

Final flourish

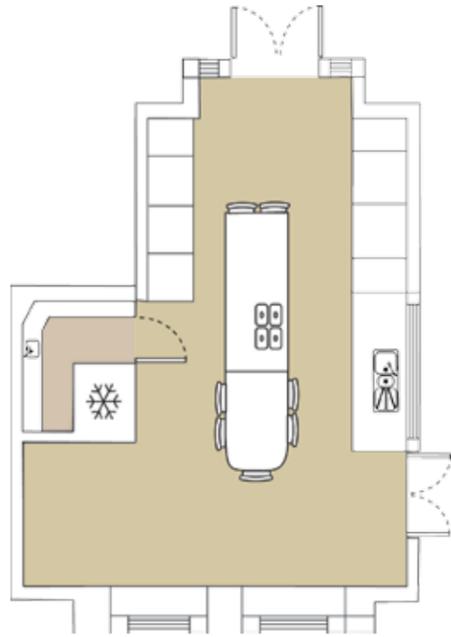
After several mediocre incarnations, this kitchen now has a stylish yet timeless look that will appeal for many years to come

Words: **Felicity Borthwick** Photography: **Darren Chung**



Previous page (p131): Homeowners Emma and Simon Chandler wanted to keep the cabinetry predominantly at a low level to enhance the room's light, airy feel so there is just one tall bank, which houses the ovens, a double larder and some fridge drawers below.

Right: "We wanted as large an island as possible so decided that having the table attached was the best way to go. The space didn't really warrant having a separate table and it creates a nice flow," says Emma. "I also loved Martin's idea of creating a sideboard as it connects both aspects – kitchen and dining – and is great for storing dinner plates and things like that."



Emma and Simon Chandler are no strangers to challenging renovation projects. When they bought this house, a small red-brick property in Doncaster, their intention was to tear it down and build something bigger. Unfortunately, however, the town they live in is very strict on planning and this wasn't an option. Instead they decided to build an extension and use the space to install a new pine kitchen, which Emma recalls "was all the rage back then". Several years later they added on a conservatory and the house was finally, they felt, a suitable size for them and their two sons.

About five years ago, though, the pair began to tire of the dated pine scheme so had it painted cream and put in some new tiles and worktops, but it still didn't add up to their dream kitchen. It wasn't until last year, however, when they decided to tear down the wall between the kitchen and conservatory to create one large kitchen-dining space, that they finally achieved this with a striking design from Chiselwood.

"We basically wanted the wow factor but in a classic way, so we asked some friends of ours, who are very particular, where they got their kitchen from and they said Chiselwood," recalls Emma. "We

were happy to go on their recommendation, but we also did quite a bit of research – looking on the internet and visiting showrooms – to work out what we did and didn't like in terms of style. I hate anything fussy," she continues, "so we were looking for something simple and classic, with a dining table attached to the island so that everything flows."

To keep the space feeling calm and elegant, the couple opted for Chiselwood's Arborio paint for the wall units and a darker grey hue called Lead Dark by Little Greene for the island and utility room. They complemented this with pale limestone flooring and a honed Silestone worktop in Lagoon. "The furniture is all quite light as the idea was

