



**CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT**  
Easy-to-clean limestone floor tiles are warmed by underfloor heating. Pia chose a traditional Aga, although because of venting issues it has an electric oven with a gas hob. A large fridge blends with the grey kitchen units. The white worktops are made from non-porous, stain-resistant stone. Pia is careful, however, not to place extremely hot items on them, which might mark. The simple lines of the swan-neck mixer from Lefroy Brooks enhance the contemporary edge. Cutlery is easily stored away out of sight in the island drawers. Different styles of unit handle in glass and chrome create an individual look.

# GREY MATTER

*One owner's desire for a traditional kitchen with modern conveniences was met by a classic off-the-peg Swedish-inspired design in a handsome, monochromatic palette*

When Pia Brune and her family embarked on renovating their home in Wimbledon, south-west London, they knew there was only one sensible option available to them: to move out for the duration. It was just as well they did, for as building works progressed, very little of their original home remained. "There was nowhere to hide, we had to get out," Pia recalls. "The front wall and the front room were the only things standing... when we tore down the back wall, the top floor just fell, so we were left with side walls and the front room."

Fundamental to the layout of their refurbished home is the kitchen, designed by Sola, a London-based kitchen company with Scandinavian inclinations. Pia, who is an architect-turned-kitchen designer, wished for a traditional style with a modern edge,

something she has achieved by painting Sola's Newport units in Little Green's Dark Lead. "I wanted a traditional kitchen with a contemporary feel; not your standard yellow or white," Pia says, who admits to having tried a range of colours before finding one that provided the desired effect.

As with many modern kitchens, the island provides critical workspace and is the space Pia values most. Housing a preparation sink set into the worktop, it also accommodates a dishwasher and rubbish bin, as well as deep drawers for pots and crockery and a cutlery insert. "The island is my workspace so I didn't want anything but the sink on there but I did want to hide away any machinery," Pia explains. A Quooker tap provides instant boiling water.

In order to keep the kitchen uncluttered, appliances are stowed inside two long

cupboards flanking the hob. The cupboards are designed without a lip on the shelf, making it possible simply to slide appliances in and out easily.

Worktops were kept simple in durable white composite stone from Caesarstone, which complement the limestone floor tiles, while in a nod to traditional style the Aga and beaten copper pendant lamps introduce traditional touches. ■

## SHOPPING DETAILS

*Find the classic contemporary look*

**CABINETS:** Sola's Newport range, painted in Dark Lead from Little Green.

**TAPS:** Connaught lever-bridge, deck-mounted, (CL1517) swan neck mixer, Lefroy Brooks, and Classic model in polished chrome, Quooker.

**WORKTOPS:** 'Snow' (2141) from the Deluxe range, Caesarstone.