



'MY BEST BUY WAS
THE MONEY I SPENT
RECONDITIONING
THE EXISTING
AGA. IT LOOKS
LIKE NEW BUT
COST FAR LESS'



CHRIS AND
SUZANNE
GERMANY
LIVE IN A
FARMHOUSE
IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

WITH THEIR FOUR-YEAR-OLD TWINS, ALEX AND EMMA, AND DOG, DRAKE

Last modernised nearly three decades ago, Chris and Suzanne Germany's 200-year-old farmhouse was ready for a new lease of life, yet it was only a last-minute change of heart that saw the kitchen completely overhauled.

'We've been farming in the area for years as a family but Suzanne and I lived in a nearby village,' explains Chris. 'When the chance came up to buy this farm, we didn't think twice about it – the opportunity to stamp our own identity on the house made us even more enthusiastic.'

However, as ideas to simply update the kitchen with new tops and sinks gradually progressed into larger-scale decisions, the couple realised that revamping it just wasn't going to be enough. 'It didn't take long for us to appreciate that it made sense to do the kitchen along with the rest of the house,' admits Chris. 'In fact, as soon as we owned the house, a new kitchen became one of the first tasks.'

Keen on keeping everything as local as possible, the couple scoured kitchen showrooms in the area. 'The house is probably a couple of hundred years old, so we wanted something that wouldn't look out of place, but also not too contrived,' explains Chris. 'I'd always fancied a wood kitchen but we kept



This pull-out table is a smart solution for a kitchen with limited workspace or one with no room for a dining table and chairs





♦ WET AREA

A Franke double-bowl sink has enough room to soak large Aga pans and is paired with a Triflow tap that provides filtered drinking water by turning the central lever. It also has a separate rinse attachment that pulls out to wash fruit and vegetables

Curved doors allow for extra storage space for dishes in the island

One of the solid European oak doors conceals a Miele dishwasher, which is located close to the sink, so crockery can be rinsed before being loaded into the machine to be washed









FLOORING

The existing vinyl floor has been salvaged and the gaps filled in with pieces that served as plinths previously. For similar, try Rustic Ash tiles from the Knight-Tile range by Karndean

DRINKS STATION

Mirroring the larder unit on the opposite wall, this worktop-mounted cabinetry is home to a built-in microwave and Chris's Nespresso coffee machine with a slim warming drawer between the two and a cupboard to the side. Above, an oak seven-bottle wine rack makes the most of what could otherwise have been wasted space

our options open.' Despite a brief flirtation with a hand-painted design, it was seeing a kitchen in rich oak in the Dean Fairhurst Bespoke Kitchens & Interiors showroom that finally – and quickly – swayed their choice.

Creating a family-orientated design was a priority, but the couple had a few ideas of their own, too. 'We wanted rounded edges, mainly for the children's safety, and Suzanne wanted pan drawers. We also thought an island would work really well,' says Chris.

As the scheme began to come together, designer Dean Fairhurst provided the couple with templates on trestle tables offering several variations on the island. This made it much easier for them to visualise Dean's ideas and reach a decision. 'We tried various shapes but it was the circular one that really stood out,' recalls Chris. 'We hadn't seen anything like it before and it ended up looking fantastic.'

Aside from the unusually shaped island, Chris and Suzanne saw their bespoke design really come into its own as the cabinetry took shape; despite its subtle modern look, it blends beautifully with the beams of the house. 'Buying off-the-peg is very restrictive and we would have needed a lot more in the way of units,' explains Chris. 'Working with Dean has meant that every detail has been designed for us, right down to the number of shelves.'

A prime example is the larder unit, which is filled with storage solutions, from copious shelving to carefully designed racks that put the back of the door to good use. Dean created Suzanne's pan drawers with an eye for aesthetics, too; the inspiration behind the six-drawer design was a traditional merchant's chest. 'Looking back, it's hard to believe we weren't going to replace the kitchen,' smiles Suzanne. 'We're both so glad we changed our minds because the kitchen has made the house and we absolutely love it.'

'WE GET THE MOST
USE OUT OF THE
COFFEE MACHINE.
WHEN WE CAME
TO RESET IT, CHRIS
HAD ALREADY
MADE MORE THAN
2,000 COFFEES!'

SMART >> FOOD STORAGE

Standing floor to ceiling, a larder utilises all the space behind one of the kitchen doors. Internal racks house herbs and spices

COOKINGOPTIONS

A Miele ceramic four-zone hob and single oven are useful when the Aga is turned off



THE KITCHEN AT A GLANCE

DESIGN & CABINETRY

Dean Fairhurst at **Dean**

Fairhurst Bespoke Kitchens & Interiors, The Stables,
Carlton Hall, Carlton-on-Trent,
Newark, Notts NG23 6LP

(01636 821222) www.dffurniture.co.uk

 Bespoke solid European Oak cabinetry with glass and mesh doors from the Woodhouse range

WORKTOPS

Nero Assoluto granite.
 Price per linear m

RING

FLOORING

Existing vinyl. For similar try Rustic Ash tiles, Karndean. Price per sq m, from

SINK AND TAP

KBX12034-34 undermounted double-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke
Doric Trispray monobloc

mixer filter tap in chrome
with separate rinse, Franke £703

APPLIANCES (shown)

■ Two-oven Aga top plate £1,087 ■ 2 x Aga lids in chrome, each £325

■ H5240 built-in single oven,

Miele £1,200 ■ M8161-2 built-in microwave,

Miele £650

KM5801 Hi-Light four-zone ceramic hob, Miele £647

ceramic hob, Miele £647

CVA3660 built-in coffee machine, Miele £1,550

ESS3060-10 built-in warming drawer, Miele £450

Fully integrated dishwasher,

for similar try G2343SCi,

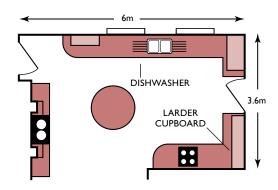
APPLIANCES (not shown)

Fully integrated undercounter fridge, Miele £53:

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