

# Town for country

The Cruickshanks' painted kitchen is the perfect addition to their new rural lifestyle



The alder plate rack is flanked by units with slotted-glass doors and glossy mahogany knobs, which house glassware and a set of everyday crockery. For a similar paint colour try Chalk 1 from Paint & Paper Library. The large breakfast plates from Emma Bridgewater's Black Toast & Marmalade range are perfect for serving up Sunday brunch



TRADITIONAL

A large ceramic sink is positioned on the inner side of the island unit, looking out onto the room, so Jane can face her guests. If she's alone, Jane also benefits from its position by having a magnificent view out onto the garden. The Ionian mixer tap, nestled on a granite platform, provides water to each sink bowl, so vegetables can be rinsed in one while large pans are left soaking in the other



*Jane and Ian Cruickshank chose a mixture of hand-painted furniture topped with granite and warm woods to accentuate the unfitted, yet elegant look of their kitchen. 'We opted for a very innocent design style,' says Jane*



**M**oving from a small flat in central London to a three-storey house in the Home Counties gave Jane and Ian Cruickshank a chance to create the welcoming and spacious home they'd always dreamed of. Both keen cooks, they were especially excited about planning a new kitchen. 'The existing space was very narrow, and the U-shaped design made it appear gloomy,' recalls Jane. 'It was so far from my ideal kitchen that I had no qualms about starting from scratch.'

The couple thought that a roomy kitchen diner in a bespoke country style using natural materials and light colours would suit them best. Creating their vision however, was no mean feat. Despite having more space than in their previous home, the ground floor was divided into a warren of small, outdated rooms. 'To make the most of the natural light we knocked through the kitchen wall into a side return, then put in an RSJ, a lantern skylight, and two French windows that lead out to the garden,' explains Jane.

When the building work was complete, Jane and Ian looked at several magazines until they found kitchen company deVOL, who make bespoke furniture using natural materials. 'We were spoilt for choice as they offered a wide variety of furniture and finishes, not to mention clever layout options,' Jane says. 'We tested different schemes using a box and some cardboard cut-out units, which we re-arranged obsessively, trying to create our perfect design.'

The couple then approached designer Paul O'Leary at deVOL to obtain some colour swatches, flooring and worktop samples. From these Jane decided on a blend of duck-egg blue, cream and pale mushroom shades, which would complement the traditional-style units. A large central island, a Welsh dresser and a gleaming black Aga completed the look Jane and Ian were after.

Over the next few months, Jane put her new kitchen to the test, culminating in a Christmas dinner for 12 people. 'I was pretty nervous, but I found our guests could easily chat to me while I prepared the food,' smiles Jane. 'A couple of them even offered to help, as I had so much worktop space.'



▲ Jane and Ian share their semi-detached home in Surrey with their dog Jess

▲ Small cloverleaf-shaped holes have been cut into the top door panels of Jane's larder to keep it ventilated. 'The pantry actually used to be a lavatory,' Jane explains, 'but I didn't like the idea of a loo that opens out onto the kitchen. Now I have a smart larder instead, with floor-to-ceiling storage space'

‘We used cardboard cut-outs to create our perfect design’



*‘I wish I'd known that it pays to be on site during building work. If we'd been home our French windows might not have been installed upside-down’*  
Jane Cruickshank

▲ The wide central island, topped with American maple, forms a natural divide between the preparation part of the kitchen and the dining area. To the right, a pretty painted bookcase stores Jane's growing collection of cookbooks

An American-style fridge freezer is tucked away next to the pantry so the foodstuffs are stored in the same area. 'I think our fridge freezer is very smart, and I've found the easiest way to clean away smears is with a dab of baby oil,' Jane explains





*Snuggled into a corner of the kitchen, Jane's Aga takes centre stage in front of a splashback from Fired Earth's Natural History range. Two blue wall cupboards add colour to the scheme. Try Spur by Paint & Paper Library for a similar shade*



◀ The large, hand-painted island has an open shelf at either end so Jane can store a picnic hamper, perfect for long, lazy lunches. It also houses a wicker basket for wine bottles, which adds to the kitchen's rustic charm. For a similar paint shade try Paint & Paper Library's Slate V

## THE KITCHEN FILE

### DESIGN & CABINERY

- Paul O'Leary at **deVOL Kitchens**, 38 Jubilee Drive, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 5XS (01509 261000) [www.devolkitchens.co.uk](http://www.devolkitchens.co.uk)
- Bespoke hand-painted tulipwood

### WORKTOPS

- Zimbabwe Black honed granite. Price per sq m **£495**
- American maple **Price on application**

### SINK & TAP

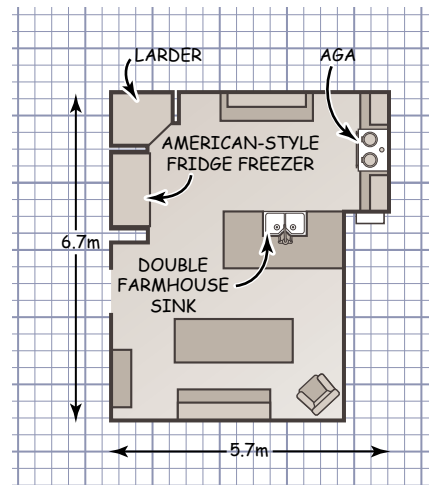
- Classic Kitchen 80 ceramic double-bowl sink, Villeroy & Boch **£298**
- 4192NI Ionian two-hole mixer tap in nickel, Perrin & Rowe **£235**

### APPLIANCES (shown)

- Three-oven gas Aga **£8,000**
- SOV626ZB ZigZag American-style fridge freezer, Maytag **£2,000**

### APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated dishwasher, Küppersbusch **£850**



### GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a bespoke deVOL kitchen **£10,000**

**Where to buy** Aga 0845 712 5207 Emma Bridgewater 020 7371 5489 Fired Earth 0845 366 0400 Küppersbusch 01235 821288 Maytag 01737 231000 Paint & Paper Library 020 7823 7755 Perrin & Rowe 01708 526361 Villeroy & Boch 020 8871 4028