

WAVE OF INSPIRATION

Influenced by the stunning Cornish coastline, a simple Shaker-style kitchen is perfect for Lorraine and Mike France's cottage retreat



AS
SEEN IN
BEAUTIFUL
KITCHENS
MAGAZINE

BESPOKE CABINETRY

Hand-painted in Parma Gray by Farrow & Ball, the elegant, Shaker-style tulipwood cabinetry by Landmark Kitchens has been finished with Giara knobs in Britannium, supplied by Landmark

WORKSURFACES

Mottled Azul Platino granite worktops echo the Cornish stone in the landscape outside

FLOORING

With two dogs in the cottage, the floor had to be easy to maintain, making the Black Flag Riven slate from Mandarin Stone a good choice

BK
loves
...the recessed
tongue-and-
groove splashback



LORRAINE AND MIKE FRANCE LIVE BY THE SEA IN A 200-YEAR-OLD COTTAGE IN CORNWALL

Looking for somewhere to get away from it all, a cottage nestling beside a picturesque cove ticked all of Lorraine and Mike France's boxes. 'We thought it would take us ages to find exactly what we wanted,' recalls Lorraine. 'We travelled to Cornwall and the very day we arrived, this came on the market. We knew immediately it was the right property for us.'

Overlooking the beach, the charm of the pretty cottage far outweighed the amount of work it needed to transform it from dark and dated to a light, bright home.

The kitchen underwent the most dramatic change during the property's refurbishment, moving from a small room into a large dining room knocked together with an adjacent snug to create a generous space. 'The original kitchen was at the back of the house with the dining room looking out over the beach. That was where we wanted to spend time and make the most of the views,' continues Lorraine.

Wanting to create an informal, relaxed space reflecting the property's proximity to the sea, yet without being twee, the couple decided on a Shaker-style scheme filled with natural materials. However, it was a recommendation by their landscape gardener that led them to Landmark Kitchens. 'We wanted to use local businesses as much as we could and had already seen Landmark's website, but it was the recommendation that swayed us,' explains Lorraine. 'It

FEATURE TRACEY WILLIAMS PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE

was the right choice, too, as we immediately got on with designer Mat Davies and he understood exactly what we wanted to do.'

Very low ceilings, although part of the cottage's charm, proved something of a design problem for Mat, as Lorraine and Mike, a company director, were used to a big farmhouse kitchen with plenty of storage in their other home. However, more of a priority was to have a central area where they could gather with family and friends and that was practical for their dogs, golden retriever, Molly, and grand basset hound, Meg. 'This isn't a holiday home, it's very much a second home,' asserts Lorraine. 'We wanted it to be somewhere that although practical, would be the perfect place that we could spend time in and relax.'

A chunky oak table takes centre stage, around which sits an array of muted blue/grey painted cabinets. Designer Mat eschewed wall units in favour of shelving to help create a feeling of space, which is continued by tongue-and-groove panelling below it, painted in the same shade. Integrating the appliances where possible and keeping much of the cabinetry at base level also prevents the room from feeling closed in.

Slate flooring and richly mottled grey granite worksurfaces echo the Cornish stone that features in the coastline outside. 'Sometimes I don't move out of the kitchen at all – it's such a bright place to be but still manages to be so cosy in winter,' smiles Lorraine. 'We've achieved exactly what we wanted – we've made the most of the house and its amazing views.'

CROCKERY DRAWER

A deep pull-out has been designed to store crockery and has removable beech pegs to keep everything safely in place. The simple white crockery came from Denby



DRESSER-STYLE UNIT

With insufficient height and space for a dresser, this merchant's chest-inspired nine-drawer cabinet meets the need for storage without dominating the room



LARDER UNIT

Pull-out drawers make the most of the storage space. For a similar bread bin, try the pine drop-fronted bin from Kitchen Craft



SINGLE-LEVER TAP

The Talis S² mixer tap by Hansgrohe has a 360-degree swivel spout and incorporates a handy pull-out spray with a choice of modes



PREP AREA

A neat food preparation area now nestles in a recess previously occupied by the front door. Rather than block the space up, designer Mat decided to make a feature of it

RANGE

Lorraine's Continental dual-fuel range cooker by Falcon is extremely practical and has been twinned with a smart stainless-steel splashback that was custom-made by Landmark Kitchens



'MY TOP TIP IS TO REALLY DO YOUR HOMEWORK. GO THROUGH EVERYTHING, FROM APPLIANCES TO FURNITURE, TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE BUYING THE RIGHT THINGS'



DINING AREA

An **oak table** by Landmark Kitchens has been designed so that its **matching bench** can be tucked under to create space when not in use. **Eames DSW side chairs** with maple legs came from The Conran Shop. A floor-to-ceiling cupboard behind hides a **fridge freezer** by Liebherr

GREAT IDEA

For a relaxed feel in the kitchen, incorporate a dining table instead of an island unit

PRICE GUIDE
Starting price
£15,000
for a Landmark Kitchens design

THE KITCHEN AT A GLANCE

DESIGN & CABINETS

- Mat Davies at **Landmark Kitchens**, Trebyan Forge, Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5AE (01208 73285) www.landmarkkitchens.co.uk
- Bespoke, hand-painted tulipwood cabinetry

WORKTOPS

- Azul Platino granite. Price per linear m, from **£395**



FLOORING

- Black Flag Riven slate tiles, Mandarin Stone. Price per sq m, from **£38.13**

SINKS & TAP

- KBX110-45 Kubus undermounted single-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke **£303**

- KBX110-34 Kubus undermounted single-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke **£258**
- 14877800 Talis S² C-spout single-lever monobloc mixer tap with pull-out spray in stainless steel optic, Hansgrohe **£444**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- Continental dual-fuel range cooker in stainless steel, Falcon **£2,424**
- FGL9016XS Luminaire chimney extractor hood in glass and stainless steel, Franke **£712**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated fridge freezer, Liebherr **£1,190**
- Fully integrated double DishDrawer dishwasher, Fisher & Paykel **£748**

☎ For stockists, see page 135

PLAN SCALE 1cm:1m

