



a farm affair

Despite having 40 acres and a plethora of animals to tend to, the Walkers took time to discover their dream kitchen. They take us through the process.

‘All good things come to those who wait’, so the saying goes. But, for Christine Walker, 30 years was about the limit. “I’d always promised myself a new kitchen since we moved into the house in the ‘70s, but somehow we’ve never got around to it,” she says, having ‘made do’ with some ex-display units installed originally as a temporary solution.

“Finally, we earmarked some money and decided to get going,” explains Christine, who, with husband, Mark, agreed that their Georgian farmhouse in the Worcestershire countryside deserved something better than the worn cupboards and wobbly table that were serving as their kitchen. But, with 40 acres to farm, a flock of ewes about to lamb and a horse with foal to care for, not to mention a mapping and geological business

to run, it’s hardly surprising that there wasn’t much time to visit a string of showrooms for ideas.

“Fortunately, my farrier recommended Warwick Lifestyle. Not only did we like the designs, but we were attracted by the fact that they would project manage the whole job, down to the electrics and painting,” explains Christine, adding that the room had to be gutted and old broken floor tiles removed before the new work could be carried out.

left After a day spent working in the beautiful Worcestershire countryside, Christine and Mark can return to the welcoming hub of their home.

below The dresser smartly houses a handy combination microwave flanked by essential storage containing cutlery, candles and linen.



kitchen profile

Beautiful Shaker-style wooden furniture by Edwin Loxley has been handcrafted using burr poplar veneered panels surrounded by solid maple frames and finished with solid walnut knobs. Tan Brown granite worktops and a rustic limestone floor finish the warm look and smart design by Warwick Lifestyle.

Warwick Lifestyle, The Old Bank Chambers, 20 Coten End, Warwick, Warwickshire CV32 4NP. Tel: 01926 496256. www.warwicklifestyle.co.uk
Expect to pay from £10,000.



Design Directors, Carlos Park and Stephen Tombs, took on board the couple's request for a light and uncluttered space, creating simple and bespoke Shaker-style furniture made interesting with a beautiful mix of woods. "The walnut knobs accentuate the darker marks in the burr poplar veneer door panels, while the solid maple frames add contrast," explains Carlos. He goes on to point out that, "The square shape of the room with its two entry points including an extra-wide back door could have resulted in a very angular look to the furniture. So, we added the curved quadrants on the edges to soften the effect."

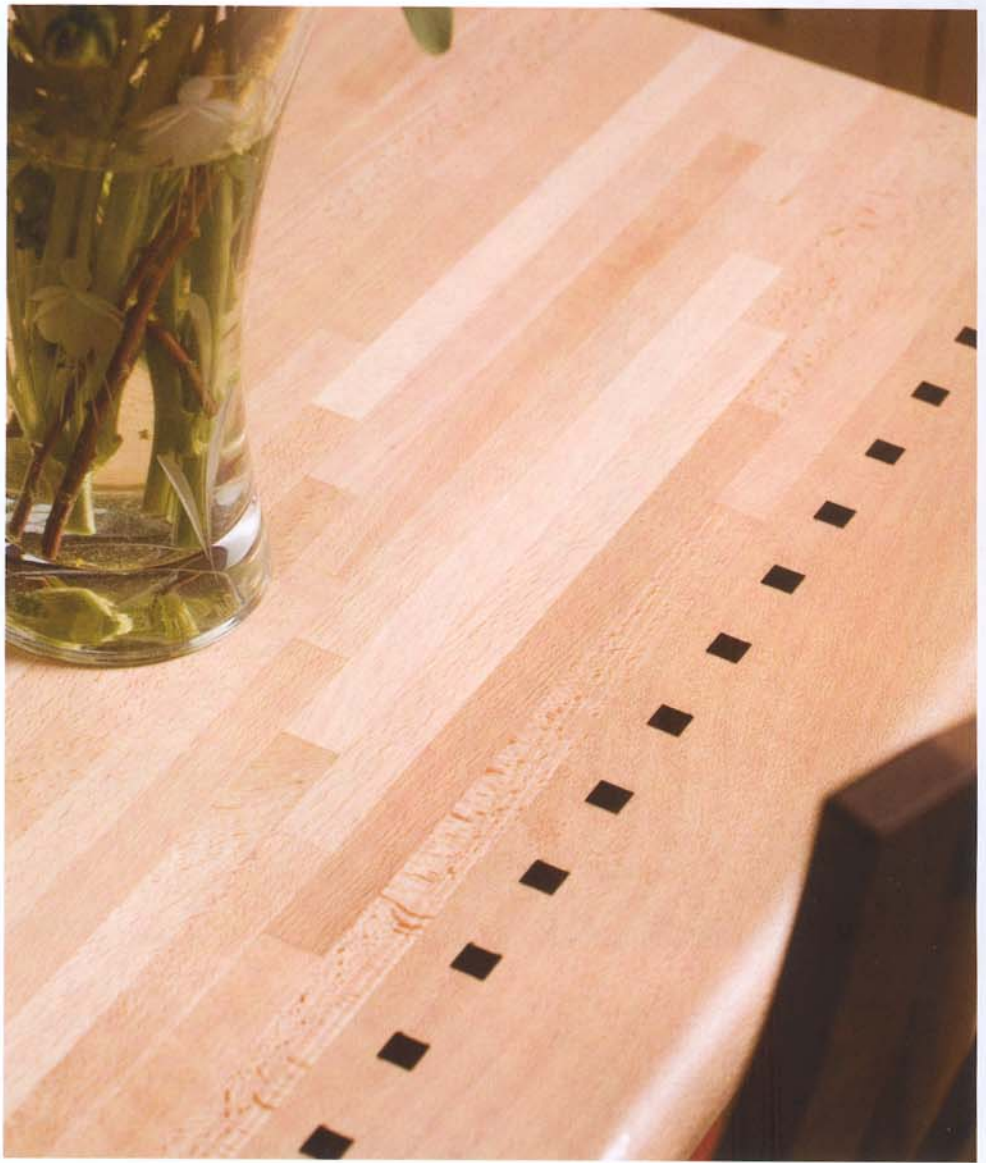
In need of ample space at mealtimes, Christine approached Foal Yard to make a maple dining table inlaid with black walnut to complement the kitchen cabinetry and enable at least six people to dine comfortably. "It's very useful when all the grandchildren are here," she says.

