

*essential*

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# KITCHEN

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# Classic & COOL

Traditional Shaker-style cabinetry painted in dark moody tones gives this classic kitchen a contemporary twist

PICTURES MIA LIND | WORDS MOLLY FORBES

## STYLISH DINING

The modern cabinetry in the kitchen beautifully complements the suspended log burner, wooden beams and rustic log storage in this dining space



**HIDDEN STORAGE**

Tall, hand-painted larder cabinets offer hidden storage solutions and make a real visual impact in the space

**I**nterior designer Lykke Larsen never set out to fully remodel her kitchen. ‘One thing led to another and it just sort of happened,’ she jokes. ‘We had a small island near the oven but there was never enough room to sit there. It got to the point where it irritated me so much I decided to make a change, but I kept getting new inspiration and we ended up with a whole new kitchen.’

The former kitchen in this family’s five bedroom Surrey home featured sleek white cabinetry with black counters in a gloss finish, but when designing the updated space Lykke veered towards more classic style in keeping with the house.

‘At one point in the planning I was thinking about cabinets in Swedish blue,’ explains Lykke. ‘But I decided this might clash with the rest of the house which is quite modern and classic. We actually have a summer house in Denmark which has a very similar dark kitchen so I knew this would work here too. The dark cabinets help to give the space a contemporary feel and the colour works well with both the traditional-style old beams and the other rustic features in our home, as well as the modern art.’

Despite the dark cabinetry, hand-painted in Pot Hole – which is a statement shade by Icelandic paint brand Eicó – the kitchen retains its light and airy feel. This is largely because of the south-facing garden it overlooks, emphasised by the installation of new French doors opening out directly onto the garden. ‘The doors open up the kitchen even more now,’ says Lykke. ‘I’d always wanted doors instead of the windows we originally put in when we first renovated the house and was glad to make the change. Being able to go outside from the kitchen works better for the way we live as a family.’

The new kitchen has been a game changer, transforming the way the family lives, eats and socialises. ‘We have nearly all our meals at the island now,’ explains Lykke. ‘The bespoke bar chairs are like proper dining chairs, just with high legs. We can fit seven people around the island so it’s very sociable. It’s just a lovely area to sit, and when the chandelier above the island is lit, it feels so cosy.’ *EKBB*

**SOCIABLE SEATING**

The large island is the hub of this sociable kitchen. With seating for up to seven people and built-in storage at one end, the island has transformed how the family uses the space



***Kitchen profile***

Hand-painted cabinetry in the Frillen range by Sola kitchens, made from solid oak and ash, is the hero feature in this classic but contemporary kitchen. The dark cabinetry contrasts with the bookmatched marble splashback and the Spekva limed oak of the island worktop. The hanging Altar pendant designed by Kevin Reilly completes the scheme, emphasising the island as the hub of the kitchen.

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**COUNTRY STYLE**  
 Classic country features like the butler sink, log storage and exposed beams work well with the statement dark colours for an elegant look



**STARK CONTRASTS**

The marble splashback and Spekva limed oak countertop on the island offers a beautiful contrast to the hand-painted cabinetry in the moody Pot Hole shade by Eicó



**STATEMENT LIGHTING**

Hanging above the island is the statement pendant Altar chandelier designed by American designer Kevin Reilly, offering a cosy glow in the evening

*‘The hanging pendant chandelier has been on my wish list for 10 years. I bought it in America and got it shipped over. It’s just amazing’*

**TAKE A SEAT**

Bespoke bar chairs mean comfort isn’t compromised when eating at the island. ‘It’s like sitting on a regular chair, but with more leg room,’ says Lykke

**MADE TO MEASURE**

Lykke admits to spending many hours planning the space, even measuring how high her glasses were and working out where things would go in relation to the dishwasher



**PIA ROSLING**  
DESIGN DIRECTOR,  
SOLA KITCHENS

**What was your brief?** As a professional interior designer, Lykke had a very clear vision of what she wanted to achieve aesthetically, but required our expertise to ensure her new kitchen would be both beautiful and practical in day-to-day use. It was particularly important to Lykke that she and her family could sit, eat and socialise together in the kitchen while maintaining a clear workflow. This was why the hob was positioned away from the seating area, so as not to hinder the cooking when using the kitchen at mealtimes.

and log storage, as it determined both the shape and positioning of the island to some degree. We’re particularly pleased with the design of the kitchen island though, as it offers ample room for both preparation of food and for the family to dine together without feeling at all cramped.

**Are there any clever storage solutions featured in this space?**

The kitchen island offers a versatile combination of both open shelving for easy access and drawers with custom-designed inserts to suit our client’s needs. Likewise, the larder cabinets have a huge amount of practical storage, with a custom layout to ensure little space is wasted here.



**What was the most challenging aspect of the project?** Perhaps most challenging was designing around the existing wood burner



***‘It’s really important to think about how you live when you plan a new kitchen. Knowing how you want to use your space is key to making it work’***

**OPEN ASPECT**

**Above** Replacing a bank of windows along the south-facing wall with French doors has helped to bring even more light into the kitchen and extend the space in the summer time

**OUTDOOR LIVING**

**Left** Just outside the French doors is a seating area with a barbecue and swimming pool. This space becomes another section of the kitchen in the summer time, for easy outdoor living

***Stockists***

**APPLIANCES**

Llano built-in **extractor** with external motor, £1,252; Outside **wall motor** in stainless steel, £892, both Gutmann. Fully integrated **dishwasher**, 60cm wide with clean steel cutlery tray, £583, Miele. 61cm integrated **refrigerator**, £4,567, Gaggenau. Pro3 Fusion round chrome **taps**, £958, Quooker. 800mm wide **butler sink** in white ceramic, £400, Caple.

**FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS**

Frillen **cabinetry** in solid ash and solid oak with matt lacquer, hand-painted in Pot Hole by Eicó; Main run **worktop** in Neolith Basalt Black Satin at 30mm thick; **Splashback** in bookmatched marble; Spekva limed oak wooden **worktop** at 30mm thick, kitchen prices from £75,000, Sola Kitchens. **Dining table** (from previous kitchen, re-stained in black) by Rosmosegaard. **Dining chairs** reupholstered and restained in black, Tamiko by Philippe Hurel. **Bar stools**, made bespoke to order, contact Lykke Larsen for details. Altar **chandelier pendant** light by Kevin Reilly (USA). **Log burner** (existing in previous kitchen), by Diligence International.

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150

## STYLISHLY SCANDI

Characterised by clean and simple lines, the appeal of Shaker-style furniture is in its adaptability and its classic good looks that can also fit just as nicely in a contemporary room or a traditional space.

The Newport kitchen with grey hand-painted doors in solid ash, from £35,000, Sola Kitchens

*'A handcrafted freestanding kitchen lets you mix-and-match styles on legs to have different heights providing an airy and light feel to the kitchen'*

Sofia Bune Strandh, chief executive officer, Sola Kitchens