



The Caesarstone worktops – in Misty Carrera – have been paired with matching upstands and splashback for a coherent, understatedly elegant look.

ON BALANCE

Just as perfect for daily family life as special-occasion entertaining, this elegant kitchen also hits the right equilibrium between traditional and contemporary style

REAL HOMES

Photography by Alistair Rowe

The neutral colour scheme avoids seeming flat thanks to the layering of complementary shades, and the use of interesting detailing. For example, the groove-finished furniture ends, the tongue-and-groove panels, and the metallic touches.

THE owners

This beautiful five bedroom detached house sits on an acre plot, down a private lane, in rural Kent. Faye Simmons shares the 1930s property with her husband and three sons (aged 9, 12 and 14), and their Cockapoo, Baxter.

The family extended their existing kitchen significantly, to create a space that was cosy enough for daily use, but also large enough to host 14 for dinner, and 30 or 40 for drinks. The bi-fold doors ensure the garden becomes part of the living and entertaining zone when required.

Three sizeable pendant lights in smoked glass echo the three breakfast bar stools – which also provide a darker neutral accent, and similarly feature a metallic gleam.

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Faye was keen to have the largest feature island possible for the room's dimensions, for maximum preparation space.





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s part of a major renovation (during which the entire property was gutted, extended, and remodelled) Faye Simmons and her family created a new kitchen that would be perfect for daily life, as well as allowing them to entertain in style.

Keen for the hub of their home to be open plan, defined into zones for cooking, dining and relaxing, the family engaged the team at Tom Howley to bring the benefits of a contemporary kitchen space to their 1930s home. “After trawling through hundreds of magazines and Pinterest pages I choose Tom Howley, as they consistently came up with the look and design I liked,” says Faye. “I particularly liked the clean lines and symmetry of their kitchens, as well as their modern but elegant colour palette.”

Looking to balance the original style of their home with a more contemporary aesthetic, Faye was instantly drawn to the Hartford kitchen, since it offered the requisite modern twist on a traditional design. Her wish list also included Miele appliances, a large range cooker, and a Quooker boiling water tap, while other key considerations were the flow of the space, the flexibility of formal and informal dining options, and ensuring that the kitchen furniture didn't dominate the living area.



The construction of a false wall enabled the kitchen to have better symmetry in the L-shaped space, with the chimneypiece forming the perfect central focus.



The in-frame Shaker kitchen with its cot-bead elements around the drawers and doors, and polished nickel handles and knobs, walks the perfect line between traditional and contemporary.



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“The extended space was four times the size of the original kitchen, but to meet all the client’s aesthetic requirements to best effect we decided to be a little creative with the internal architecture,” explains Tamsin Reed, designer at Tom Howley. “We added a false wall in the corner, to aid the room’s proportions and symmetry, plus we also designed the furniture around an existing chimney alcove so that its visual impact on the room was diminished.”

Clever design also minimised the presence of the television in the living area, ensuring practical and visual flow throughout the space and into the garden, and blurred the lines between functional and relaxing spaces for a coherent look and feel.

“As a family we now live in our kitchen!” beams Faye. “It has everything we require; it’s comfortable and cosy enough for relaxed daily life, while sophisticated enough for entertaining on special occasions.”

THE details

Kitchen design by Tamsin Reed, designer at Tom Howley, Brentwood, including Hartford cabinetry in Tansy and Willow; Misty Carrera Caesarstone worktops, upstands and splashback; and polished nickel cabinet furniture tomhowley.co.uk

Miele M6260 TC microwave, G4263 Vi integrated dishwasher, DA2270 700mm built-in canopy extractor miele.co.uk

Neff K11813F30G built-under fridge, G4344X7GB built-under freezer neff-home.com

Kohle 6625-0 Iron/Tones inset double sink kohler.co.uk

Franke Turbo Plus TP-125 continuous feed waste disposal unit franke.com

Perrin & Rowe 4173NI Ionian sink mixer with lever handles perrinandrowe.co.uk
 Quooker Classic boiling water tap in Polished Nickel quooker.co.uk

Vincent Sheppard Joe bar stools vincentsheppard.co.uk

Villaverde Hudson ceiling lights in Fume villaverdeltd.com

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