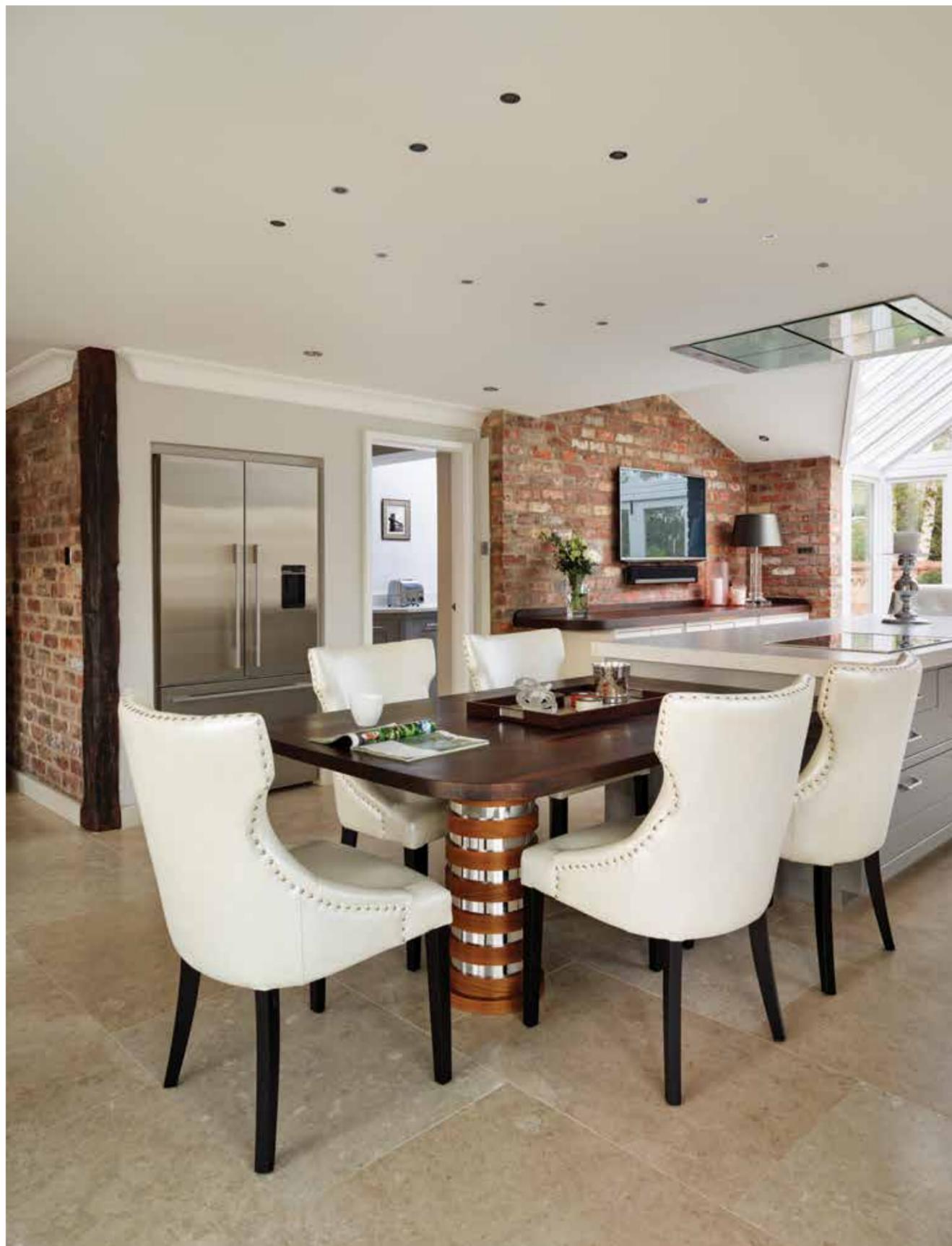
to brighten up the space as much as possible, although we did use a dark wenge on the dining table and sideboard to prevent the room from looking bland," explains Chiselwood's Martin Holliday.

The couple also requested that wall units be kept to a minimum as they felt this would enhance the room's light, airy feel. There are still copious amounts of storage, however, with a capacious larder between the ovens, numerous drawers on the cooking side of the island, and a lengthy sideboard along the exposed brick wall. In addition, there's ample storage for fresh food thanks to a sizeable fridge-freezer next to the utility room and extra fridge drawers beneath the larder.

"We knew we wanted Miele for the cooking appliances and then went for Fisher & Paykel on the dishwasher drawers and refrigeration," says Emma. "We treated ourselves to two dishwashers as, with two boys, there is always plenty of washing up," she laughs. "It's so nice having that luxury, as well as all the storage, but I especially like the fact that we can all now sit down and have dinner as a family in the kitchen. Again, we haven't had that luxury before and it's wonderful, plus we use the island all the time."

