



PATRICIA AND JOHN ALLCOCK LIVE IN A 1970s PROPERTY IN ESSEX

While the simple design of the white and green cabinetry in Patricia and John Allcock's kitchen had more than stood the test of time, after almost 25 years, it was in need of a revamp. 'We'd had the previous kitchen since 1986, so it was looking a little tired and the fixtures and fittings were becoming worn with use,' recalls Patricia, a former secretary. 'Now that John and I were both retired, it seemed like the right time to install a new kitchen.'

With a Shaker-style design already in mind, the couple wasted no time contacting local company H2O Interiors. 'We had previously commissioned designer Andrew Foley to do our bathroom,' explains Patricia. 'He and his team did a great job, so we had confidence in them to redesign our kitchen.'

After discussing their ideas, Andrew suggested that the simple lines of the painted Provence range by German manufacturer Eggersmann would meet their requirements. 'We could have gone for a very modern look – in fact, we had a hi-gloss design when we first moved here 35 years ago,' says Patricia. 'However, our previous kitchen was classic and I wanted to retain a timeless rather than hi-tech feel.'

Patricia's colour choice for the cabinetry was inspired by an existing piece of furniture, as well as a desire to keep the room feeling light and airy. Having recently bought a freestanding dresser that she wanted to include as part of her new kitchen, Patricia began scrutinising colour charts to find a close match. Even the cupboard handles, a mix of cup pulls and knobs, were chosen to match those on the dresser.

When the time came to plan the kitchen's layout, the angular proportions of the square room dictated its design. With only two walls available to accommodate cabinetry, designer Andrew had little in the way of useable space and had to plan the layout carefully to ensure the couple had



WET AREA

A ceramic butler sink by Villeroy & Boch and an Ionlan mixer tap in pewter by Perrin & Rowe form a traditional-style wet area

OWNERS

Patricia and John found it helpful to have an idea of what they wanted before they approached a kitchen company

FLIP-DOWN TV

The couple's TV, DVD and radio by Häfele has been mounted under a wall cabinet

HANDLES

The chrome cup handles were supplied by Neptune and match the freestanding dresser Patricia also bought from the company





DRESSER

The inspiration for the kitchen design, Patricia's freestanding glazed unit is from Neptune

PRICE GUIDE
Starting price
£20,000
for an H2O Interiors kitchen

enough room for storage and a place for all their appliances. 'We didn't give Andrew a particularly strict brief but one thing I was insistent about was that the units went right up to the ceiling,' admits Patricia. 'I didn't want any areas remaining that would collect dust and grease. My priority was to have a kitchen that would be fairly low maintenance.'

This request meant that Andrew could easily make up for the lack of wall space by using the full height of the room instead, although the luxury of a separate larder also helped. 'It's virtually unheard of to have a walk-in larder in a 1970s house but I wouldn't be without it,' laughs Patricia. 'It frees up so much more space in the kitchen.'

The dual-fuel range cooker, recommended to the couple by Andrew for its less bulky appearance and value for money, has a stainless-steel finish for a subtle modern twist and is a focal point in the room. To ensure that the range took centre stage, Andrew integrated all the other appliances and in doing so, retained the classic lines of the furniture. Luxurious black composite worksurfaces contrast well with the pale units and were chosen for their timeless appeal.

Now that it's finished, Patricia and John couldn't be happier. 'I love cooking and now that we're both retired, we find we spend more time in the kitchen because it's such a lovely space to be in,' smiles Patricia. 'I love the way everything is around me – nothing is out of reach, yet it doesn't feel like it's closing in on me. It has made such a difference and will hopefully last as long as our previous kitchen.'

FEATURE TRACEY WILLIAMS PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES UNDERTON

PAN DRAWERS

Deep drawers rather than shelved cupboards are now a more popular option as they provide easy access to heavy or awkward items. Patricia's cast-iron pans are by Le Creuset

THE KITCHEN AT A GLANCE

DESIGN & CABINETRY

■ Andrew Foley at **H2O Interiors**, 29 Manor Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LX (01206 540202) www.h2ointeriors.co.uk

■ Bespoke, spray-painted MDF cabinetry from the Provence range by Eggersmann

WORKTOPS

■ Nero Assoluto Okite. Price per linear m **£220**

FLOORING

■ W752 White Oak vinyl boards, Amtico. Price per sq m **£58**

SINK & TAP

- 632061 single-bowl ceramic butler sink in White Alpin, Villeroy & Boch **£337**
- 4193PFWPC Ionian two-hole mixer tap in pewter with deck-mounted porcelain levers, Perrin & Rowe **£262**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- W366MFEX dual-fuel range cooker in stainless steel, Bertazzoni, approx **£3,063**
- DA4224EXT chimney extractor hood in stainless steel, Miele **£1,198**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated fridge freezer, Neff **£648**
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Miele **£940**
- Fully integrated washing machine, Neff **£665**

☎ For stockists, see page 137
PLAN SCALE 1cm:1m