left Chill-out time is now even more enjoyable thanks to the high tech TV and DVD system set on a distinctive burr poplar veneer panel.

right The bespoke maple table inlaid with black walnut detailing is not only practical and able to seat six comfortably, but totally one-off, too.

below right The perfect spot for keeping tea and coffee close to hand, carefully crafted cupboards have been built either side of the overmantel.

below Tailor-made, sycamore-lined corner drawers make light work of retrieving pans that are now easily transferable to the adjacent Aga.





top All the necessary crockery is easily obtainable from the larder-style unit – a real Godsend when entertaining in the inviting dining area.

above Christine absolutely adores her new kitchen that's perfectly planned for both her everyday lifestyle and when the grandchildren drop by.

Surrounded by an overmantel, the Aga was bought a few years ago and remains the focal point of the room. Max, the couple's elderly Labrador, and sheepdog, Tess, are fans of this warm spot, where they are frequently found fast asleep. Although Christine is quick to point out that Max has made something of a study of the new rubbish bin. "He hasn't actually worked out how to get into it," she says of the pull-out arrangement, but that doesn't stop him trying!"

A dresser with sandblasted glass-fronted cabinets offers lots of storage to keep worktops uncluttered as Christine had wanted. "I hate grovelling about pans," she says, explaining that the corner drawers are designed for ease of use. Appliances are kept out of sight, allowing the furniture's beauty to shine.

Heading out to the farm's outbuildings, converted into their office space, ready to feed the chickens, Christine pauses, looking back at her new kitchen. "It's been worth the wait," she smiles. ■

useful information

Kitchen **cabinetry**, price on application, at Edwin Loxley. **Tel: 0115 975 8168.** www.edwinloxley.co.uk

Appliances

Range **cooker**, from around £5500, at Aga. **Tel: 0845 712 5207.** www.aga-web.co.uk

Caple D1440 fully integrated **dishwasher**, £475; C157D built-under **fridge**, £327, at Maurice Lay. **Tel: 0870 606 9606.** www.mlay.co.uk

CM4 built-in **microwave**, around £253, at CDA. **Tel: 01949 862000.** www.cda-europe.com

Fixtures & furnishings

LAX10050 stainless steel **sink**, around £212, at Franke. **Tel: 0161 436 6280.** www.franke.co.uk

Oberon 4861CP chrome **tap**, £211, at Perrin & Rowe. **Tel: 01708 526361.** www.perrinandrowe.co.uk

Tan Brown granite **worktops**, from £400 per sq. m.; limestone **flooring**, from £79 per sq. m.; Creme Marfil splashback **tiles**, from £79 per sq. m.; with L'Antic Colonial **border**, from £57 per linear m., at Warwick Lifestyle. See kitchen profile for details.

New White **paint**, £23 per 2.5 litres, at Farrow & Ball. **Tel: 01202 876141.** www.farrow-ball.com

Dining **table**, £1595; black walnut **chairs**, £447, at Foal Yard Gallery. **Tel: 01886 833337.** www.foalyard.co.uk

Bespoke **blinds**, price on application, at Fabric Acanthus Complete Soft Furnishing Service. **Tel: 01886 833658.** www.acanthusfurnishings.co.uk

Similar Bush LCD **TV and DVD system**, around £500, at Amazon. www.amazon.co.uk

For details of Christine and Mark's **mapping and geological service**, visit www.centremapslive.co.uk