

“We wanted to make our mark so that we would

To create a feeling of continuity, the custom-made walnut dining table features an inset of the same granite as is used on the worktops and splashbacks, and the travertine flooring is inlaid with a walnut strip to map out the kitchen and dining areas. The dining chairs came from Next

Home at last

Developers Diane and Chris Allen decided it was time to put down roots and created a homely kitchen with timeless appeal

ve to move again, and we knew exactly what to do



TRADITIONAL



After the upheaval of several renovations and house moves, property developers Diane and Chris Allen agreed that a secluded 250-year-old Nottinghamshire cottage would be their last project for a while. Its run-down interior and cramped, tatty kitchen offered the opportunity they'd been looking for. 'We wanted to make our mark on a home so that we'd never have to move again and I knew exactly what to do with the space,' Diane explains.

Originally, the kitchen was divided into three separate areas, which included a utility room and a Spanish-style brick archway leading into a breakfast area. 'I knew I wouldn't be keeping any of it,' says Diane, who envisaged transforming the space into an open plan and light-filled kitchen diner.

When it came to the installation, the couple quickly settled on Simmons Kitchen & Bathroom Centre, who'd they'd used once before. 'I wanted someone I could trust implicitly and who understood where I was coming from. I immediately clicked with designer Val Draycott,' says Diane.

With Val's guidance, the couple arrived at a chic and timeless combination of sumptuous walnut and

cream-painted furniture handmade by Edward Loxley and finished with honey-toned granite.

However, fitting the granite splashbacks and worktops required some expertise. 'As it's an old house, the walls are quite uneven but the slabs have been so skilfully put in, you'd never know there was a problem,' says Diane. 'I also didn't want any joins in the island's worktop as dirt can collect in them. It must have caused the suppliers sleepless nights because the island is more than three metres long! It was well worth the trouble, though I doubt the six men who had to carry it in would agree.'

The Allens, who are also internet entrepreneurs, often entertain clients at home, so their choice of appliances had to reflect this. The island, for example, houses two wine fridges and Diane has successfully cooked for 20 guests using the double-oven range and combination microwave. Also, living in a rural area with no shops nearby meant plenty of storage and freezer space was essential, which the kitchen now happily accommodates.

'I'm very popular with my friends, now,' smiles Diane. 'Whenever we get together, they always insist that they come here.'

BK

The generous island offers a variety of storage and houses two wine fridges that can hold up to 36 bottles each. A small prep sink and tap by Blanco are fitted into the single piece of Golden Glory granite, which is three metres long. 'They'd never delivered a piece this big before, but I knew it would look amazing,' says Diane. Simmons supplied the Bradstone Antique natural travertine flooring.



Walls painted in Dulux's Treacle Delight and Edwin Loxley units in Natural Calico balance the rich walnut while maximising the light reflected through the space

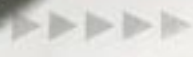


Spices, condiments and oils are stored inside a handy cupboard hidden within the side panels of the cooker surround. This ensures that Diane has them to hand when cooking

Dovetailed joints and sycamore drawers are just two of the high quality and robust features of this kitchen. The solid walnut doors are lacquered and embellished with pewter handles



“I originally thought the Miele coffee machine was a bit gimmicky, but I chose it to balance the design. Now I can’t imagine life without it”
Diane Allen





Chris and Diane's idyllic Nottinghamshire home

The Britannia cooker's brass trim gives the appliance a more traditional look

The walnut surround, with built-in extractor, and granite splashback make Diane's double-oven range cooker an impressive focal point. The dual-fuel appliance boasts six powerful gas burners and a griddle



THE KITCHEN

DESIGN & CABINETS

- Val Draycott at **Simmons Kitchens & Bathroom Centre**, Woodhouse Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire (01623 42200) www.simmonsonline.co.uk
- Bespoke solid walnut and painted MDF cabinetry by Edwin Loxley

WORKTOPS

- Golden Glory granite, Blyth Marble Price on application

SINKS & TAPS

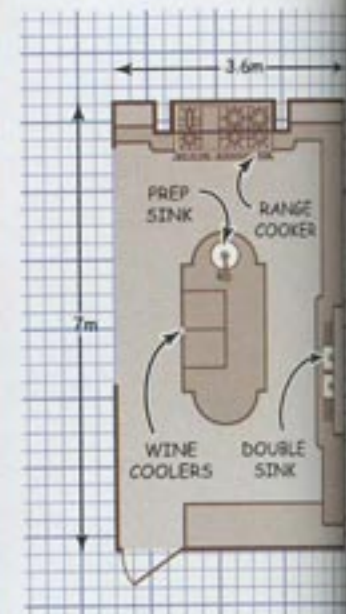
- 2 x BlancoZerax 340-U undermounted single-bowl sinks, Blanco, each
- BlancoRondo-U Sol undermounted prep sink, Blanco
- 2 x BlancoEye 5300 lever taps, Blanco, set
- ISE65 waste disposal unit, In-Sink-Erator

APPLIANCES (shown)

- SI12TC/6XCLSC range cooker, Britannia
- H4020BM combination microwave, Miele
- D5855 built-in extractor, Neff
- CVA2660 built-in coffee machine, Miele
- 2 x KWT4154UG wine coolers, Miele, set

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Integrated larder fridge, Neff
- Integrated larder freezer, Miele
- Integrated freezer, Neff
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Miele



GUIDE PRICE

- Cabinetry only

Where to buy Blyth Marble 01909 730807 Blanco 020 8450 9100 Britannia 01253 471111 Dulux 0870 444 1111 Edwin Loxley 0115 975 8168 In-Sink-Erator 0800 389 3715 Miele 0845 330 3666 Neff 0870 513 3090 Next 0845 600 7000