

The simplicity of Karen and Mark's new kitchen allows the beauty of their solid maple furniture to shine through. Accents of burnt orange, black and stainless steel stand out against the neutral backdrop. For a similar wall colour, try Fired Earth's Flake White

## MAPLE MAGIC

Splashes of bewitching tangerine add real heat to Karen and Mark Coxall's pale wood kitchen



“Be prepared for the sheer amount of choice you'll have. We

kept thinking we had decided on something, then a magazine, TV programme, showroom or website gave us a raft of alternatives”

KAREN COXALL



Reclaimed Chestnut Amtico flooring echoes the timber furniture while creating the illusion of space. A glass splashback from Sevenoaks Glazing, which was matched to Karen's orange Le Creuset pots and pans, provides a burst of colour in the scheme



For more great handles see our All in the details feature on page 149

After 10 years of living in their three-bedroom semi in Kent, Karen and Mark Coxall decided that it was time to make some improvements. Not only did they want to replace their old kitchen but they were also keen to extend it into the garden.

For the extension, Mark, a builder, came up with a simple design featuring a sloping roof, a skylight and a bank of windows that would allow the kitchen and garden to blend into one free-flowing space – perfect for entertaining their family and friends. Meanwhile, Karen researched ideas for the interior design.

Inspired by the kitchens they'd seen in *Beautiful Kitchens* magazine, on TV and online, Karen and Mark visited several local showrooms with a basic outline of what they had in mind. 'I knew we wanted a modern design to match the style of the house,' explains Karen. Overwhelmed by the variety of kitchens on offer, the couple needed some expert guidance. However, the responses they received were very mixed. 'They went from elaborate and hugely complex designs to sketches on a scrap of paper,' says Karen. 'So when we met Martin and Alison Rowe from The Cupboard Shop, it was a huge relief to find that they were on

our wavelength – their suggestions were very intelligent and they were not at all pushy.'

After listening carefully to the Coxalls' requirements, Martin and Alison suggested a simple scheme of solid maple, Shaker-style units that would maximise work surface and storage space and invite light into the room. 'Martin came up with exactly the right ideas,' enthuses Karen. 'I love the contrast of the smooth, solid maple and the textured, black granite.' A selection of carefully considered orange accessories was also added for a welcome splash of colour.

When it came to choosing her new appliances, Karen deliberately took her time. 'Despite an overwhelming urge to get everything done at once, I didn't want to rush it,' she explains. 'A new kitchen is a big investment so I took it a stage at a time and was prepared to wait if I couldn't find what I wanted straight away. It could have been a very expensive mistake if I got it wrong.'

The Coxalls' patience has been richly rewarded with a kitchen that's exactly to their liking. 'It's perfect!' says Karen. 'We've always spent a lot of time in the kitchen but now with more space, our get-togethers with family and friends are so much more enjoyable.'



Smooth grained cabinetry and stainless-steel bars are offset by contrasting textured Assoluto River Washed granite worktops from World of Stone. The rugged surface adds an interesting element to the classic scheme

FAVOURITE APPLIANCE: 'The warming drawer. Mark fitted one in a kitchen he was working on and thought it was a great innovation. He was right!'



An Evoline pop-up socket, fitted into the island's capacious worktop, is handy for powering small appliances. When not in use, it simply glides back into the unit and out of sight. 'It's so practical and allows me to plug in small appliances on one side while Mark is chopping on the other,' explains Karen

The couple's extension easily accommodates a spacious dining area, which has a large Alto oak dining table and Cape leather and chrome high-backed chairs from Heal's. The black lacquered Canton sideboard came from Lombok

An undermounted sink and matching drainer by Franke is sited on the vast island. 'We live in a hard-water area so we didn't want draining grooves cut into the granite, as they would get limescale marks,' explains Karen. 'This stainless-steel drainer was the perfect solution'





A double oven and warming drawer are neatly housed within a tall bespoke unit just a few steps away from the main prep area. Also built in to the unit is a Neff microwave, positioned at eye-level to save it taking up worktop space. The elegant furniture features long bar handles, which mirror the stainless-steel appliances, while smart, angled under-cupboard task lighting ensures that the granite worksurfaces are always perfectly illuminated

Volcanic orange Le Creuset cookware, which inspired the kitchen's finishing touches, is conveniently stored inside a deep pan drawer below the Miele gas hob



## DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Martin and Alison Rowe at **The Cupboard Shop**, 21 Lordsbury Field, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9PE (020 8669 7905) [www.cupboardshop.co.uk](http://www.cupboardshop.co.uk)
- Bespoke solid maple furniture

## WORKTOPS

- Assoluto River Washed granite, World of Stone. Price per sq m **£438**

## SINK & TAP

- KBX11045 Kubus undermounted single-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke **£275**
- Doric Triflow monobloc mixer filter tap in chrome, Franke **£524**

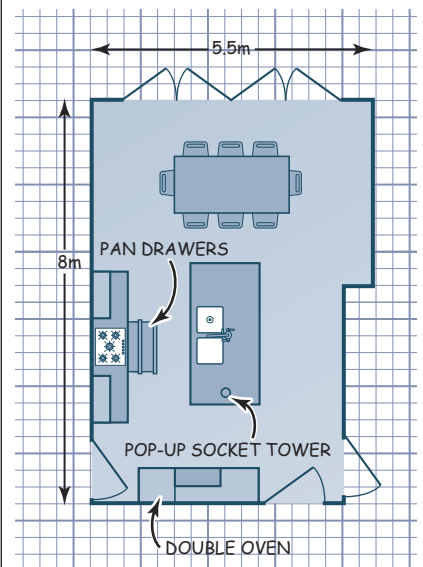
## APPLIANCES (shown)

- U1644 built-in double oven, Neff **£1,250**
- H5430 built-in microwave, Neff **£420**
- KM371G five-burner gas hob, Miele **£809**
- DA249-4 chimney extractor in glass and stainless steel, Miele **£900**
- N7290 built-in warming drawer, Neff **£350**
- Freestanding larder fridge freezer, for similar try KFN9753iD, Miele **£955**

## APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Semi integrated dishwasher, Miele **£950**
- Semi integrated washer dryer, Miele **£1,580**

☎ For stockists, see page 162



## GUIDE PRICE

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