

## Small kitchen

◀ Located next to Kit's larder is a small waste bin that slides out of an end unit when required. 'It took some thinking to decide where to put it,' she recalls. 'There was no room on the floor, so we shifted things around to fit it in'

◀ A round dining table crafted in solid oak meets the couple's brief for a comfortable area so they could eat in their new kitchen. 'The Wrights wanted a seating arrangement for up to four people but didn't want a breakfast bar,' explains designer Harry. 'This table fits snugly in the corner at the end of the peninsula and can comfortably take two chairs. When they entertain, it can be moved further out into the room and two extra seats added'



MY FAVOURITE APPLIANCE: 'Our clever

little dishwasher. I had no idea you could get one that is two-thirds the regular size and it is really useful'



# BLUE SKY THINKING

A small scheme posed a challenge for Lady Kit and Sir Michael Wright but clever solutions have turned their kitchen into a heavenly space

**D**ownsizing from a five-bedroom farmhouse to a two-up, two-down property in West Sussex was a challenge for Lady Kit and Sir Michael Wright, who are both retired, but an even bigger one was renovating their kitchen. 'The whole place was awful,' recalls Kit. 'Its wooden, laminate-topped cabinets were poor quality and badly placed. The kitchen also had the back door in it, so when you came in, you bumped your hip on the corner of a unit. I asked a friend to take the cabinets out immediately.'

While renovating the rest of the previously extended 16th-century house, the couple began to think about creating a kitchen that would not only suit the property but also be a good use of their limited room. 'We were unable to knock down walls because the house is Grade II listed,' explains Kit. 'However, we wanted to create a welcoming entrance to the back of the property that made the best use of the small space.'

A close friend of the couple recommended local company Colliers and, together with its designer Harry Worsley, a scheme emerged that could transform the Wrights' kitchen into a functional, practical area. 'The main influence in the design was simply the need to ▶

Pale Shaker-style furniture with tongue-and-groove sides fills the Wrights' snug kitchen and makes the most of the space with a multifunctional peninsula, handy larder and neat table. Painted in Dulux's Sunday Sonata and with subtle porcelain door knobs, the simple cabinetry suits the Grade II-listed property perfectly



## DESIGN & CABINETS

- Harry Worsley at **Colliers**, 28 Teville Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 1UG (01903 210101) www.colliers.uk.com
- Hand-painted maple furniture with frosted glass cabinetry, both from the Shaker range by Underwood

## WORKTOPS

- Bon Accord granite. Price per sq m **£348**

## SINK & TAP

- KBX160 3416 Kubus undermounted one-and-a-half-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke **£403**
- Eiger C-spout monobloc mixer tap in Silk Steel, Franke **£173**

## APPLIANCES (shown)

- Elan 90 dual-fuel range cooker, Rangemaster **£1,835**
- D5855 canopy extractor hood, Neff **£194**
- K4316 fully integrated undercounter fridge, Neff **£313**

## APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated undercounter freezer, Neff **£333**
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Siemens **£537**

For stockists, see page 144

‘I have as much as we could in a small space,’ says Kit. To achieve this, Harry incorporated a multifunctional peninsula into the design that houses a fully integrated fridge and separate freezer. So that the couple could eat meals in their new kitchen, an elegant solid oak table was added and a curve cut into the peninsula for it to slot into. ‘I’m especially happy with the little table,’ enthuses Kit. ‘I’d seen one like it in a magazine so I described it to Harry and he came up with this.’

Classic Shaker-style cabinetry in a pale shade of blue now fills the couple’s room but the subtle colour wasn’t always what Kit had in mind. ‘I had duck-egg blue in my previous kitchen and I wanted that again,’ she recalls. ‘However, the painter said that he thought it would be a bit bright, so I let him pick a similar shade and I think it’s a better colour. I took his advice and I’m delighted that I did.’

The last room in the property to be finished, the Wrights say their renovated kitchen is ideal for their bijou home. ‘Everything is absolutely to hand,’ explains Kit. ‘I can stand in the middle in front of the sink and turn around to reach my fridge, freezer or even my larder. Plus it all looks very pretty.’



An undercounter fridge has been housed below the striking Bon Accord granite for ease of access. As it is fully integrated, the cool blue lines of the units continue unbroken

‘I wanted a Rangemaster cooker because we had an Aga in my previous kitchen and I knew it would be too hot for a room like this,’ explains Kit. ‘It’s quite different but I’m getting used to it.’ Above, a canopy extractor whisks away cooking odours quickly and efficiently, while pretty Ragno tiles from Rogers Ceramics add interest to the scheme



In contrast to the subtle blue painted furniture, the couple opted for glossy Bon Accord worktops that reflect light around the compact layout. To balance the dark granite and create a feeling of space, the walls have been painted in a pale colour. For a similar shade try Fired Earth’s Marble. The Portal oak dining chairs came from John Lewis

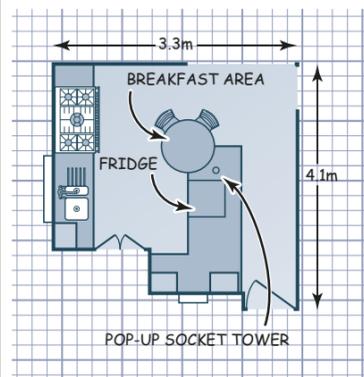


‘My favourite element is the semi-circle that has been cut into the peninsula to accommodate the table. The two of us eat our meals here and it can be pulled out to seat four people’

LADY KIT WRIGHT



Due to the compact size of their kitchen, the Wrights were keen to make as much use of their limited space as possible. Mounted on one side of a wall cabinet, a magnetic knife rack not only makes it easy for the couple to select what utensil they want quickly but it also saves valuable worktop space that would otherwise have been taken up by a bulky block. For similar storage solutions, try de Cuisine



## GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a Colliers kitchen **£15,000**

FEATURE RACHEL OGDEN PHOTOGRAPHY NADIA MACKENZIE