

‘Our warm maple kitchen is so inviting and wonderful that guests don’t want to leave’



A hint of history

Sue and Lewis Gee faced a challenge – they wanted their new kitchen to be spacious and functional, yet still reflect their home’s Georgian heritage

Fondly recalling the old rectory in Wiltshire where he was born, the Victorian diarist Robert Francis Kilvert wrote, ‘My own sweet birthplace, I have ever loved thee.’ Yet when Sue Gee, her husband Lewis, who is in IT sales, and their children, Megan, 13, and Sean, 10, went to view the house, they had distinctly mixed feelings about it. ‘The property was in a terrible state and the kitchen was small,’ Sue recalls. ‘Despite this, we all felt at home there instantly and within three months had moved in.’

The Gees then set about knocking down walls to enlarge the kitchen. ‘Fortunately, there was a utility room we could incorporate into the space, a disused porch that could be used as a walk-in pantry, and a bricked-up fireplace that would give us an alcove in which to tuck away my ovens,’ says Sue.

Designer James Horsfall at Bath Kitchen Company had been recommended to the Gees by a friend. ‘James immediately understood our wish to have a kitchen in tune with the property’s Georgian heritage,’ recalls Sue. ‘He suggested we go for a traditional painted scheme enhanced by period features such as a large butler’s sink and vintage-style plate rack.’

‘I told him I’d been inspired by a kitchen in duck-egg blue I’d seen in another showroom, and he found us the perfect shade by Laura Ashley, contrasting it with some striking midnight blue granite worktops. The rest of the room is neutral – warm, buttery walls paired with a veined limestone floor and lots of solid oak. Our kitchen is now so inviting and wonderful, guests don’t want to leave,’ smiles Sue. **BK**

▼ Sue and Lewis have lovingly restored their Georgian rectory home. Aware of the property’s historic past as the birthplace of diarist RF Kilvert, the couple were careful to preserve its period feel when they set about enlarging and renovating the kitchen



Sue Gee’s once-cramped kitchen is now a light, welcoming space where she can enjoy cooking for her family and friends. The combination of bespoke cabinetry in Laura Ashley’s classic Duck Egg Blue shade alongside Blue Pearl granite worktops is set off perfectly by walls painted in a soft off-white colour, Ivory by Dulux

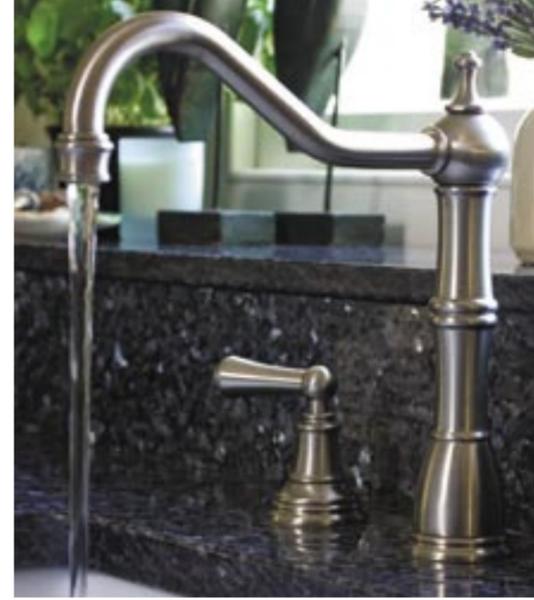
CLASSIC





A traditional-style mantel adds a subtle homely touch above Sue's modern ovens and induction hob. Behind them, the granite continues as an upstand

Perrin & Rowe's crook-style mixer tap in pewter with lever handles is in perfect keeping with the age of the house, yet is ultra-efficient and elegant. Sue admits the granite splashback and worktops need more looking after than she first thought but says they look so good, they are worth the effort



The classic pewter handles the Gees chose add to the room's period styling. Sue says pewter is a favourite material of hers, and a coffee pot and candlesticks in this rich, dark metal are on display on the mantel above her ovens and hob

“Even though our kitchen is quite snug, I felt we needed somewhere warm to dry tea towels. This Classic towel radiator by Bisque was ideal and the cream hue blends in well”

SUE GEE



“A kitchen I'd seen on display in duck-egg blue inspired the colour”





Close to the dishwasher for easy unloading, a smart dresser-style plate rack and crockery shelf creates an attractive place to display Sue's everyday china

THE KITCHEN FILE

DESIGN & CABINTRY

- James Horsfall at **Bath Kitchen Company**, 22 Hensley Road, Bloomfield, Bath BA2 2DR (01225 312003) www.bathkitchencompany.co.uk
- Handmade, painted maple furniture

WORKTOPS

- Blue Pearl granite. Price per sq m **£300**
- Solid oak. Price per sq m, from **£200**

SINK & TAP

- 600mm Belfast single-bowl sink, for similar try Yorkshire Belfast sink, Caple **£154**
- 4771PF Alsace three-hole mixer tap in pewter, Perrin & Rowe **£296**

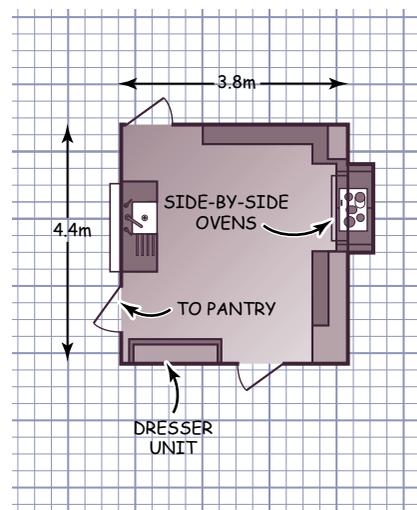
APPLIANCES (shown)

- 2 x B1442 built-in single ovens in stainless steel, Neff, each **£522**
- H5470 built-in microwave oven in stainless steel, Neff **£442**
- T4383 four-zone induction hob with central warming zone, Neff **£737**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated 70/30 fridge freezer, Neff **£545**
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Neff **£675**

 For stockists, see page 153



GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a Bath Kitchen Company design **£15,000**