

CLASSIC ROCKS

Mottled granite, stone flooring and painted cabinetry give Denise and Barry Wilson's open-plan space a timeless look

FEATURE RACHEL OGDEN • PHOTOGRAPHY CLIVE DOYLE



BREAKFAST BAR

A walnut-topped table slots neatly into one end of the island to provide a place for casual dining and is paired with comfortable chairs by Lloyd Loom

Kitchen FACT FILE



THE OWNERS
Denise Wilson, an administrator for a trust, and her husband Barry, a retired accountant

THE HOME A converted four-bedroom Victorian schoolhouse in Nottinghamshire

THE PROJECT Building work including an open-plan extension

PRICE GUIDE
£20,000

for a similar Chiselwood kitchen, cabinetry only

After 23 years of living in their converted schoolhouse, Denise and Barry Wilson decided it was time to give the beautiful period building the kitchen it deserved. 'The scheme we first put in had become tired and dated,' explains Denise. 'The furniture was limed oak with dark-green worktops but, from the day it was done, I wasn't happy with it. It was cold, as there was only a plinth heater, and quite dark. In fact, there were lots of problems with the design, which we didn't want to repeat.'

Having learnt some valuable lessons, Denise spent years researching her next kitchen, focusing on how to make a warm and bright space. Eventually, after seeing some examples in magazines, she settled on the idea of an orangery-style extension with roof lanterns to flood the kitchen with daylight. That decided upon, she started searching for a kitchen company to design it for her. 'I looked at friends' houses, and viewed nearby showhomes to see the kind of things that were being put in,' she recalls. 'Plus, I visited about 20 kitchen showrooms!'

THE RIGHT DESIGNER

However, it was only when a local shop owner recommended Chiselwood that Denise and Barry paid the company a visit and they decided that they'd found the perfect people for them. 'We knew straight away it was where we wanted to buy our kitchen,' says Denise. 'Designer Martin Holliday was so helpful and patient. He showed us Chiselwood's workshop and we were impressed with the quality of the craftsmanship. I think we'd looked for so long that although I thought I knew what I wanted, I was frightened to make the wrong choice. Martin's patience was invaluable.'

After seeing a feature in *Beautiful Kitchens* showing three different takes on a classic look, Denise realised that it was exactly what she ►



CABINERY

The Wilsons' bespoke tulipwood furniture has been hand-painted in Arborio by Chiselwood with an island finished in French Grey by Little Greene. These soft hues help bring light to this formerly dark kitchen

LARDER

Dry goods are kept in this unit, which has a walnut interior and a door-mounted rack for condiments





COOKING ZONE

The Falcon range combines a traditional look with a modern induction hob



UTENSIL DRAWER

Cutlery is kept in neat compartments with dovetailed joints on the island. The pull out extends fully for ease of access and has a soft-close mechanism



MATCHING DETAIL

Slots for walnut trays fill a space at the end of a run of units and have the same handles as the cabinetry



CORNER STORAGE

A slide-out unit ensures small appliances and occasional crockery are easy to get to

was trying to achieve. 'One of the kitchens had a timeless feel, which was ideal because it meant it would fit in with the age of the house – something neither too traditional nor modern,' she recalls. 'I was thinking of having an island in walnut and the rest of the units painted, but we decided it would have looked too fussy. However, I still wanted to feature some wood to bring in a bit of softness and warmth, so we asked Martin to design a leaf-shaped walnut top on the breakfast table.'

BRIGHT IDEA

As maximising the light in the kitchen was a key issue, choosing what worktops to have in the rest of the room was tricky. 'I'd been considering a composite worktop but it was quite expensive,' says Denise. 'Then I saw a another feature, again in *Beautiful Kitchens*, that showed a painted kitchen with light granite worktops. So I took a copy of the issue with me to one or two stone merchants and then came across the granite we then opted for. It's fabulous because its colour and pattern pulled the whole design together.'

