space for cooking and prep work, with an ample Falcon range cooker and useful features such as a hot water tap and waste disposal unit.

'We spent a lot of time creating symmetry in the interior. Storage space is designed to be aesthetically pleasing as well as practical'



READY TO ENTERTAIN

The open-plan kitchen space flows onto a formal dining area with seating for eight.

Q&A

How did you create the layout and design?

Tall units like this can be tricky to install so we had to put a lot of thought into how to make it work. The scale of the tallest bank was a brave thing to do but it worked as we could fit it into the existing alcove. We had to get four of the tallest people in the workshop to fit it! This bank of units is very compact, featuring an integrated microwave, coffee machine, wine cooler and worktop with tea and coffee prep area, as well as a fridge and a built-in larder and TV. We spent a lot of time trying to create symmetry in the interior, so custom-making the units to fit perfectly was important – the larder is the same size as the fridge, for example. Storage space is also designed to be aesthetically pleasing and practical, with glazed units on cabinetry runs on either side of the room, as well as a number of concealed drawers on the island unit.

Are there any special features you think work particularly well?

Kate was keen to avoid a 'blocky' island design, so we created a sweeping curve to make it look less rigid. The shape and thickness of the oak worktop was crucial and we had to template it a few times to get the exact curve right. With a raised limed oak worktop and bar stools that contrast beautifully with the white marble worktop, it has resulted in a very sociable and useful island space.

Can you tell us about the materials used?

Scooped-handle cabinetry provides a clean feel. Kate felt the kitchen would look good painted in a dark colour due to its sheer size, so an atmospheric Blue Blood shade by Paint Library was chosen. This depth of colour is contrasted with a few exposed limed oak units, island worktop and bar stool legs, which adds warmth. Meanwhile, the white marble worktops and a travertine tile flooring were chosen to help reflect light around the room and enhance the sense of space.