

Stunning Edwin Loxley furniture that has been finished in Dulux's Cream creates a light-filled scheme in the Actreeds' new open-plan kitchen. The pale cabinetry is accentuated beautifully by sumptuous walnut corning and plinths. Built in to the floor-to-ceiling units, smart appliances provide various cooking options.



CREAM AND COUNTRY

Building their own home set within eight acres of land gave Mel and Patricia Attreed the ideal opportunity to design their perfect pale painted kitchen



‘My favourite design elements in my new kitchen are the rounded edges on the corners of all the cabinets. I love the way they look and think they are just beautiful.’

PATRICIA ATTREED



Topped with striking Tan Brown granite, Mel and Patricia's curved peninsula is the perfect spot for guests to linger with a glass of wine while they prepare meals. For similar stylish white occasional seating, try Bueno at Simply Bar Stools



For company director Mel Attreed and his wife Patricia, a hospital receptionist, building their own five-bedroom, five-bathroom house was the perfect way to achieve their dream home. Situated within eight acres of land, the house took two years to complete. 'We created the 650-square metre property ourselves so we could have a unique layout with a cinema, games room and a beautiful open-plan kitchen,' explains Mel.

When the couple started looking at kitchen companies, a golfing partner of Mel's recommended they visit designer Michael Bennett at Orian Design. 'There were a number of other top-end companies that we thought about using,' explains Mel, 'but we felt very comfortable with Michael.'

Working alongside Mel and Patricia, Michael came up with a number of different design options before the couple decided on a hand-painted pale scheme from Edwin Loxley that boasted warm walnut details. 'It was nice having a blank canvas,' recalls Mel, 'and this kitchen is certainly different, that's for sure. Once we'd seen all the designs, we took ideas from each one to get what we wanted, which really worked for us.'

The scheme that Mel and Patricia opted for is a classic combination of hand-finished timber furniture and glass cabinetry. To complement the cream units, they chose pale marble floor tiles, which enhance the feeling of light and space in the room. Dark granite worktops contrast with the lightly coloured cabinets and tie in with the walnut plinths.

A number of windows and doors opening into the garden also help to flood the room with daylight. 'We absolutely love this kitchen,' says Patricia. 'Cooking in here is a pleasure. We also have loads of storage – too much really – and a separate utility room with a Butler sink, American-style fridge freezer, washing machine and tumble dryer, all housed within Edwin Loxley furniture.'

By building their home themselves, Mel and Patricia were able to work closely with



My best buy... was the wine cooler. We have a wine cellar, too, but the chiller keeps reds and whites close at hand and at the perfect temperature!



ABOVE Finished in the same shade as the rest of the units, this art deco-style display cabinet stores the couple's collection of pretty glassware

FAR LEFT To contrast with the mottled granite worksurfaces, the main wet area consists of a cool white ceramic sink. A simple C-spout tap with bell-style levers is partnered by a separate pull-out rinse

LEFT Sited next to the dining area for easy access when they are entertaining, a sleek Liebherr wine cooler stores the Attreeds' wine at the optimum temperature for drinking

Michael on the design of the new kitchen. 'You need to have lots of patience,' explains Mel, 'and if anything does go wrong, you have to make sure it's put right.'

Fortunately, their new kitchen was almost problem free. A small snag with the door of the dishwasher was dealt with by Michael quickly: 'The quality of service he provided was excellent,' says Mel. 'Our kitchen was well put together and we have no complaints.'

Now that they have a stunning kitchen, Mel and Patricia plan to work on the garden to make the views from the windows just as beautiful. With 300 square metres of terrace alone to consider, it's easy to see why they'll be spending almost as much time on the grounds as building the house itself. **108**



ABOVE Deep pull-out drawers beneath the couple's hob are perfectly sited for storing crockery as well as heavy pots and pans. Their curved design echoes the bowed style of the smart handles.

To provide continuity within such a spacious room, Mel and Patricia chose to include the same classic tap at both the main wet area and peninsula. A vast drum cupboard below offers them plenty of extra space to store large items.



DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Michael Bennett at **Orian Design**, 1 Maple House, Chelmsford Road, Sherfield, Essex, CM15 8RQ (07779 294922) www.edwinloxley.co.uk
- Bespoke hand-painted tulipwood furniture and glass cabinetry by Edwin Loxley

WORKTOPS

- 30mm Tan Brown granite, Frontier Marble & Granite (UK). Price per sq m. **£727**

SINKS & TAPS

- Cisterna 60 C undermounted single-bowl ceramic sink, Villeroy & Boch **£321**
- Lincoln undermounted round single-bowl ceramic sink, Astracast **£152**
- 4876PF Titan three-hole, C-spout mixer tap in pewter with separate rinse, Perrin & Rowe **£359**
- 4871PF Titan three-hole, C-spout mixer tap in pewter, Perrin & Rowe **£242**
- Maxmatic 3000 waste disposal unit, Max Appliances **£338**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- HBN730551B built-in multifunction pyrolytic oven, Bosch **£599**
- HBC84K551B built-in combination oven, Bosch **£679**
- PHL206MEU five-burner gas hob, Bosch **£409**
- Artica chimney extractor hood in glass and stainless steel, Elica **£610**
- TKN68E750B built-in coffee machine, Bosch **£970**
- WTUes1653 integrated wine cooler, Liebherr **£780**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated larder fridge, Liebherr **£276**
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Bosch **£345**

☎ For stockists, see page 144



GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for an Edwin Loxley kitchen **£20,000**