

KITCHEN MAKEOVER 1

'IT'S PERFECT FOR FAMILY PARTIES'

Utilising an unused patio area has given Vicki Leslie the open-plan kitchen-diner she'd always longed for



STYLING TIP

Sleek finishing touches on plain cabinetry gives a modern update. Use silver handles in different designs to add an understated industrial touch to a classic scheme

← BOLD ADDITION

Painted in a vibrant shade of blue, the rustic island unit utilises wasted floor space and adds a splash of colour without overpowering the overall scheme

↓ LAID-BACK STYLE

Vicki's kitchen opens on to a newly created dining area with plenty of space for entertaining and a great view of the garden. Derek made the dining table out of old scaffold boards

BEFORE



KITCHEN DETAILS

HOMEOWNERS

Vicki Leslie, a retired hairdresser, and her husband Derek, a retired fire fighter

AGES 61 and 62

FAMILY Two grown-up daughters, Maddie and Faye, and Ray, a Neapolitan mastiff

LOCATION West Malling, Kent

PROPERTY A three-bedroom, semi-detached cottage built in the 1860s

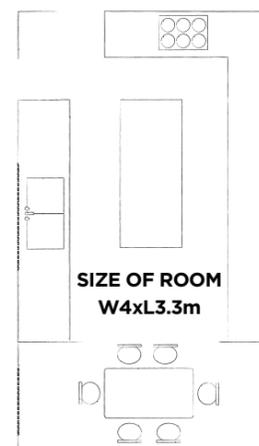
COST OF NEW KITCHEN

Cabinetry	£8,500
Worktops	£3,420
Appliances	£3,250
Flooring	£2,200
Sink & tap	£1,500
Splashback	£45
Finishing touches	£1,610

TOTAL £20,525

→ VIEW THE FLOORPLAN

The sink and dishwasher are built into a run of units on the left of the kitchen, with doors to the utility room and larder at the other end. A range cooker is on the back wall with open shelving and additional units



WORK CARRIED OUT

A new extension was added to link the couple's kitchen with an existing small dining room at the side. The 30-year-old kitchen was replaced with new cabinetry and appliances





IDEAS TO STEAL

Take inspiration from Vicki's contemporary country scheme



↑ ADD OPEN SHELVING

Display jars of ingredients and other interesting items to add character and make a narrow space feel wider



↑ CLEAR YOUR CLUTTER

Create a cupboard with enough depth to house a microwave in order to free up space on a worktop



↑ CATER FOR A CROWD

A double oven is a must-have buy if you cook for large groups of family and friends on a regular basis

When Vicki and Derek Leslie moved into their home in the late Eighties, they brought the kitchen from their old flat with them, and lived with it for over 25 years, until recently, when they decided it was time for a change. 'The kitchen and dining room used to be fine when there was just the four of us,' Vicki explains, 'but now that our daughters, Maddie and Faye, have left home and have partners, it just doesn't work for us anymore, especially as we have a young granddaughter, too. We love having everyone over at the same time, but there wasn't enough space to have a big dining table or room in the kitchen for the family to socialise while I'm cooking,' she adds.

The couple came up with a scheme to revamp the kitchen and create a large, bright dining area by building an extension with an expanse of windows. When the construction was complete, the adjacent kitchen wall was knocked down to create an open-plan zone, with wide French doors leading to the garden.

An advertising flyer from a Kent interiors company introduced Vicki and Derek to Burlanes, which also ▶

↑ OLD AND NEW

The double Belfast sink's boiling water tap from Grohe adds a modern twist to the period scheme



'I wanted to retain the soul of a period house with a warm and inviting design'

makes bespoke handmade kitchens. They visited the showroom and immediately fell for one of the designs. 'I was going to go for something safe, like cream, but I loved the colour of the one they had on display,' says Vicki. 'It can be quite hard trying to imagine what something will look like in your own place, but seeing the kitchen in the showroom allowed us to visualise the lovely soft, grey tones in our home.'

Vicki had hoped to fit in a central island unit, but felt the kitchen might be too small and didn't want it to feel cluttered. Lindsey Durrant, Burlanes' designer, advised her to live with the new kitchen for a while to get a sense of the layout when everything was in place. However, once the cabinetry had been fitted, Vicki realised that the floor space felt like no man's land and needed something to pull the room together.

'Derek has always been interested in making furniture and, since retiring, has built himself a little workshop in the garden,' explains Vicki. 'I showed him photos of the sort of thing I wanted and he constructed the island. He was very clever and recycled bits and bobs, including the patio decking that was ripped out for the extension and used fence posts.' Ingeniously, the worktop was made from old joists.

'Because Derek put shelves underneath rather than cupboards with doors, it was simpler to make,' Vicki

adds, 'and it also prevented the island from looking like a massive, solid block in the middle of the room.'

For Vicki, her kitchen has to be practical as well as beautiful, with a scheme that isn't too precious or difficult to look after. 'I wanted to retain the soul of a period house but with a design that feels warm and inviting,' she explains. 'Whether I'm making cakes with Lyla, my five-year-old granddaughter, entertaining friends or just cooking supper with Derek, our new open-plan layout works perfectly.'

↑ BRIGHT IDEA

Natural light floods the extension's dining space – the social centre of the house

STOCKISTS
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SHOPPING LIST

UNITS Bespoke with bead detailing, painted in Farrow & Ball's lamp room gray, £8,500, Burlanes **WORKTOPS** Silestone quartz Eco Line in white diamond, £3,420, Burlanes **SINK & TAP** Double Belfast sink, £385, Burlanes. Grohe Red Duo boiling water tap, £1,114.65, Kitchen Sinks & Taps **SPLASHBACK** For a similar tempered glass, pre-drilled splashback, try a local glazier **APPLIANCES** AEG F8806VIOP integrated dishwasher, £785, The Appliance Warehouse. Rangemaster freestanding dual-fuel range cooker, from a selection; Liebherr ICUNS3314 built-in fridge-freezer, £885; REXT720 canopy hood, £469, all RDO Kitchens & Appliances. For a similar built-in extractor, try Rangemaster **FLOORING** Hand-distressed engineered oak boards, £78 per sqm, Olden Oak **LIGHTS** For a similar glass pendant light, try Richardson in nickel, £131.30, Jim Lawrence **FURNITURE** Carmargue solid-oak dining chairs, £189 each, Oka. Weathered oak stool, £145; rustic candelabra, £65, Cox & Cox **PAINT** Walls in almond white matt emulsion, £21.29 per 2.5ltr; for a similar colour to the island, try sea blue eggshell, £13.79 per 500ml, all Dulux