



A wall of clean-lined cupboards and appliance units, in American Black walnut veneer, run along one side of the cottage kitchen. The coordinating island is topped with a Glacier White Corian work surface.

FULL CIRCLE

Time, patience and a dramatic island were all that was required to create this stylish cottage kitchen.

PHOTOS DARREN CHUNG WORDS TRACEY WILLIAMS



After deciding it was time to downsize, it took two years of searching before Jenny Adams, a massage therapist, and private banker, Steve Walker's patience was rewarded. A bijou two bedroom cottage near Rugby - built in 1802 - was exactly what they were looking for. 'The cottage had been renovated ten years before we bought it but not really to its full potential so, because we were looking for a project, this was perfect,' remembers Jenny. 'The kitchen was basically an outhouse which lacked space, storage and natural light. The design itself was also very uninspiring. It really didn't do the house justice so the obvious solution was to knock it down and start again,' she says.

However, it was another two years before any work could start as their home was bordering a conservation area, which meant that they were bound by the planning restrictions. Finally after wrangling with the relevant departments, permission was granted to create a single storey extension with a pitched roof, transforming the former outhouse into a stylish yet sympathetic addition to the historic building. The couple's bespoke kitchen design would make the most of the new space and the light that pours in through the large glazed doors. Jenny and Steve set about finding a designer who could create a luxurious space that would set their kitchen apart from the norm. 'Unfortunately, nobody could offer us anything different - there didn't seem to be any imagination behind any of the sketches. Eventually we found a designer but it was in the strangest of circumstances!' says Jenny. 'I was a financial advisor and knew the owners of Fraser James. Steve looked after separate clients who'd had their unusually shaped kitchen done by the same company. We each met our respective



'The distinctive and unique horse shoe shape is the central showpiece and offers the perfect social area.'

Above The couple wanted integrated appliances to continue the sleek look. The coffee machine was initially a luxury choice but quickly became a daily essential.

Left The double dish drawer from Fisher & Paykel is ideal for the couple as it offers ample capacity when entertaining guests.

KITCHEN PROFILE

A sweeping horseshoe shape takes centre stage in this feature kitchen by Fraser James. Made from American Black walnut veneer with solid walnut edging, flush front handles and topped with crisp Glacier White Corian, it's a very practical mix of organic and modern materials that never fails to impress.

Donna Cockerill, Fraser James Traditional Handmade Furniture, Catesby, Staverton, Northamptonshire NN11 6JP. 01327 315037, www.fraserjamesltd.co.uk. Expect to pay from £18,000.



The sweeping line around the outside gives way to a slightly more angular look on the inside.



‘The rich wood was chosen to reflect the colour of the beams.’

clients one evening, only to each return home knowing that we’d just found the perfect company to build our dream kitchen!

With fate having played its part, the striking design began to take shape. The distinctive and unique horse shoe is the central showpiece and offers the perfect social area for cooking and entertaining. ‘Jenny and Steve were very specific about wanting to use the middle of the room rather than a more traditional layout, mainly because of the eaves,’ says designer Donna Cockerill. The kitchen shape is simple, but the details of the design are actually very specific. For example, it took time to agree on where to locate the opening of the horseshoe so that the beautiful wood could be best viewed from all angles.’

The choice of walnut was an important decision as although the modern design was to contrast with the cottage, Jenny was conscious that anything too contemporary could look out of place. The rich wood, chosen to reflect the colour of the beams, bridges this gap perfectly. A matching cupboard and appliance unit along one wall, walk in pantry and separate utility room maximises storage. It is the centrepiece alone that oozes style and gives the kitchen that certain something the couple really wanted to achieve. ‘Our new kitchen is exactly what we hoped for - it might have been a long time coming but it was well worth the wait!’ says Jenny with a smile. ‘It really adds that something extra to our little cottage.’ ■

A generously sized extension replaces the former outbuilding, its style designed to be sympathetic to the original cottage.

STOCKISTS INFORMATION

APPLIANCES

DD60DHI6 integrated **double drawer dishwasher**, £875, at Fisher & Paykel; similar KM6380 panoramic **induction hob**, around £1,512; similar DG 5061 **steam oven** in stainless steel, £1,700; similar H5461BP **single oven** in stainless steel, £1,765; ESW5080-29 **warming drawer**, £727; CVA 5060 **coffee bean machine** in stainless steel, £1,880; KWT 4154 UG -1 **wine cooler**, £1,363, all at Miele; HZ201B integrated **larder freezer**, £433; HS2321L **larder fridge**, £332, both at Hotpoint.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Glacier White **Corian**, from £300 per sq. m; ARX 110 33 stainless steel under mounted **bowl**, £113; ARX110 17 stainless steel under mounted **bowl sink**, £108; Rolux Pull Out **spray tap** in chrome, £407, all at Franke; Tuscan Gold travertine 610 x 406mm **floor tiles**, £33 per sq. m, at Alistair Mackintosh Ltd; Ochre **paint** with natural oil eggshell finish, £71 for 5l, at Pots of Paint; Duo White **bar stool**, £55, at Atlantic City; Atom 12 light **pendant**, £112 each, at The Lighting Superstore.

*All prices are approximate. For stockists, see page 160.

