

PHOTOS: MARTIN BLACK



what I love about my kitchen
 ...the fact that the colour of the units changes in different lights.
 CATHERINE

A fresh approach

By re-building their conservatory and opening up the back of their house, **Catherine and Tim** have given their previously dark and impractical kitchen a whole new lease of life

Sitting in Catherine's pretty, sunlit kitchen today, it's hard to imagine it as anything other than bright, fresh, charming and functional. However, not so long ago it was a whole different story.

"We were unhappy with the lack of space in our original kitchen and we had a conservatory that we didn't know whether to change, get rid of or refurbish," explains Catherine.

"My husband Tim and I talked through lots of ideas and went back and forth

Originally several small, dark rooms, Catherine and Andy's new kitchen now seamlessly connects the dining room with the bright and airy conservatory at the back of the house



This wall of cupboards accommodates a lot of our food storage, as well as the integrated fridge-freezer, the boiler and there's also a mop in there somewhere!

FINISHING TOUCH: TILED SPLASH-BACK

“The splash-back tiles were actually my neighbour Fran’s idea. She’d seen them at a place called Habibi interiors who specialise in Moroccan products and thought they would work well in my kitchen. Because it was a blank wall originally I couldn’t envisage it, but she said ‘trust me, it will work.’ And she was right.”



The washing machine is neatly hidden away next to the microwave

We had an Aga in our old kitchen which we loved the look of, so for the new kitchen we chose an Aga Range Cooker which we felt was more practical for the way we live and cook.

until eventually we decided to change the hexagonal shape of the conservatory by squaring it off, and then connect it to the rest of the kitchen to make the whole space bigger.”

By opting to retain the conservatory rather than building a more contemporary extension, the couple decided it made sense for the kitchen to remain quite traditional too.

“There are a lot of original features in our house,” Catherine explains, “so we wanted the

kitchen to be traditional but not too twee. We also knew that we wanted a wooden kitchen because we’ve always liked that look, and that’s why Tim Moss was the obvious choice for us. When we visited his showroom it soon became apparent that he offered exactly what we’d had in mind – but better! A perfect blend of traditional and contemporary. From then on, making decisions about colour and finishes was easy because we fell in love with what we

saw in the showroom.”

The decision about colour was also influenced by the couple’s choice of flooring – a plank-effect Cavalio vinyl.

“Originally we were going to go for an oak finish,” Catherine remembers, “but at the last minute my husband got a sample of the grey version, so we took both up to Tim’s studio to get his opinion. He thought the grey would work better with the rest of the kitchen and I’m really



pleased we took his advice. I think if we had gone for the oak you would have noticed the floor much more – but not necessarily in a good way.”

As the kitchen began to take shape it soon became clear to Catherine she would now, at last, be spoilt for choice when it came to storage.

“Originally I only had about four cupboards in the entire kitchen,” says Catherine. “There were two on either side of the cooker and no wall cupboards at all. Looking back, I

The beautiful curved cupboard at the end of the built-in wall units provides more valuable storage without any hard edges or corners.

don't know how we coped. I was so thrilled at the prospect of having somewhere to put everything that I actually started putting things away in the cupboards before the fitters had even started putting the doors on!"

The final finishing touch that made the kitchen complete was the addition of a small table and chairs beneath the kitchen window.

"That is where the sink was originally, and when we were talking to Tim at the planning stage about what to do with the space once it had gone, he said, 'I can almost see a little table and chairs there for people to sit at while

you're doing your thing in the kitchen.' And he was absolutely right.

Before we had the kitchen done, whenever we had people over for dinner everyone would congregate there. I'd try to direct them to a more comfortable space in the dining room, but they'd want to chat with you while you cooked so they'd be standing

by the mess in the sink. Now it's a much more pleasant place to hang out. The kids often have their breakfast there in the morning, and when friends come round for coffee they end up sitting there while I get things ready. It works brilliantly, as does the rest of the kitchen." 🏡

"Now it's a much more pleasant place to hang out. The kids often have breakfast at this table and when friends come round for coffee they end up sitting there"



Nordal Sand Velvet Bird cushion, £25, www.cotswoldtrading.com.
Rose cushion cover, £16, www.cathkidston.co.uk

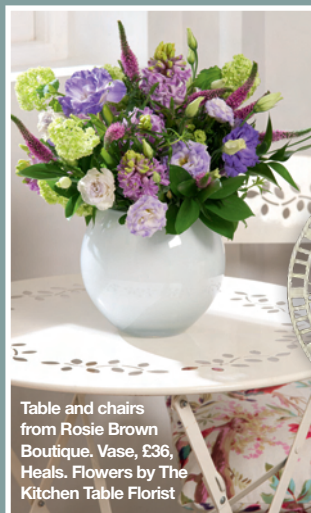


Table and chairs from Rosie Brown Boutique. Vase, £36, Heals. Flowers by The Kitchen Table Florist

Retro weighing scales, £19.95, www.homehomehome.co.uk

Claremont Roman Numeral Clock, £35, www.dobbies.com



Cream Enamel Bread Bin, £26.99, www.giftedpenguin.co.uk



Beaten Ceramic Table Lamp, £25, Asda



Steal the style



Montpellier Console Table, £625, www.sweetpeaandwillow.com
Strawberry Crush Mug, £5, Cath Kidston. Katie Alice Floral Mugs, £6, www.creative-tops.com

Slaked Lime Satin Emulsion, 2.5L, £30.50, Little Greene

Lamp Room Gray No.88 Estate Emulsion, 2.5L, £32.50, Farrow & Ball

French Grey Satin Emulsion, 2.5L, £30.50, Little Greene



SEEN SOMETHING YOU LIKE? HERE'S WHERE TO BUY

Kitchen design Tim Moss Kitchens **Bespoke cabinetry** plain framed kitchen with tulip wood doors and frames finished in Farrow & Ball 'Elephant's Breath' Estate Eggshell. **Beech veneered carcasses finished in clear lacquer.** **Worktop** Caesarstone Ginger **Oven** Aga range cooker **Microwave** Miele M 8161-2clst **Sink** Caple 755 ceramic sink **Taps** Thomas Denby Nautilus Bridge mix **Flooring** Cavalio vinyl from Brocklehurst **Metal table and chairs** Rosie Brown Boutique **Splash-back wall tiles** Habibi interiors **Butterfly lamps** Graham & Green.
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