



Farmhouse Chic

Barry and Fionnuala were looking for a country kitchen for their new build home in Toome and the Neptune Classic range available at Beechview Interiors ticked all the right boxes.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DEREK ROBINSON



Fionnuala had discovered the Neptune Classic range on her trawl of kitchen companies as she tried to settle on a look for her new home. They discovered that this range was stocked by nearby kitchen company Beechview Interiors and went along to see kitchen designer, Lisa McAllister who set about creating their ideal family kitchen.

After visiting Beechview Interiors' showroom, the couple had no doubt the Neptune Chichester kitchen with its features such as the completely solid painted construction and in-frame doors with the zigzag shelving system, was the right one for them. So, Lisa came up with an overall design, which also incorporated a few bespoke pieces to add the final details required to personalise the kitchen more to how Fionnuala and her family would work and live in this very open-plan room.

'We wanted a kitchen that would suit both our new build home and our lifestyle, which meant designing a stylish kitchen, and at the same time a practical, everyday living space with two young boys,' explains Fionnuala. 'I was also anxious that the 8ft x 8ft space allocated for the kitchen wouldn't feel cold and uninviting. So, working with Lisa we incorporated little bespoke details here and there to give a cosy feel to the space.'

To ensure the couple got the design that was right for them, Lisa incorporated a range of bespoke, custom made features including, the overmantle and the large island unit with the raised seating area. Also the window seat is a nice touch and takes full advantage of the long window in here. It is designed in the same style as the rest of the kitchen and has hidden storage space.

The decision was also made to handpaint the kitchen in two

distinctive colours, limestone on the main kitchen and aqua blue on the island and dresser unit, helping to highlight the decorative features in this spacious, airy room and giving it a homely feel.

Barry and Fionnuala first visited Lisa when the house was in the early stages of the build. This gave them the freedom to design the kitchen they desired without being tied to the restraints of plumbing or electrics. The size of the island was carefully considered and positioned within the room to make the most of the natural light from the roof light. There is a lot of natural light that floods in from the roof-light and the large windows.

The island functions as a prep area thanks to the worktop and sink, but incorporates a raised breakfast bar where the family can sit and eat in a more casual manner than times when they are gathered around the nearby kitchen table. 'I always wanted an island that allowed for working in the kitchen and a social area where people gathered to chat over a coffee. This is a focal point in this room and the place where everyone congregates,' says Fionnuala.

Fionnuala also knew what she wanted from her appliances. 'I wanted to have a range cooker and an American fridge-freezer incorporated. I sourced these myself and went for a black gloss Samsung fridge-freezer and a ceramic black Rangemaster Elan 1100.'

The Rangemaster is housed below a bespoke overmantle that hides away the extractor fan, adding a decorative touch to the kitchen. To work the contemporary American fridge-freezer into the design so that it flowed seamlessly, Lisa came up with the idea of the custom-made window seat to join the two areas of the kitchen.

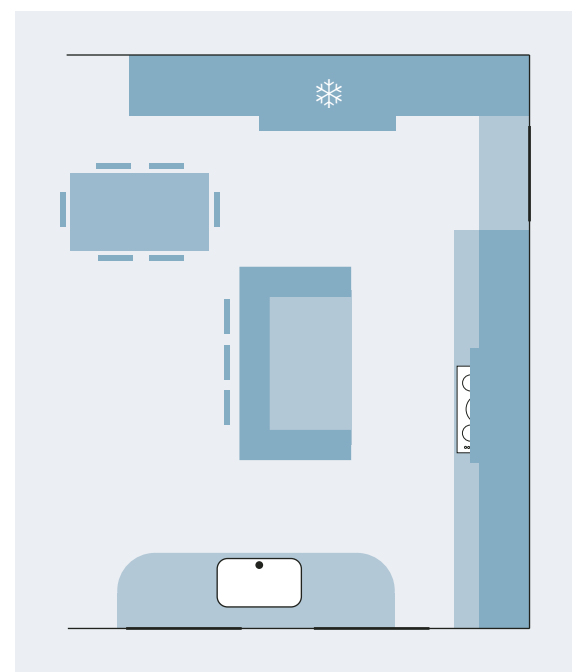


Next to the fridge-freezer a large larder provides adequate food storage. With pull-out shelving and soft closing doors, everything is easily to hand. There is also a large freestanding dresser at the opposite end of the kitchen that helps to segregate the kitchen and living area as you move from one into the other at this end of the room.

‘The dresser is painted in the same blue as our island. It looks more like a piece of furniture than a kitchen unit and is a decorative feature that helps to make this area less clinical, merging with the adjoining living area where we like to relax and watch TV.’

‘The island is probably my favourite feature, I love the roof-light above it as well, but I have to say I am pleased with the overall end result. This is a large space and it works well for all the family. We now spend most of our time in here, which is what I had hoped for.’

‘Lisa has done a great job taking account of all that we wanted to create a functional kitchen that fills the space and suits the overall look of our home.’



Kitchen Contacts

KITCHEN DESIGN

Beechview Interiors

Toome 028 7965 1770.

www.beechviewinteriors.com

Worktop: Sapphire blue granite and oak

Flooring: Mottled cream porcelain tiles

APPLIANCES

Range Cooker: Rangemaster Elan 1100

Dishwasher: Gorenje

Fridge-freezer: Samsung





ESSENTIAL STORAGE

The latest kitchen storage solutions to keep everything stylishly organised.

Suffolk shelving and pegs from **Neptune Classics**. The oak shelf and pegs are both practical and superbly strong whilst the hand-painted honed slate back panel softens the look to provide an overall elegance. 3ft shelf £96/€125; 4ft shelf £125/€165 and 6ft shelf £165/€215.