

Michele and Johan created their own layer of history with a clever new kitchen design in their Cotswolds country house

PICTURES MIA LIND WORDS VICTORIA ROLISON

# COOL CHARACTER

The grand cooker canopy and cornicing of the cabinets look like they've always existed beside the beams, thick walls and lead windows of this 17th century home. Meanwhile designer fabric and quirky Features show the couple's personality



## **GREAT SPACE**

The perfect spot for dining, the couple enjoy entertaining guests beside tall windows looking out to Michele's beloved garden. Cabinets to the side keep their cutlery and crockery in order

utting the heart back into a mid-17th century listed house steeped in history - Charles Dickens himself was once a visitor - could pose a daunting task, but when Michele and Johan discovered their dream home they found themselves inspired by all of its character. 'To us, the kitchen in a country house is the most important room, because it's central to everyone and everything going on, enthuses Michele. 'The previous owners had laid the floor and replaced the plumbing and electrics leaving the kitchen empty, which meant we got to do the fun bit.' Typical of the era, the space was all thick walls, lead windows and uneven angles. It's an odd shape with a big pillar in the middle which we couldn't touch because it houses a staircase,' remembers Michele. 'It was part of the charm of the house and I liked the idea of going around in circles in the kitchen, because that's kind of what you do, it's a bit like a mad roundabout!'

With three children aged 19, 12 and seven months, as well as a parrot and two dogs to cater for, the couple decided they needed a designer to help bring order to the mismatched measurements and, having always loved the company's Scandinavian style, Sola Kitchens became the natural choice.





PIA ROSLING SENIOR DESIGNER, SOLA KITCHENS

What was your brief? Michele and Johan wanted the

kitchen to look like it had been there forever with the house and because it is so old we discovered a lot of character for layout? The kitchen has a us to echo in the kitchen. The original windows had lead around the outside and we brought this to the inside which well at the window and then works really well. We also designed a chunky canopy above the AGA - which was something else they had wanted from the beginning. Another big part of the brief

sink and a breakfast bar, as well as plenty of entertaining space for friends and family.

How did you decide on the natural chimney for the AGA to stand against so we began there. The Belfast sink worked the island in the central space. We had the perfect recess for the fridge and freezer linking the kitchen to the dining area, where we incorporated tall units for glasses and crockery. was a central island with a wine By placing the dishwasher to

perfect position to be emptied, ready to lay the table straight back into our dining space.

What are your favourite design elements? We worked hard on the quirky details which are what makes this kitchen special. We created a glass panel in the wall which looks through to a lantern light hanging above the stairs down to a wine cellar and we built long storage boxes into the wall for 'treats' for the family and pets. From the windows to the island there is thought in fridge, storage baskets, a prep the left of the sink, it was in the every little detail of this kitchen.







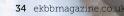
SOLA KITCHENS 121 Munster Road, London, SW6 6DH. Tel 020 3004 0898.











# ESSENTIAL kitchens



'We wanted a kitchen which would look like it belonged in a house built in 1650, but with a modern twist'

# Stockists

#### **APPLIANCES**

RF540ADUSX4 **fridge-freezer**, £1,950, Fisher & Paykel. iTotal Control **oven**, £10,890, AGA. Cache 900 **cooker hood** £750, Westin Design. G 6260 SCVI **dishwasher**, £1,150, Miele. Similar Sens Wi6128 wine cabinet £903. Caple

### **FIXTURES & FURNISHINGS**

Belfast VBK 710 sink, £407; Venetian tap, £287; Pull-out Belfast nozzle tap, £281, all Franke. Ceramic oval undermount prep sink, £283, Holloways of Ludlow. Composite Amazon suede finish worktop, £7,310, Sola Kitchens. Roman gold wall tiles, 150x150mm, £250 per sq. m, Cotswold Tiles. Salvaged wood and weathered concrete trestle collection table, starting from £1,292, and vintage French round and square fabric side chairs, from £179, all RH Restoration Hardware. Similar Lene Bjerre Missie large floor candlesticks, £108 each, Houseology. Bric-a-brac shelf wallpaper, £129 per roll, Deborah Bowness. Elena bar stools, £827 each, Robert Langford, made with Family Silver fabric, £88 per m, Mulberry Home at TM Interiors. Similar style of café poster wall art, caffe espresso Giclee print (81x112cm), £150, Art.co.uk.

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