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# KITCHEN

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# DESIGNER Kitchen

CREATING A ROOM TO INCORPORATE A CENTRAL ISLAND, SOCIABLE SEATING AND PLENTIFUL STORAGE WAS THE CHALLENGE IN THIS EXTENSION

PICTURES **TREVOR RICHARDS** | WORDS **EMMA FOALE**

**B**y adding a single-storey extension with Crittal-style doors and windows and two roof lanterns, the owners of this Edwardian detached property have brightened their space and opened it up to be more of a sociable area. Working with senior designer Jane King from McCarron & Co, Lucy and Brian Wilkins decided that they wanted a traditional kitchen in keeping with the age of the property but with a modern and unfussy feel. 'The space was a new extension so it was more of a blank canvas, although one of the original parts was the window in the study area which had a fairly low sill height. This tied in really well with the desk height required, so I designed the part oak, part painted worktop to run into the window to form the sill,' explains Jane. Having a multipurpose space where they can work, cook, dine and entertain has given the Wilkins family much more flexibility than they had before.

Lucy and Brian had requested plentiful storage, such as a large larder, bookshelves, deep drawers for pans, spacious cupboards for baking equipment and a double sink that would be big enough to fit the Aga trays. 'Every space was used,' says Jane, 'so even the space under the bar stools on the side of the island has a shallow cupboard designed into it so that lesser used items could be stored away.' When it came to choosing the style of cabinetry the age of the original part of the house was considered and it was the style of the Hampton furniture, which features a cockbead detail around the doors and drawers, that felt like a natural choice for the owners and Jane alike. **EKBB**



**JANE KING**  
SENIOR DESIGNER,  
MCCARRON & CO

Jane has been a designer for over 20 years, working for luxury kitchen brands. She has been based at the McCarron & Co showroom in Wiltshire now for two years and she is a qualified interior designer as well as a colour consultant. McCarron & Co was established in 2009 by Andy McCarron and six colleagues. They also have showrooms in London's Chelsea and Notting Hill.



## PROJECT DETAILS

**KITCHEN DESIGN** Bespoke Hampton kitchen furniture with nickel knobs, pulls and hinges and oak veneer carcasses. Prices start from £35,000, McCarron & Co. **APPLIANCES** G4263SCVi integrated dishwasher; DA2270 built-in cooker hood, both Miele. Range cooker in cream, Aga. For similar built-under wine fridge, try Caple. Three-door fridge-freezer, Samsung. **WORKTOPS** Central island: Natural polished granite in River Valley White; Around the room: Teltos Kassio (a quartz or man-made worktop), all Landford Stone. **FLOORING** For similar, try Porcelanosa. **SPLASHBACK TILES** For similar, try The Winchester Tile Company. **BAR STOOLS** For similar, try Made.com. **LIGHTING** Above island: Caravaggio Opal, Lightyears. Above table: Quad pendant, Original BTC. **PAINT** Furniture painted in French Grey Dark, Paint & Paper Library. Island painted in Brinjal by Farrow & Ball. **DINING TABLE** For similar, try The Conran Shop or ercol. **DINING CHAIRS** CH24 Wishbone chairs by Carl Hansen, £544, Skandium. **WOOD BURNING STOVE** For similar, try Scan or Morso



## FIT FOR PURPOSE

'Lucy loves cooking and baking so the best features for her are the dedicated baking storage area and worktop space to the left of the Aga,' explains Jane. 'Also the huge (3.2 metre) expanse of worktop on the island which is ideal for prepping and plating up food. The bar stool areas are important for reading the paper in the mornings'



**BAKE OFF**

Lucy knew she wanted to do her baking to the left of the Aga. 'So I enjoyed designing the storage with this in mind,' explains Jane

**OPEN UP**

Below A large, stainless steel fridge-freezer is built-in next to the breakfast cupboard which is lit with LED light strips

*'A large centre island was key to the design which was to incorporate great storage as well as a place to sit and socialise in comfort'*

**SPATIAL AWARENESS**

Part of the brief was to keep the existing cream Aga and this was designed into a false chimney breast with mantle shelf. Here you can also see how the two paint colours work well, with the island in a different colour to stand out



**HARD AT WORK**

The Wilkins' existing oak worktop was re-finished and re-fitted to the desk area to provide a functional work space just off of the kitchen

**Q&A**

**How did you plan to layout?** I knew that all the 'tall' items (larder, fridge-freezer and

breakfast cupboard) would sit happily within the end wall as there was no window. This works well as all the food storage is together and making breakfast is easy with everything to hand. I focused on making the Aga a real feature with symmetry within the furniture and a full-height false chimney surround finished off with a chunky mantle shelf. Also, I felt it was important to centre the Aga under the lovely roof lantern above. I wanted to keep a feeling of space within this lovely room so I kept decent walkways all around the island.

**What challenges did you come across?** The island was always going to have to have the structural pier incorporated

within it due to its position. So it was a challenge to design around this so that everything the client wanted was included, but also so that the seating worked and the lovely views of the garden were not obstructed. As the clients wanted a little office area just off the kitchen, it was quite tricky to incorporate this while still retaining the important 'look' of the Aga wall. The worktop height in the kitchen is higher than the office desk and they run back to back. With the use of a dresser on the end of the Aga run, plus a dresser/bookshelf that sat behind this within the office, these two cupboards formed the break in the furniture I needed, without the need for a wall. So the result is much more of a wrap-around kitchen flowing into an office. Also, by using the same style and colour on the office furniture this helped with the flow of the furniture in the room.