

AS
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BEAUTIFUL
KITCHENS
MAGAZINE



AFFAIRS OF SLATE

Beautiful flagstone flooring creates the perfect calm backdrop for Paula Bland and Richard Grieve's pretty Shaker-style kitchen in their rustic Cornish cottage

Cabinetry that is finished in French Gray by Farrow & Ball has been topped with two different granites to give the impression of freestanding furniture. Reclaimed slate flagstones were sourced to match the original flooring that runs through the rest of the cottage. For similar, try Rio Gris from Stone Floors Direct. While Paula and Richard's room is large enough for an island, they decided against one as they felt it would crowd the space



A vivid red range provides the couple's hot water and heating. It is housed in a purpose-built chimneybreast and flanked by the only wall units in the room, taking on the appearance of a dresser. Behind, Antique White tiles from the Contemporary Classics range by Marlborough Tiles form a simple splashback



LEFT A separate utility room has furniture painted in the same colour as the cabinets for continuity. On the wall, an apothecary-style spice rack was sourced from Fishbelly Antiques

BELOW Crafted from solid beech, the deep drawers were suggested to the couple by designer Mat and make up the majority of the kitchen's storage. The double-banded sides mean that the contents are safely stored

BOTTOM Lunar Pearl granite encases the two undermounted ceramic sinks and tops the run of base units. The grey-coloured flecks echo the finish of the chrome deck-mounted tap



My best buy... was the slate flooring. It's very individual and we're really pleased with it. We also love the red Heritage range cooker because it's so efficient, which means our bills are lower?

Moving to a pretty cottage in tranquil surroundings is one thing but buying a property that's so derelict the council has listed it as uninhabitable is quite another. However, that's exactly what Paula Bland, a manager for the NHS and her partner, Richard Grieve, a former IT manager, did. Despite Paula's doubts, Richard convinced her that the 200-year-old stone cottage in Cornwall, with a hole where the roof had been and no bathroom, would make a perfect home and so, seven years ago, the couple moved there from London.

Initially, the couple installed a basic kitchen and did just enough to make the house habitable while they waited for planning permission to transform the two-up, two-down cottage into a spacious, four-bedroom home. In the meantime, they had months to think about what sort of design they wanted in their new kitchen. 'I've always liked the Shaker style and knew it would fit beautifully with the rest of the house and the area,' says Paula. 'Fortunately, while

browsing through a local magazine, we found Landmark Bespoke Kitchens, which had similar designs to what we had in mind.'

The couple immediately hit it off with Landmark's designer Mat Davies. 'You have to be able to get on with the designer so that they understand what you want and you're able to approach them,' explains Paula. 'Mat was really patient and accommodating, which helped when we were discussing the layout.'

When Mat first visited the property, the kitchen was still a shell of concrete blocks, so visualising a design was a challenge. 'I knew I didn't want too many wall units, as I was hoping to create a more unfitted look,' says Paula. 'Mat showed us different ideas that we could include, such as deep pan drawers.'

A vibrant red range cooker the couple had chosen turned out to be the starting point for the kitchen. Mat designed a chimneybreast to frame it and placed small wall cabinets on either side so it would resemble a traditional dresser rather than a fitted piece of ▶



DESIGN & CABINETRY

■ Mat Davies at **Landmark Bespoke Kitchens**, Unit 3, Travail Business Park, 15 Normandy Way, Bodmin, Cornwall PL31 1EU (01208 73285) www.landmarkkitchens.co.uk

■ Hand-painted, Shaker-style tulipwood furniture

WORKTOPS

- Lunar Pearl granite. Price per linear m **£395**
- Honed Black granite. Price per linear m **£500**

SINKS & TAP

- 2 x GAKI 1039 Galassia undermounted single-bowl ceramic sinks, Franke, each **£200**
- 4192CP Ionian two-hole, deck-mounted mixer tap in chrome with crosshead handles, Perrin & Rowe **£226**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- Standard two-oven, oil-fired range cooker in Claret, Heritage Range Cookers **£6,595**
- Freestanding fridge freezer, for similar try CDA543F, Beko **£268**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

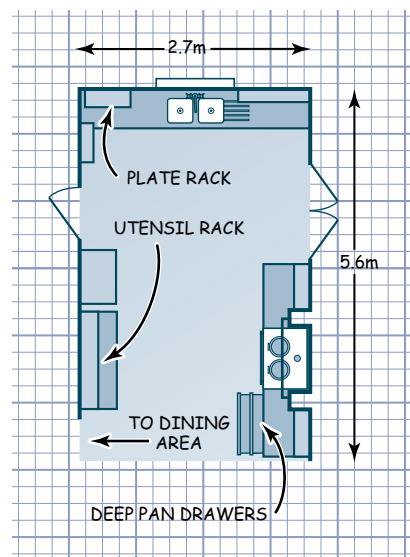
- Fully integrated dishwasher; Neff **£625**

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furniture. While the cabinetry is mainly made up of deep drawers, the one thing that has not been included is an island. 'We didn't need lots of storage as we have a walk-in larder and there are very few appliances because we chose what is virtually a gadget-free design,' explains Paula. 'More than anything we wanted to keep the space as open as possible.' Instead, a large farmhouse table sits along one wall, which not only adds to the freestanding feel

of the cabinetry but also offers an extra worktop without cramping the space that has been gained.

The scheme is finished with gorgeous slate flooring and kitchenalia that combine to complete the rustic look. 'Our room has a lovely cosy atmosphere whether it's just Richard and me in here, or we're entertaining,' says Paula. 'In fact, having the dining area away from the TV really has made a difference – it's made us bring back the art of conversation.' **BK**



ABOVE By extending the original kitchen, the couple have been able to include a relaxed dining area. A simple shelving unit from Fishbelly Antiques, which stores books and ornaments, complements the country-style table and chairs, while pale walls that have been finished in New White by Farrow & Ball add to the farmhouse feel of the renovated cottage. Overhead, the small metal cloche lightshade came from Baileys

'We didn't need lots of storage as we have a walk-in larder and there are very few appliances in the room. More than anything we wanted to keep the space in our kitchen as open as possible'

PAULA BLAND



The couple's large walk-in pantry meant that they didn't need lots of wall-mounted cupboards for food storage, which results in a more open, uncluttered look. A wooden table and chairs from Acorn Antiques with checked seat pads and a pretty table runner from Verity's Garden Store are just a step away from the kitchen area

