



Kitchens *with Character*

Warmth and personality can be brought to a new kitchen by introducing a stand-out period piece or antique

The anticipation of buying and installing a brand new kitchen is unlike anything else in the great scheme of interior decorating. Expensive, labour intensive and often challenging, the end result – your dream kitchen – is a hard won prize. Whether you choose a sleek fitted style or an unfitted look, you will want to enhance what is already a beautiful kitchen with your own stamp of style and individuality.

The current trend is to introduce something very different to the prevailing style: an antique dresser, a chunky industrial light fitting or perhaps some

unusual retro stools. Antiques and second-hand finds can sit quite comfortably in a 21st-century kitchen. In fact, the addition of an impressive statement piece – one bold, stand-alone item – will add dramatic impact, as well as giving a sense of balance to the overall look, particularly in a period home.

Interior designer Nina Campbell's signature style has been built on successfully mixing old and new elements, and she makes no exception to this rule in the kitchen. While chic new appliances and modern technology are essential features, she says that character and originality should never be overlooked. An ►

ABOVE A trio of crystal and steel pendant lamps above the dining table adds a glamorous element to this sleek New England kitchen by Mark Wilkinson, while the collection of paintings covering an entire wall creates a distinctive personal feel. Prices start at £35,000



TOP LEFT This hardwood painted design is from the English kitchen range at Martin Moore. Artisan in style, it has been teamed with the sort of dark wood, antique chairs you might expect to see in a formal dining room. The mix, nonetheless, works. Martin Moore kitchens cost from around £30,000

ABOVE Inspired by the grand architecture of the 18th century, this hand-painted Pilaster kitchen by Smallbone of Devizes has a refined elegance. Prices are from £35,000

LEFT An eye-catching, French-style double light fitting over the central island of this Chichester kitchen from Neptune makes a quirky and attractive feature. Kitchens by Neptune start at £8,000