

PAINTED AND NATURAL PINE

Lorraine and Jonathan Aldridge have created a warm and welcoming kitchen that sits perfectly in their 17th-century property

FREESTANDING OVATION



They say if at first you don't succeed try again, and the adage proved true for Lorraine and Jonathan Aldridge when they took on the kitchen in their Georgian country house. While they didn't make any major changes to the finished product, it was the last minute colour change that made all the difference – turning it into the warm, inviting country kitchen Lorraine had her heart set on.

When Lorraine and husband Jonathan, a reinsurance broker, moved into their 17th-century property three years ago, the roof leaked and there was little heating. These jobs took priority but once out of the way, the kitchen was at the top of their to-do list. 'The kitchen consisted of a couple of base units and a bright red Aga – which I really disliked,' admits Lorraine. 'I much prefer the classic cream colour we now have.'

Although pleased to have a large room to work with, Lorraine felt the open space and high ceilings of the Georgian property made the kitchen area look cold and bare. The wall panelling and batterie de cuisine were both added to create the illusion of a lower ceiling. 'We felt we needed to shrink the space a bit to make the room more cosy,' says Lorraine.

Five doorways leading on to the room and the lack of an uninterrupted wall to run a work surface along was one of the main reasons for the couple's choice of freestanding units – although they also felt a fitted kitchen wouldn't suit the historic property. 'To give us more workspace we originally planned to have ▶



1 The large pine server with granite worktop acts as a central island, offering a large workspace. Lorraine chose the warm shade Mustard Spice by Crown for the walls

2 The couple decided not to paint the decorative pine surround so it would tie in with the wood furniture. Lorraine found the English Delft tiles at Fired Earth



Lorraine and Jonathan Aldridge's home in Norfolk

KITCHEN FILE

Design

Justin Bearham at Specialised Woodwork, 9 Church Lane, Castle Hednham, Halesford, Essex CO9 3DA (07812 156114)

Worksurfaces

Blue Pearl granite, from £140 per sq m, Abbey Marble

Flooring

Spanish terracotta tiles, £19 per sq m, Tilers Barn

Appliances

Two oven oil-fired Aga, £5500, H Warner & Son; integrated dishwasher, Miele from John Lewis

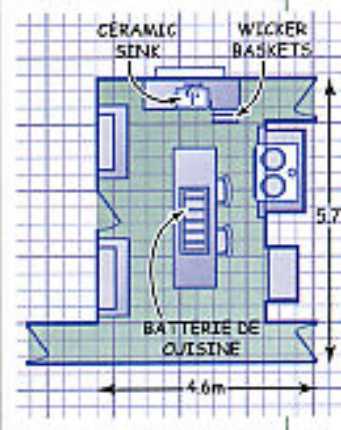
Sink and tap

Shaws Ribchester 100W sink, £447, Britan Renaissance mixer tap, £76, both from CC Discount Heating

PRICE GUIDE

£15,000 For a similar Specialised Woodwork kitchen, excluding appliances

KITCHEN LAYOUT





1 The couple bought the two pine dressers and pine server from Earsham Hall Pine. The freestanding units provide ample storage space

2 The units are painted in Oval Room Blue in eggshell, while the tongue-and-groove panelling is in Cream; both are from Farrow & Ball

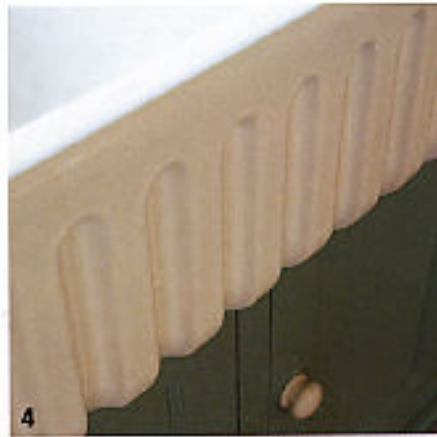


a central island specially built,' says Lorraine. 'However, I was really keen that whatever we chose should look antique. We saw the pine server when we were buying our dressers and I really liked it. Its height, long rectangular shape and antique look make it the perfect choice for this kitchen.' The pine top was then overlaid with Blue Pearl granite to create an attractive yet durable work surface.

After living with it for a few months, however, Lorraine still wasn't quite happy with the finished kitchen. 'It was really important to me that the room felt warm, but it still looked very stark, so we decided to paint the cream units blue to break it up.'

'I love the space now, and the fact that it makes it so much easier for me to entertain guests. It is great that there is enough room to cook and still have lots of people around. I spend a big part of my day in here and it's a real pleasure,' smiles Lorraine. **15**

'It was really important to me that the room felt warm'



WHERE TO BUY Abbey Marble 01702 615760

CC Discount Heating 01206 865970 Crown 01254 704951

Farrow & Ball 01202 876141 Fired Earth 01295 812088

Earsham Hall Pine 0800 458 1141 H Warner & Son 01473

253702 John Lewis 020 7629 7711 Tilers Barn 0800 019 8707

3 The batterie de cuisine over the pine table holds all Lorraine's pots and pans

5 One of the pine dressers is used to display Lorraine's blue and white china

4 Lorraine spotted the Shaws traditional-style pie-crust-fronted sink in a magazine

6 Pull-out willow baskets break up the solid units and give the room another texture