

BESIDE THE SEASIDE

Cool blue painted cabinetry and soft muted tones emphasise the coastal location of Nicole Ives's scenic Cornish home



Leaving the hustle and bustle of London for the tranquil Cornish seaside was all the inspiration interior designer Nicole Ives needed for her new kitchen. Transforming her room from old and tired to fresh and pretty was no mean feat, though, as she realised before she moved in that the kitchen would need to be completely renovated. 'The property had been used as a B&B so the whole house had seen a lot of wear and tear,' recalls Nicole. 'The cabinets that covered virtually every wall were falling apart and it felt so cramped.'

The property, a 16th-century barn, which had been converted 10 years previously, also featured an 'upside-down' living arrangement. Sited on the first floor to make the most of the coastal scenery, the kitchen's vista was something that Nicole was keen to exploit. 'I wanted to capture the remoteness of the location, creating something simple and unadorned,' she says. 'I also wanted a style that I wouldn't get bored with but that would reflect my own move from a busy, stressful life to a more relaxed existence.'

Spying a picture of her ideal kitchen in a local advert led Nicole to Mat Davies at Landmark Kitchens but before too much could be planned, structural work ensued, knocking through the kitchen to a small utility room. It was a decision well made as Mat's first challenge was to design the kitchen around Nicole's existing, and rather substantial, American fridge freezer. 'I brought it and the microwave from my previous home so ►

ABOVE As Nicole was reluctant to choose a tiled splashback, designer Mat suggested tongue-and-groove panelling, which suits the simple design of the kitchen. Painted in Farrow & Ball's Borrowed Light, it highlights the pale grey flecks in the Azul Platino granite

LEFT Ease of maintenance dictated Nicole's choice of material for the worktop, although the granite's colour was chosen to pick up the dark tones of the floor. Grooves carved into it act as a draining board for washed crockery

BELOW LEFT Made from solid beech wood, the pan drawers have tall and banded sides so that everything is safely stored. Porcelain knobs with an antique crackle glaze complement the light shade of the furniture. The SKK Titanium 2000 Plus cookware came from Armoriga

Painted in subtle Parma Gray by Farrow & Ball, Nicole's pretty furniture is the perfect foil for the large Brazilian Black slate floor tiles from Tile Wise. Open shelving and glazed doors help to break up the run of wall cabinetry without losing any storage. The bar stools came from Danetti and match the oak tabletop



RIGHT A contemporary Arun radiator from The Sussex Range has been supplemented with hooks to create an alternative towel rail. For similar, try Meat S hooks from Cookware UK

FAR RIGHT Nicole's existing microwave has been built in to a wall unit to prevent the appliance taking up workspace. A shelf to one side provides a place to display knick-knacks

BELOW Providing a comfy area for Nicole to sit and enjoy her sea views, a round oak-topped table is supported by a circular pedestal painted in muted Down Pipe by Farrow & Ball



they were the starting point for the design,' she explains. 'Once they were in place, the rest of the scheme just seemed to come together.' The cool stainless steel of the appliances adds a discreet modern edge to Nicole's otherwise classic kitchen. 'The house and its surroundings are so olde-worlde that I didn't want it to be chintzy,' she says.

It wasn't just appliances that found their way into the house but also a heavy granite table. 'I wanted it in the middle of the room so I could relax there, gazing out across the sea. Unfortunately, it just wasn't going to fit,' remembers Nicole. Instead, Mat designed a table, which curves out into the centre of the room, giving Nicole her casual seating space and an extra preparation area.

Rustic slate flooring, inspired by grey skies on inclement days, gives rise to the soft tones of the beautifully painted cabinetry, representing the sea and the sunny sky. 'The coastal location swayed my choices so much,' admits Nicole, 'but the kitchen is now exactly what I wanted – pure relaxation.'

‘As the cabinetry is very square, the table gives the room shape. So often people think to include an island but this fulfils so many of my needs.

For it to capture the views, too, makes it perfect’

NICOLE IVES



The obvious choice for Nicole's traditional kitchen, the clean lines and smooth stainless-steel finish of the range cooker echo the other appliances around the room and add a modern edge. Behind, a glass splashback protects the wall, while a matching extractor whisks away cooking smells. The slim magnetic knives and rack came from Global





Once a small utility room, this additional area has become a valuable part of Nicole's kitchen, housing her cold food storage and a wine chiller. The capacious fridge freezer is flanked by two larder units to make the most of every inch of space and gives it a built-in look. Walls painted in Pointing by Farrow & Ball enhance the room's airy feel

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 tulipwood furniture and glass cabinetry

WORKTOPS

- Azul Platino granite. Price per linear m **£395**
- European oak. Price per linear m **£236**

SINK & TAP

- VBK720 double-bowl Belfast ceramic sink, Franke **£436**
- 4193PFWPC Ionian two-hole, deck-mounted mixer tap in pewter with porcelain levers, Perrin & Rowe **£249**

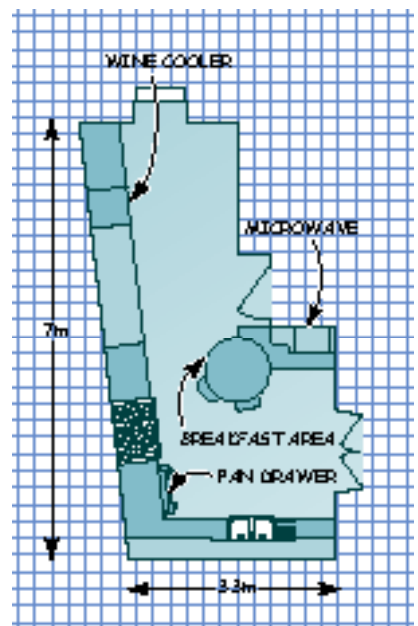
APPLIANCES (shown)

- Sigma dual-fuel range cooker, Britannia **£3,500**
- Existing built-in microwave, for similar try HMT9626GB, Bosch **£390**
- K7388ASC chimney extractor hood in glass and stainless steel, Britannia **£899**
- American fridge freezer, for similar try SOV228GB, Maytag **£1,929**
- Integrated wine cooler, for similar try WF331, Caple **£300**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated dishwasher, Siemens **£675**

☎ For stockists, see page 144



GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a Landmark Bespoke Kitchens design **£15,000**

My best buys... were the bar stools. I'm really pleased with them. They weren't overly expensive but they look handmade and their bowed, comfy shape sets them apart from most designs'