



Feature by Tracey Williams Photography by Colin Poole

country comforts

It may have taken eight years for the dream to become a reality, but Tim and Amanda Perring's 19th century barn now offers luxury living.

Having moved into a half complete barn conversion seven years ago, property developers Tim and Amanda Perring had more than enough on their hands, without even considering a new kitchen. In fact, so much work has since been lovingly undertaken, that the kitchen isn't just new but has relocated from one side of the house to the other. "Moving it ensured that we had a better space to work with and a nicer outlook too, especially since we also created a courtyard area which has given us an outside/inside space. We wanted a kitchen that would be sociable rather than a showpiece," says Amanda. "More importantly, the barn wasn't Listed which meant, luckily, we could create exactly what we wanted," she adds.

Indulging in the lack of planning restrictions, the room is filled with light, from the wall of windows to the elongated pane which reaches into the eaves, its simple shape made all the more dramatic by its prominent location and sheer size. The work was done in phases and, having moved the room and installed a temporary kitchen, it was another year before they were ready to embark on the final project. But, as Amanda acknowledges, "It was the timing which was of vital importance as it really gave us the opportunity to live with the room and pin-point exactly what we required for the newly found space. I would recommend this to anyone that was embarking on the same kind of project."



above With plentiful storage space, the elongated island unit leads the eye to the dining area beyond.

left & below Adding a rich walnut surface to pale cabinetry brings a sense of warmth and character.



above right A modern take on the classic Aga, the robust range is a bold focal point against its neutral backdrop whilst offering top cooking performance.

right During the winter months, the wood-burning stove is a popular feature, injecting a calming glow and cosy feel – just perfect after long, country walks.

kitchen profile

Stunning in its simplicity, this Shaker-style kitchen is deliberately understated to work in harmony with its character setting. Hand-painted in complementary colours, the tulipwood cabinetry by Landmark Bespoke Kitchens is topped with honed granite and tactile walnut while pewter handles and a modern range complete the charming look.

Landmark Bespoke Kitchens, Unit 3, Travail Business Park, 15 Normandy Way, Bodmin, Cornwall PL31 1EU. Tel: 01208 73285. www.landmarkkitchens.co.uk
Expect to pay from £15,000.

So, in order to help them decide on a traditional kitchen to reflect the character of the 130-year-old barn, plus meet Amanda's ideals of natural finishes and vast working space, they turned to designer Matt Davies at Landmark Bespoke Kitchens. "We try very much to employ a co-creative approach to design. Tim, Amanda and I spent a good deal of time discussing how they use the kitchen space. We had already established that, because of the fabulous trusses and the character that had been retained from the property's origins as a barn, the result should not fight against that," he explains.

The perfect solution was the Shaker-style cabinetry; its understated elegance speaks for itself yet still allows the style of the property to shine through. However, it's the design with its noticeable lack of wall units, clean muted colours and accents of steel which introduce the subtly modern edge that the couple were anxious to include. That's not to say there are restrictions on storage, as there's a sweep of base units along one side to offer a good range of drawers and cupboards.

However, it's the expansive island that really gives the room impact. Not only voluminous enough to compensate for the lack of wall units, it provides dining space, and even Amanda confesses she was initially shocked at its size when it was installed. Nevertheless, it's something she soon got used to as it not only creates an obvious feature but has allowed the kitchen to be exactly what the couple had envisaged it being... a welcoming, comfortable social hub of the house.

Matt adds, "By elevating the island on legs we kept the sense of space that the open-plan living area affords but, by lighting underneath, have added a touch of glamour. At night, the room has a totally different feel. As designers, we are delighted with the outcome; the whole kitchen really ticks all the right boxes." Amanda couldn't agree more, "The kitchen actually breaks the ice when people come to visit. They enter this room and everyone gathers around the island and the conversation just flows. I really wouldn't change a thing!" she concludes with a beaming smile. ■

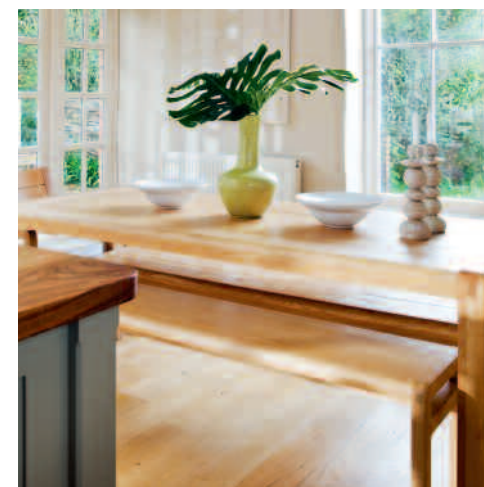


above The glazed L-shaped ground-floor offers comfortable family living all year round, edged with a flagstone patio for alfresco dining during summer.

above right Both flooring and furniture complement the original beams which provide a welcome constant reminder of the barn's 130-year-old beauty.

right There's ample space for all guests around the large table complete with long benches on which to perch while enjoying the food and garden views.

left Contemporary stools were chosen to update the classic design; its panelled cabinetry subtly adorned with neat swirl pattern pewter handles.



useful information

Appliances

RC1090 range oven, around £5000; Pitched extractor hood, around £1050, at Mercury. **Tel: 01522 881717. www.mercury-appliances.co.uk**

IKB3650 fridge, around £731, at Liebherr. **Tel: 01977 665665. www.liebherr.co.uk**

G1272SCVi fully integrated dishwasher, £813, at Miele. **Tel: 01235 554455. www.miele.co.uk**

Fixtures & furnishings

Honed black granite worktop, around £437 per m.; American wide board oiled finish walnut worktop, around £406 per m., at Landmark Bespoke Kitchens. **See kitchen profile for details.**

SB1090 stainless steel splashback, £310; steel hooks, £3 each, at Mercury. **Details as before.**

KBX11055 Kubus sink, £230; KBX11034 Kubus sink, £177, Franke. **Tel: 0161 436 6280. www.franke.co.uk**

14872000 Talis S tap, £170, at Hansgrohe. **Tel: 0870 770 1972. www.hansgrohe.co.uk**

Oak floor, £50 per m., at West Country Natural Flooring Products. **Tel: 01208 815211. No website available.**

PCK003 handles, £8 each; PBP004 backing plates, £2 each; PCK008 door knobs, £6 each; PCH001 drawer pulls, £8 each, at Finesse fittings. **Tel: 01207 500050. www.finessefittings.co.uk**

Deluxe Jupiter stools, £45 each, at Atlantic Shopping. **Tel: 0845 520 0000. www.atlanticshopping.co.uk**

Stony Ground eggshell paint, £36 per 2.5l.; Mouse's Back eggshell paint, around £36 per 2.5l.; Lime White eggshell paint, around £36 per 2.5l.; Joa's White emulsion, around £28 per 2.5l., at Farrow & Ball. **Tel: 01202 876141. www.farrow-ball.com**

Radius table, £799; Radius benches, £249 each; Radius dining armchairs, £169 each, at Habitat. **Tel: 0844 499 1111. www.habitat.net**

Similar stove, Dovre Astroline 4CB with wood store, expect to pay around £1895, at Stovax. **Tel: 01392 474000. www.stovax.com**