

The ENGLISH HOME



Kitchen special

Celebrating the essence of English style

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Creative with COLOUR

- Four perfect palettes
- What to use where
- How to contrast & combine

Conservatories
& garden rooms

Light, airy spaces
for relaxation

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Georgian villa
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Victorian terrace

DESIGN FOCUS

KITCHEN STYLE

Painted kitchens and island layouts





Combine form with function as with the classic lines of this painted kitchen
Original kitchen, from £18,000.
Harvey Jones

KITCHEN SPECIAL

As one of the most hard-working rooms in the home, the kitchen can encompass a multitude of style options. Take inspiration from our 12-page guide to making the most of culinary space

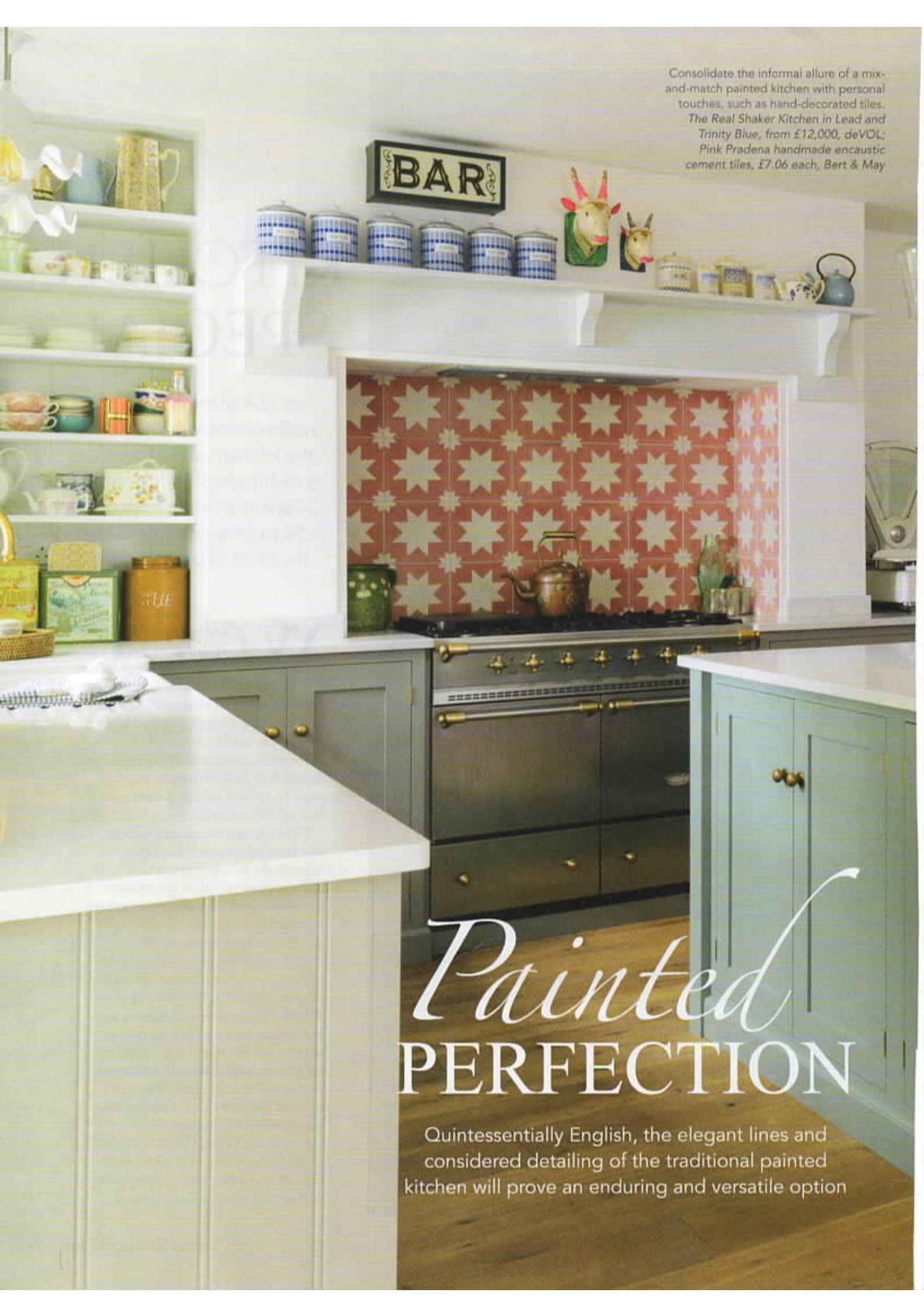
Whether large or small, the kitchen is undeniably the heart of the home. Where better to congregate than around a delicious meal in the company of loved ones? Though a relaxed kitchen supper may not be on the agenda every day of the week, cooking and catering for the demands of daily life require that the space be tailored to both the practical and aesthetic elements of any home.

