



'The **ROUND** design is really **SOCIABLE** and means no-one's left out at the end of the **TABLE**'



All-round SUCCESS

The design of Cath Finneran's family-friendly scheme was built around the circular table that sits at its heart

FEATURE LINDA PARKER • PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID HELSBY

Kitchen FACT FILE

THE FAMILY Cath Finneran, an antenatal teacher, her husband Jim, who runs his own management and recruitment company, and their three children Caitlin, 16, Sian, 15, and Callum, 11, plus black Labrador, Murphy
THE HOME Detached, thatched period cottage in Warwickshire
THE PROJECT Remodelling the rear of the property and installing a new kitchen with bi-fold doors

PRICE GUIDE
£17,500

for a similar Stoneham kitchen from Kitchen, Tile and Bathroom Gallery, cabinetry only

For Cath Finneran and her husband Jim, it was worth suffering three months of stress and mess to achieve the beautiful kitchen they have today. Five years ago, the couple embarked on a host of dramatic improvements, which culminated in a new kitchen and the remodelling of the rear part of the house.

Dark and dated, the kitchen was in much need of light and space, so help was enlisted from architect Andrew Faulkner from Brock Charles Architects. Plans involved creating an office, installing floor-to-ceiling doors in the part of the house that would host the new kitchen, and adding a separate utility room next door. As the project required the back wall to be knocked out, doors were temporarily boarded up to secure the house.

The result was that the only equipment I had to cook meals for the family, including

three hungry children, was a microwave and a two-ring hob,' recalls Cath. 'Plus, the house was full of builders and the weather was awful.' Although the project ran smoothly under Andrew's guidance, Cath was understandably relieved once the construction work was over.

A FOCAL POINT

Having done plenty of research, Cath knew that the kitchen itself would be a convivial place for the family to eat together. 'Mealtimes have always been very important, as Callum was diagnosed with diabetes when he was a baby,' she explains, 'so we brought the children up to understand the importance of healthy eating and three good meals a day.'

To realise her vision, Cath turned to Mark Smith from Kitchen, Tile & Bathroom Gallery. Recommended by a friend, Mark had also worked with the couple's architect and



CENTRAL FEATURE
 At the heart of the kitchen is a bespoke table by Broom Joinery. It has a Lazy Susan top section and is more than 1m high and 1.8m wide

Real inspiration Oak and painted

builders. 'I was impressed with Mark's ideas about where things should go,' says Cath.

Although it's almost standard practice for an island to feature when space allows, Cath was set on having a circular table at the heart of the scheme. However, when she started her search for a round breakfast-bar height table, she found such a thing didn't

seem to exist. As a result, she commissioned Broom Joinery, who were in the process of building the family's new office, to make one that was exactly to her specifications.

CREATING A CLEVER LAYOUT

The lack of island unit left Mark with the conundrum of fitting all the storage space

around the edge of the room. He suggested siting cupboards either side of the fridge freezer to ensure all food was kept in one area. On the opposite wall, Mark separated the microwave and coffee machine with a handy workspace in between and set a plate rack above to create a dedicated breakfast prep zone. His design also incorporated another defining visual ▶

CABINETS

Smart Pale Blue-painted oak units from Stoneham's Tate range were installed by Kitchen, Tile & Bathroom Gallery. Designer Mark Smith had to accommodate all of the storage around the room's edges, as the centre was reserved for the bespoke table

Beautiful Kitchens LOVES

Classic wallpaper around the mantel adds to its striking looks. Designed by Paolo Fornasetti in the 1940s, the intriguing pattern could entertain us for hours.

The bespoke circular table makes a bold statement with its central location, but crafting it from timber links it to the rest of the room.

Smart design features, from a slim spice cupboard to drawers hidden behind doors, mean worksurface clutter is kept to a minimum.

RANGE COOKER

An oak overmantel helps to create a welcoming feel and draws attention to the dual-fuel range – one of the room's focal points. Quirky wallpaper by Cole & Son brings the look up to date and lends individual style



OWNER'S ADVICE 'We made money by selling our old kitchen and the conservatory on eBay, which also saved money on a skip and disposal costs'



FOOD STORAGE

Clever pull-out larder units keep edible goods stored together in one section



SINK AREA

The ceramic Belfast design is roomy enough to soak large baking trays and saucepans



CUPBOARD

Useful drawers sit behind flush-fitting doors either side of the range cooker



Real inspiration Oak and painted



BREAKFAST AREA

Mark suggested positioning the coffee/toast-making area and microwave away from the rest of the kitchen, so all the morning activity can be centred there

feature – the striking range cooker and its overmantel, complete with blue glass tiles and Mediterranea wallpaper by Cole & Son. Aesthetically, these elements also ensure there's a point of interest on each wall of the room.

Cath wanted a seamless worktop, so Mark suggested a solid surface. Featuring glints of blue, the Black Galaxy Mistral complements the dark floor tiles, which are a practical choice for a busy family kitchen, especially with Murphy the Labrador wandering in and out.

It's a sign of the calibre of those who worked on the house that, despite the

inconvenience the project involved, Cath is full of praise for her architect, as well as Mark and his team. Now, the entire family can sit back and enjoy the fruits of their labour.

'We spend a lot of time in the kitchen,' says Cath. 'It's easy for us all to be in here together with the extra space and its relaxed feel. When it's warm, we open up the doors and it's like sitting in the garden – but without the hassle of taking everything outside. In fact, there's just one snag: I promised Jim my cooking would improve if we had a gorgeous new kitchen – he says he's still waiting for that to happen.'

SHOP THE LOOK

CABINETRY

■ Spray-painted oak cabinetry in Pale Blue with Light Oak units from the Tate range by Stoneham Kitchens at Kitchen, Tile & Bathroom Gallery **£17,500**

WORKSURFACES

■ Black Galaxy Mistral. Total cost **£2,800**

SPLASHBACK

■ Blue glass tiles, Original Style. Price per sq m **£160**

FLOORING

■ Himalaya Anapurna Opus Mix porcelain tiles. Price per sq m **£42**

APPLIANCES

■ 110 Classic dual-fuel range cooker in black, Rangemaster **£1,800**

■ Built-in microwave, Miele **£607**

■ Canopy extractor hood, Miele **£590**

■ Built-in coffee machine, Miele **£1,700**

■ Integrated American-style fridge freezer in black, Rangemaster **£1,800**

■ Fully integrated double DishDrawer dishwasher, Fisher & Paykel **£785**

SINK & TAPS

■ Belfast undermounted double-bowl ceramic sink, Franke **£539**

■ Citterio Axor single-lever monobloc mixer tap in chrome with pull-out rinse, Hansgrohe **£500**

■ Modern boiling-water tap in chrome, Quooker **£890**

FINISHING TOUCHES

■ 6ft diameter bespoke circular table in Ikegbo timber, Broom Joinery **£2,976**

■ Crescent bar stools in leather, Atlantic Shopping, each **£135**

■ Blus Arti & Mestieri metal and glass wall clock, Jazz It Up Interiors **£84**

■ Mediterranea wallpaper, Cole & Son at Tangletree Interiors. Price per roll **£82**

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 127



DISHWASHER

An integrated double DishDrawer design by Fisher & Paykel fits neatly beside the sink



SPICE CABINET

A shallow unit with light oak shelves is perfect for herbs and spices