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It's a challenge to create the right balance when designing a traditional kitchen or bathroom in a period property that also has modern features, but this stunning example achieves it with aplomb.

REAL
HOMES

Photography by: Nick Smith

THE owners

The owner of this gorgeous Georgian townhouse in Dorset wanted the style of a new kitchen and bathroom to reflect the period of her four-storey property with features including a secluded, walled garden and studio.

A FRESH APPROACH



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hen this Georgian home underwent extensive renovation, the owner decided a kitchen and bathroom that respected the heritage of her property were essential. But, in the case of the kitchen, a contemporary twist was part of the brief; a fresh approach that befitted its new, modern extension setting.

McCarron & Co was appointed to design a functional and welcoming space, including a large island and a separate utility area that could be closed off.

“I visited the McCarron & Co showroom and could see the quality of the bespoke furniture. I especially liked the oak interiors and the feel of the doors and drawers,” the homeowner comments.

Senior designer Jane King came up with a design that incorporated McCarron & Co’s Hampton furniture to complement the Georgian details of the house, but within a layout that “was pared down to suit the modern, glazed extension”.

Painted in shades of Farrow & Ball blues, with Parma Gray and Lulworth Blue adorning the island, the furniture features polished nickel knobs, an oak chopping board, chamfered legs to the seating end of the island, pantry oak plate racks and oak internals to all cupboards. Appliances include a Sub-Zero fridge-freezer, Wolf oven and steamer.

“The granite, we stumbled across on a visit to the stone yard; I knew it was the one - it’s so pretty!” recalls the owner.

McCarron & Co also undertook the bathroom renovation project, which involved creating a “simple, classical look inspired by the period panelling that exists in the whole house” and complements the traditional CP Hart sanitaryware.

Bespoke elements include the larder’s stone shelves, which have been designed for kettle and toaster use in situ. The corbelled piers to the mantle above the hob surround add a touch of period elegance.



“I love the island and the way people can sit and chat while we all prepare food.” Homeowner



THE designer

“Try to use the original details in the home as your starting point for the style of the kitchen furniture, but don’t be afraid to add more modern details like the stainless-steel fridge-freezer and modern pendant lights to mix things up.”

Jane King, senior designer, McCarron & Co

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LED ceiling spotlights provide perfect task lighting while pendant lights over the island make a striking style statement.



“Don’t be afraid to use modern fittings (like the shower enclosure) alongside more classical details. Some cleaner lines look fresh and effortless rather than being a slave to a certain look.” **Jane King, senior designer, McCarron & Co**

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The freestanding, cast iron bath was painted in Farrow & Ball Pelt to complement the nature-inspired wallpaper.



The WC and ceramic undermount basin were integrated with a classical vanity unit featuring a marble top, panelling and discreet boxing painted in Farrow & Ball Old White to create a seamless flow around the room. Jane says, "The panelling was completely bespoke – we studied the Georgian panelling elsewhere in the house and took detailed sketches, measurements and photographs. We then replicated the moulding so that it fits with the rest of the house."



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“It is a lovely relaxing bathroom with very pretty wallpaper that the client chose to add a feminine touch,” adds Jane.

Both designer and homeowner are equally delighted with the kitchen. “It looks very fitting in the house and it’s such a lovely light room; the blues really look good with the sunlight streaming in,” observes Jane. “The finishing touches that the client added, like the pendant lights and the soft furnishings, really finish it off.

“I love the island as it’s large and practical with plenty of worktop space for prep, along with space for casual seating, to look out at the gorgeous garden.”

The owner adds, “I love the little pantry off the kitchen which I use for washing up and storage for all my pots and pans. I also love the island and the way people can sit and chat while we all prepare food.”

THE details

Kitchen and bathroom design by Jane King, senior designer at McCarron & Co mccarronandco.com

Kitchen

Kitchen featuring McCarron & Co’s Hampton furniture range painted in shades of Farrow & Ball Parma Gray and Lulworth Blue with Aurora Fantasy granite worktops

Miele DA2270 extractor and G6730SC dishwasher miele.co.uk

Wolf transitional induction hob, ICBSO30TE and ICBCSo30TE transitional E series ovens, and Sub-Zero ICBB148S/S fridge-freezer subzero-wolf.co.uk

Kohler 19939W sink kohler.co.uk

Shaws Butler 800 sink shawsofdarwen.com

Perrin & Rowe Phoenician and Ionian taps perrinandrowe.co.uk

Tom Dixon pendant lights tomdixon.net

Bathroom

Bathroom featuring sanitaryware by CP Hart, including a freestanding, cast iron bath in Farrow & Ball Pelt cphart.co.uk

Wallpaper by Cole & Son cole-and-son.com