Thinking carefully about function and form will dictate the interplay between the two: setting out time and resources to outline the primary requirements of the room serves to both highlight the main aspects of the space, and the needs of those using it.

In this style special, we examine the merits of installing a kitchen island and what to consider at the planning stage. Whether the priority is to create a social hub - allowing for additional dining space - or a functional one - catering for adventurous cooks with additional workspace for food preparation and culinary gadgetry - our guide provides a comprehensive overview.

Further on, painted kitchens come under the spotlight, with advice from experts on the best ways to bring colour to this most functional of rooms. ▶

Consolidate the informal allure of a mix-and-match painted kitchen with personal touches, such as hand-decorated tiles. The Real Shaker Kitchen in Lead and Trinity Blue, from £12,000, deVOL; Pink Pradena handmade encaustic cement tiles, £7.06 each, Bert & May



Painted PERFECTION

Quintessentially English, the elegant lines and considered detailing of the traditional painted kitchen will prove an enduring and versatile option



ABOVE Colour can be used to zone open-plan spaces. Contrasting hues prove particularly effective for feature areas, such as islands.

Bespoke kitchen painted in Farrow & Ball's Inchyra Blue and Stony Ground, from £36,000, Lewis Alderson & Co

RIGHT, MIDDLE Off-white shades will happily sit alongside natural timbers.

Marylebone Classic English kitchen, from £24,000, Charles Kingham

RIGHT, BELOW Not just for contemporary kitchens, charcoals work well when set against rustic brick walls.

Bespoke Shaker kitchen, painted in Nightshade, from £35,000, Tom Howley

tones are intense enough to withstand both dull and bright light. Moore also points to the emerging trend of "people being braver and having more fun with strong colour," and this look, often executed in bold blue, charcoal or green can offer a striking yet sympathetic approach, whilst softer, mid-tone blues, greens and greys lend a lighter, elegant feel.

By contrast, characterful mix-and-match cabinetry is guaranteed to create a more relaxed and eclectic kitchen. However, in order to ensure a balanced finish, do avoid using more than three colours or consider teaming a natural timber finish with one or two colours. A tried-and-tested formula is to allow one colour or finish to dominate, and the others to work as accents. For the cautious, Moore suggests simply choosing a single "stronger colour for small touches, in order to create a calm, neutral kitchen with subtle pops of colour." Flexible neutrals will complement most shades - try soft greys, blues and greens in matching base tones - whilst dramatic deep shades are often best kept to accents or focal points, such as an island or freestanding item. Alternatively, blocks of colour can prove particularly effective when applied to specific banks of cabinets - lighter colours tend to work well on wall units, whereas darker base units help anchor a scheme and are a practical choice, being less prone to wear and tear. Larder units, meanwhile, can offer the opportunity of a substantial application of colour without overpowering a space. ▶





Offset a white painted kitchen with dark worktops. Blue stone worktop, from £680 a square metre, Lundhs



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ABOVE RIGHT

A Wedgwood-style blue works well with limestone flooring. New Classic kitchen with cabinetry in Summer Sky and an island in Cove Blue, from £35,000, Martin Moore

RIGHT, MIDDLE

A combination of colours and timber adds interest. Nickleby kitchen in Brolly Blue, Lapel and Westminster oak, from £40,000, Humphrey Munson

RIGHT, BELOW

A bold-coloured island creates a punctuation point. Bespoke kitchen in Farrow & Ball's Shaded White and Down Pipe, from £35,000, McCarron & Co

CHARACTERFUL ADDITIONS

When it comes to finishing touches, the painted palette provides an ideal backdrop for textural timber and stone finishes, both underfoot and on surfaces. Moore states that "marbles and granites are a good match," although he does concede that "modern composites can give a more contemporary finish to the painted kitchen."

For those who prefer to keep things neutral, off-white and pale cabinetry can be teamed with tonal worktops and splashbacks, with natural pattern or veining to add a degree of contrast. Carrara marble is a favourite for instilling a suitably sophisticated touch, and painted tongue-and-groove panelling for imparting texture – both can also be used to freshen up grey cabinetry. In fact, "dark painted furniture looks great with lighter worktops," continues Moore, as is true of the reverse for adding drama – whereas natural timber tends to work across the spectrum.

Selecting unobtrusive integrated appliances or colourful freestanding retro items and range cookers can further consolidate the look, as will well-planned illumination, often in the form of interior-lit cabinets and pendant lighting. Using decorative pattern in the form of tiles, particularly hand-painted, can inject additional interest to a scheme, as can open shelving on which to create displays of much-loved ceramics and family heirlooms. Open shelving rather than wall cabinetry can also prove an effective space-enhancer in darker schemes. ■