"The kitchen is now just such a lovely room to be in and everything works really well," Emma adds, "and we're certainly pleased we followed the recommendation to use Chiselwood!" KBB





Q&A

Owner Emma Chandler says...

What did you find the most useful research tool(s) when starting this project?
We went around a few kitchen showrooms and looked on the internet to get an idea of what we did and didn't like – a kitchen is something you spend a lot of money on so it's good to do your research!

Were there any major budget surprises?

Yes. As the builders began to dig down to install the underfloor heating, they discovered that one of our old-fashioned radiators had been leaking for years, unbeknown to us. So there was a lot of water that had gone into the utility room, hence we decided to put a new one in.

Would you do anything differently?

No. We got to the third drawing with our designer Martin and knew it was perfect!

Above left: "Storage was very important to us and we loved these larder units that Chiselwood creates. You can fit so much in and they light up when you open them," says Emma.

Above right: Martin decided to cut out some of the wall near the window to allow the worktop to be taken back as far as possible and create a spacious washing up area around the sink.

Opposite page: With their curvaceous lines and luxurious leather upholstery, these stunning dining chairs really help to soften the room and add a touch of glamour. "My son is an interior designer so helped me source the hide, which we also used to cover the barstools," explains Emma.



Above: Drawers have been built beneath the window seats to maximise storage, whilst bright orange cushions help enliven the classic kitchen scheme.

Right: "We have always had a range cooker until now and I didn't think I would cope with just one oven, so we opted for two single ovens, a microwave and a steam oven," explains Emma.

Opposite page: Martin had some walnut dining trays custom-made so that the family can easily carry food outside for alfresco dining in the summer. When they are not in use, they slot neatly into the island either side of the wine storage unit.





Left: The new utility room packs a lot in with a washing machine and tumble dryer, cupboards for the boiler and AV equipment, a couple of laundry bins, a drying rack, broom cupboard and additional sink.

Below: The cabinetry has been painted in Little Greene's Lead Dark paint to match the island unit in the adjoining kitchen.



The couple added a conservatory as well as a side extension onto the house to create an open, spacious home for themselves and their two sons.



SourceBook

DESIGN

Kitchen Martin Holliday of Chiselwood (01522 704446 or www.chiselwood.co.uk)

KITCHEN AND UTILITY ROOM

Cabinetry Painted timber: island in Lead Dark by Little Greene (0845 880 5855 or www.littlegreene.com) and wall units in Arborio from Chiselwood, as before

Worktops Silestone in Lagoon (01256 761229 or www.silestone.co.uk), supplied by Chiselwood, as before

Dining table Wenge top with walnut and chrome support, Chiselwood, as before

Appliances Oven, steam oven, microwave, hob, wine storage unit, extractor, washing machine and dryer, Miele (0330 160 6600 or www.miele.co.uk); Two DishDrawer dishwashers, fridge-freezer and two CoolDrawer fridges, Fisher & Paykel (0800 088 6605 or www.fisherpaykel.com/uk)

Taps Quooker (0808 102 0677 or www.quooker.co.uk) and Perrin & Rowe (01708 526361 or www.perrinandrowe.co.uk)

Sinks Silestone, as before, from Chiselwood, as before

Flooring Limestone by Chiselwood, as before

Lighting Chiselwood, as before

Cushions For similar try the felt appliqué maze cushion in rust from the Living by Christiane Lemieux collection, House of Fraser (0345 602 1073 or www.houseoffraser.co.uk)

Dining chairs For similar try the contemporary ivory studded chair from Harvest Moon (01704 548176 or www.harvestmoon.co.uk)

Barstools For similar try Atlantic Shopping (0121 230 1644 or www.atlanticshopping.co.uk)

Blinds For similar try custom-made blinds using Kaplan Stripe fabric from John Lewis (0345 604 9049 or www.johnlewis.com)

COST

Chiselwood kitchens start from around £35,000