

STARTING OVER

Jane and Duncan Brown's lovely new kitchen proves it's never too late to change your mind

After rejecting plans that didn't suit their need for a light and airy scheme, the Browns discovered The Cupboard Shop. Its designs for simply styled cabinetry painted in Green Ground by Farrow & Ball were, the couple decided, much more in tune with their needs. Glazed units at the back of the room are the perfect place for Jane to show off her large collection of nautical-themed ceramics



To play down its vast size and contemporary look, Jane and Duncan chose to integrate their American fridge freezer in a tall unit. The microwave has also been positioned here and is great for reheating food or as a backup to the range cooker at the opposite end of the kitchen. The rest of the floor-to-ceiling cabinetry is made over to storage space

RIGHT With plenty of worktop space around the room, Jane is never short of an area for fruit and vegetable preparation. Working at the peninsula, she can catch up with Duncan at the end of the day and not feel left out of the conversation when the couple have company. A dishwasher and washer dryer are integrated on the run, too

BELOW Home for Jane and Duncan is this beautiful detached house in south Surrey. The simple hardwood conservatory was built by David Salisbury Conservatories and was supplied ready painted



BRING
THE
OUTSIDE
IN

My favourite... design element has to be the peninsula. It's so much more ergonomic than an island would ever have been. I'm glad designer Alison suggested it'



Having decided against moving from their 1930s, four-bedroom home in Surrey, Jane and Duncan Brown were halfway through extending their kitchen and adding a conservatory when they started to have doubts about the cabinetry the builder was going to install. 'We had gutted the old kitchen and put in underfloor heating but I was really concerned that the new kitchen wasn't going to fit the space,' recalls Jane. 'Our builder tried to convince us that it would but Duncan and I suddenly realised we could be without a kitchen for some time if it all went horribly wrong,' she continues.

Before continuing, Jane, an administrator, and Duncan, a financial adviser, called in the help of Alison and Martin Rowe of local company The Cupboard Shop. 'Martin saw the room when it was completely empty and it almost seemed that overnight he came up with a layout that we knew would work for us,' says Jane. 'Instead of a boring corridor of units, he and Alison proposed an open-plan ►

DESIGN & CABINETS

- Martin and Alison Rowe at **The Cupboard Shop**, 21 Lordsbury Field, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9PE (020 8669 7905) www.cupboardshop.co.uk
- Bespoke hand-painted tulipwood and MDF furniture with glass cabinetry

WORKTOPS

- 30mm Fountain Green granite, World of Stone. Price per sq m **£400**

SINK & TAP

- KBX16034-16 Kubus undermounted one-and-a-half-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke **£342**
- Doric Triflow monobloc mixer filtered tap in chrome, Franke **£367**
- ISE78 waste disposal unit, In-Sink-Erator **£236**

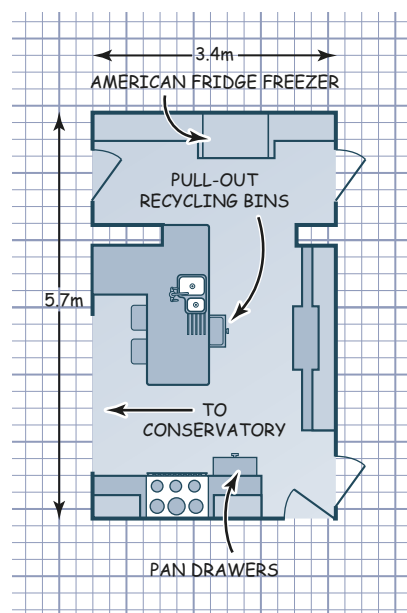
APPLIANCES (shown)

- SIE10TLS Sigma electric range cooker in stainless steel, Britannia **£2,406**
- HF25M560B built-in microwave, Siemens **£468**
- IGLOO90SS chimney extractor hood in glass and stainless steel, Elica **£485**
- Integrated American fridge freezer, for similar try SOV628GB, Maytag **£2,548**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated dishwasher, Siemens **£613**
- Full integrated washer dryer, Siemens **£884**

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GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a The Cupboard Shop kitchen **£15,000**



On Saturday mornings, you will usually find Jane and Duncan poring over a weekend crossword in their new conservatory. 'We love the outside feel our kitchen now has and the view of the garden is stunning,' says Jane. For a similar wooden-topped, cream-painted dining table, try John Lewis. The traditional-style, high-backed chairs were sourced from Lloyd Loom

RIGHT The stunning Neusis bar stools from Lloyd Loom have a solid beech frame with a square padded seat, which is topped with paper-covered metal wire strands woven in rows. For a similar berry paint shade, try Radicchio by Farrow & Ball

CENTRE RIGHT A large sink is partnered by a half bowl, which is great for rinsing vegetables. The couple chose a special filtered water tap, which, along with the dispenser in the fridge door, means they never have to buy the bottled variety. Its levers are easy to turn on if Jane has dirty hands

BELOW RIGHT With so many cupboards and drawers in the couple's new design, everything now has its place, including Jane's collection of tea towels. All of the doors have been finished with aluminium knobs

BELOW LEFT The pull-out cutlery drawer, conveniently positioned between the range cooker and the dining table, has dovetailed drawer boxes made from solid beech that can be removed for easy cleaning



scheme with plenty of room to prepare meals and socialise in comfort when friends came over.'

Part of the couple's refurbishment had included an extension at the side of one end of the kitchen, running from the front of the house to the back, which they intended to use as a utility room. However, designer Martin recommended including the space in the main kitchen area, which made a huge difference to the layout and enabled him to fit in an extra run of floor-to-ceiling cupboards and an American fridge freezer. Glazed doors at both ends provide access to the front and back gardens, and a Velux window lets in some much-needed daylight.

Jane had set her heart on having an island but there wasn't enough space in the middle of the room. To solve this problem, Alison designed an L-shaped peninsula, which now conveniently houses a washer dryer and dishwasher. The wet area was also positioned so that anyone using it could face out onto the conservatory and the garden beyond. 'When I'm at

the sink, I don't want to stare at a wall, I'd rather look out, be sociable and chat with everyone,' says Jane. 'We wanted to have an eating area within the main kitchen but Martin persuaded us that a couple of stools would be enough and we chose some gorgeous purple ones from Lloyd Loom.'

When it came to the colour scheme, Jane wanted it to be fresh and light, so the cabinetry has been painted in a pale green to complement the colours used for the doors and framework of the conservatory. For the worktops and splashback behind the range cooker, the couple chose a mottled green granite. 'I thought it would look dark but the surface is so reflective, I needn't have worried,' says Jane.

The Browns are delighted with their new kitchen and are glad they rethought their ideas. 'Alison and Martin have done a fantastic job and I'm really glad they did it so quickly. We wanted a sunny, open-plan room and now I love it all. When I walk in, I still can't believe this is my kitchen,' smiles Jane. **BK**

My top tip...

is to be realistic. If you want quality, you have to be prepared to pay for it. However, if you're spending a lot of money, you should be getting a design expert and someone who knows what they're doing as well'

JANE BROWN

