

# BACK TO THE FUTURE

Built to match existing Victorian cabinetry, Keith and Judith Tomline's painted kitchen furniture is sure to look good for years to come

Keeping the original floor-to-ceiling cupboards and crafting their new furniture to match ensures that Keith and Judith's kitchen sits comfortably in their home. Painted in Green Blue by Farrow & Ball, the cabinetry is offset by Ripple lights from Original BTC



‘The lights are such a significant part of the kitchen. We saw them online but they were discontinued. Fortunately, the company made them for us and they’re now so popular that it put them back in the catalogue’

KEITH TOMLINE



**ABOVE** As Keith was used to having ingredients to hand without the need for rummaging, Mat designed these open shelves made of hand-painted tulipwood and oak. All of Keith’s everyday foodstuffs are decanted into his collection of Kilner jars and antique sweet containers, which look good as well as being practical. The walls are painted in Farrow & Ball’s creamy shade of Clunch

**LEFT** A feature in itself, the addition of the Axor Citterio tap was inspired by Keith’s job as a chef. Its modern, curved design works beautifully alongside the more traditional elements of the ceramic sink and hand-painted furniture, while its pull-out spray makes rinsing fruit and vegetables simple



**BELOW LEFT** Fully integrated fridge drawers by Hotpoint provide plenty of space for the couple’s chilled food storage. The clever design meant that the room didn’t need to accommodate any more tall cabinetry and items can be seen at a glance

**W**hile the rest of Keith and Judith Tomline’s Victorian house ticked all their boxes, from its gorgeous Cornish location to its renovation possibilities, it was the less than generous proportions of the kitchen that let it down. ‘It looked like an old and ill-equipped scullery with no space to work, let alone eat,’ recalls Keith, a chef. ‘It was very off-putting when we were considering buying the house.’ Having moved in, the kitchen swiftly became Keith and Judith’s priority, their first action being the removal of the wall that separated it from the dining room. ‘We wanted to bring them together, as well as make the most of the stunning views across the estuary, which we had from the kitchen window,’ explains Keith.

Inspired by the original ceiling and cabinets that flanked the chimneybreast, the couple chose to combine the Victorian features with a contemporary update. ‘The cupboards looked so rough with peeling paint and broken handles but we knew that once refurbished, they would look amazing and could form the basis of the kitchen,’ explains Keith. Armed with a brief of exactly how he envisaged the room, he chose companies from either end of the bespoke market and asked each to create a design. ‘I knew where I wanted everything, right down to the number of cupboards, but I needed someone who could translate my ideas,’ says Keith. ‘It was Mat Davies at Landmark Bespoke Kitchens who listened and came back with exactly what we wanted.’

Despite Keith thinking that his occupation would have little bearing on his kitchen at home, more and more elements of a professional scheme were introduced as Mat’s plans began to take shape – from the flourishes of steel and a hard-wearing floor to the spacing between zones so that two people could work together. ‘Once we ripped the original kitchen out, we used the cabinets to make a mock-up of the new layout to ensure what we were doing would be right for us,’ says Keith. It was an act that paid off as Keith realised that he wanted the island further away from the sink than he had planned.

Designer Mat worked closely with the couple to ensure that the kitchen didn’t just look good but fulfilled its hardworking potential. Base units offer copious storage while the island serves as dedicated working space and eye-catching open shelving means Keith’s dry and preserved goods are close to hand. ‘We consciously chose to keep the kitchen as simple as possible and brought colour in to add to the design rather than the other way round,’ explains Keith. ‘It’s my little heaven where I have everything I need in one room. After all, the kitchen really is the hub of the house.’

Keith and Judith decided to keep their island free of a sink to maintain workspace. The zoned floors, on one side Marmoleum and the other original boards, help to demarcate the dining and prep areas



OPEN PLAN



**LEFT** While they were once in a poor state of repair, the original cupboards have now been stripped back, restored and repainted by Landmark Bespoke Kitchens as part of the couple's overall project. Hand-painted in Farrow & Ball's Green Blue to match the newly made cabinets, their substantial size and tall shelves make them perfect larder storage for Keith. For similar Kilner jars, try The Cooks Kitchen

**BELOW** A double-bowl Belfast sink was chosen for its traditional good looks as well as its generous capacity. It easily accommodates the large pans used in the adjacent Aga. Above, an aluminium Venetian blind echoes the metallic elements in the room, such as the knobs and cup handles in britannium from Giara's Country range. There's even room in the spacious kitchen scheme for Milly, the couple's cute Cocker Spaniel, to roam around freely

*I love... the fact that the kitchen's not heavily designed but works on more simple lines. It's absolutely everything we wanted it to be'*



## 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](http://www.landmarkkitchens.co.uk)

■ Bespoke hand-painted tulipwood furniture

## WORKTOPS

■ 30mm honed Zimbabwe Black granite. Price per sq m **£465**

■ 40mm wide-board oiled oak. Price per sq m **£395**

## SINK & TAP

■ VBK720 double-bowl ceramic Butler sink, Franke **£438**

■ Axor Citterio DN15 Semi-Pro single-lever monobloc mixer tap in chrome with pull-out rinse, Hansgrohe **£612**

## APPLIANCES (shown)

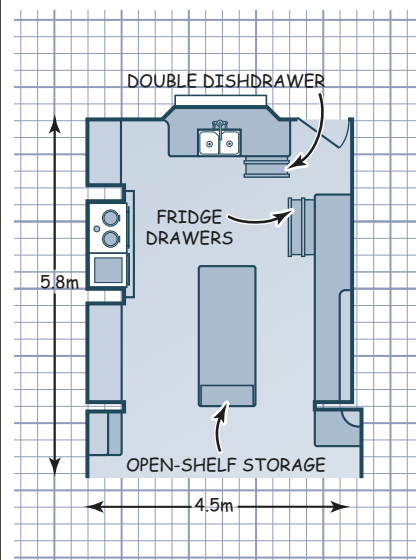
■ Four-oven, gas-fired Aga **£7,950**

■ HDR190i fully integrated double fridge drawers, Hotpoint **£852**

## APPLIANCES (not shown)

■ Fully integrated double DishDrawer dishwasher, Fisher & Paykel **£749**

☎ For stockists, see page 152



## GUIDE PRICE

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