Pale flooring that continues from the kitchen into the open-plan seating area of the orangery also helps to keep the room light, but it was a final inspired touch from Martin that turned it into the bright space the Wilsons love. As the kitchen was situated at the rear of the room, in the original part of the property, it meant that Denise would have her back to the orangery when she was cooking. To resolve this, Martin added mirrors above the granite splashback and upstands, which increased both the light in the room further and Denise's enjoyment of the countryside views. 'That was such a fantastic idea because when I'm standing at the cooker I can see right back into the garden,' she adds. 'There are horses in the field beyond us and I can watch them running about – it's almost as if I was looking through a window.'

THE WOW FACTOR

Where once cooking in the kitchen was a job to be performed as quickly as possible before moving into the dining room, now Denise and Barry find that they spend nearly all their time in the new space. 'It's very warm in here when it's cold outside but on a bright sunny day it's a cool and comfortable place to be in,' explains Denise. 'Now we tend to use it as a day-to-day living room.'

Our family and friends couldn't quite believe how much it had changed – in fact, they were speechless. I don't think they were prepared for the impact that it has when you first see it. Our previous kitchen let the house down, whereas now, it's the star of the show.' □

OUR KITCHEN SECRETS

DO everything you can to increase the light in your space. Our orangery means that even on a day that's not so nice, you still feel as if you're outside in the garden.

DON'T start on building work before you have the kitchen planned. Roof beams stopped us from ducting our extractor outside. If we'd known where our cooker was going at the start we could have had it restructured.

DO analyse what it is you want and decide on your style before you settle on a kitchen company.



EXTENSION

By replacing the worn-out conservatory with a light-filled orangery, the Wilsons have created a welcoming space to relax and unwind. A pair of sofas and a footstool from Laura Ashley bring a subtle shade of blue to the scheme



LAUNDRY APPLIANCES

At the far end of the kitchen, tall cabinetry painted in French Grey by Little Greene cleverly hides a utility area



'We LOVE the WALNUT top of the breakfast table. It's very TACTILE and ADDS warmth'

SHOP THE LOOK

CABINERY

■ Bespoke hand-painted tulipwood furniture by Chiselwood. A similar kitchen, cabinetry only, costs £20,400

WORKSURFACES AND SPLASHBACK

■ Juperano Pearl granite. Total cost £4,800
 ■ Walnut-topped table. Total cost £1,140
 ■ Mirrors. Total cost £200

FLOORING

■ Ramon Beige limestone. Price per sq m, around £80.80

APPLIANCES

■ Deluxe 110cm range cooker in black, Falcon £3,700
 ■ 110cm Super Extract chimney extractor hood in black, Falcon £1,245
 ■ Built-in coffee machine, Miele £1,880
 ■ Fully integrated fridge, Miele £1,109
 ■ Fully integrated freezer, Miele £885
 ■ Fully integrated dishwasher, Miele £1,145
 ■ Freestanding washing machine, Miele £900
 ■ Freestanding tumble dryer, Miele £494

SINK AND TAPS

■ Undermounted single-bowl sink in stainless steel, Falcon £192
 ■ Gosford monobloc mixer tap in chrome, Abode £123
 ■ Design boiling-water tap in chrome, Quooker £870

FINISHING TOUCHES

■ Orangery and skylight, Abbey Garden Rooms POA
 ■ 2 x Naturals Sereno dining chairs by Lloyd Loom, each £245
 ■ Gloucester large two-seater sofa in Dalton Duck Egg, Laura Ashley £1,190
 ■ Gloucester two-seater sofa in Keynes Natural, Laura Ashley £910
 ■ Kensall footstool in Dalton Duck Egg, Laura Ashley £450
 ■ 2 x Nebula chandeliers, John Lewis, each £490
 ■ White crockery, for similar, try Anmut, Villeroy & Boch. Price for a breakfast cup, from £18.95
 ■ Arborio oil eggshell, Chiselwood. Price per 2.5 litres £45
 ■ French Grey eggshell, Little Greene. Price per 2.5 litres £41
 ■ Skimming Stone emulsion, Farrow & Ball. Price per 2.5 litres £32.50
 ■ Strong White emulsion, Farrow & Ball. Price per 2.5 litres £32.50

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 134