

The owners

Fiona Purkiss – a negotiator at an estate agent lives with her husband Ed – an RAF commissioned officer and their three children Laura, 21, Robert, 17 and Matthew, 15 in this five-bedroomed house in Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire



FAMILY FRIENDLY

This family's previous kitchen was not practical and had features they didn't like. This new design has changed the way they use the room and with a splash of colour is fun too



After five years of living with their kitchen Fiona and Ed Purkiss discovered features they wished to change including an impractical hard to keep clean limestone floor. This is ultimately what made them decide to update their kitchen. The house built in 1936 has an Arts and Crafts style feel, so this was the leaning they followed for their new kitchen. ●●●



The original kitchen was really not practical Ed explains, "The kitchen was not easy to cook in together – we were always in each other's way – if anyone was at the sink someone always wanted a drink or to get to the fridge that the other was blocking. As we often like to cook, either as a couple or with one of the boys who are keen experimental cooks, this was not ideal."

The family therefore needed a kitchen in which a couple of them could cook at the same time. It needed to be easy to keep clean and tidy, with lots of storage, while also being hard wearing. Martin Holliday of Chiselwood took up the brief to create an open-plan kitchen with a family dining area. The ideas for the style of the kitchen changed throughout the

design process. Initially Fiona wanted a period Edwardian-looking kitchen that was right for the style of house, but not something that she necessarily loves. She explains, "I found that the period style did not set my world on fire – I found I was drawn to the more contemporary kitchen styles, with all their different colours and textures." ●●●





With Martin's help the couple realised they wanted a contemporary kitchen with a lot going on. Martin came up with two ideas for the kitchen. Fiona says, "Martin did two designs, one keeping the kitchen the existing size and one knocking down the wall to the study and making a big L-shaped kitchen. Once I had seen the design with the wall of appliances and fabulous eating area I just had to have it."

The kitchen furniture is completely bespoke, with a simple plain panel design made from Oak and Tabo that has been finished with stainless steel handles and painted in the hues of Mustard Seed, Aborio, and Garlic. Martin explains this choice, "The timber veneer was used on the furniture in the area where there is most traffic, as it needs to be sturdy. I then used different paint colours and timbers to create the feeling that the cabinetry was individual pieces rather than boxes on the wall."

Fiona and Ed went to a 'Miele day' to try out their appliances. After this they decided to upgrade the type of ovens they had chosen and also decided that they needed a steam oven, warming drawer and coffee machine. Even though Fiona loves to cook on gas, an induction hob was selected due to how easy they are to clean. The fridge is cleverly housed in an attractive unit that stands beside the large pantry. The extractor has mirrors surrounding it – a feature Fiona had noticed in the showroom. There are also mirrors at the back of the open shelves and on the kickboards reflecting the light from the windows. ●●●



'The fridge is cleverly housed in an attractive unit that stands beside the large pantry'

ADVICE FROM THE DESIGNER

"It is important to look at the flow of traffic through the room especially if there are a few doorways. Guiding people away from the main cooking area is always advisable. In this room the end of the island unit is curved to encourage people to move around the back therefore not intrude in the cooking space. An island area will also act as a natural barrier but does not prevent the cook from being involved in the social activity. **Martin Holliday, founder and design director, Chiselwood Ltd**

Martin has separated the kitchen into areas, "The kitchen now has a working space which includes the island unit, plenty of storage space and a separate curved seating area that links the workspace in the kitchen to the soft curved end of the island," he says. Adding, "And the various areas are linked by Silestone, which has been used for the main worktops, upstands and the splashback behind the hob, which is stylish as well as practical."

Fiona and Ed are so happy with the final result, "I love that I can make a cake at the island unit while Ed makes supper and the kids get themselves a drink of water," says Fiona. She continues, "Sometimes I even come home to find Robert or Matthew sitting at the table with the radio on doing their homework. The kitchen is practical for us all as a family, and looks so beautiful but is also easy to clean, the seating area is also fantastic. We now spend more time chatting together after meals because it is so comfortable." ●



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Details

Bespoke kitchen in Oak, Walnut and Tabo, finished in Mustard Seed, Aborio and Garlic paint, walls in Gooseberry paint, designed by Martin Holliday, founder and design director Chiselwood Ltd **01522 704 446 www.chiselwood.co.uk**

Interior design, Jamie Hemsall Interior Design **01777 248 463 www.jamiehemsall.com**

Miele DA 5320 W extractor, 2x H5681 BP clst cooker, G2833 SCVi dishwasher, 2x K9552 iD fridge, KWR 4154 UG-1 wine fridge, F9122 Ui freezer, KM 6352 flush hob, CVA 5060 clst coffee machine, 2x ESW 5080 14 warming drawer **0845 365 6600 www.miele.co.uk**

Abode AW5009 sink, AW5008 sink, Stalto Pro tap, Quala Single tap **01226 283 434 www.abodedesigns.co.uk**

Zenith Arona matt porcelain floor tiles **0121 706 6456 www.zenithmosaicandtiles.com**

Silestone Rosa Grey worktops, Mont Blanc upstands **01256 761 229 www.silestone.co.uk**

Sanderson Seaweed curtains, Angelica Terracotta roman blinds **0844 543 9500 www.sanderson-uk.com**

Osborne & Little Sellier fabric in colour 16 for banquette and chairs **020 8812 3000 www.osborneandlittle.com**