

# Galley LIFE

Dark slate worktops and vibrant aqua cabinetry take centre stage in Jo and Steve Young's functional, Shaker-style design

AS  
SEEN IN  
BEAUTIFUL  
KITCHENS  
MAGAZINE

#### **CABINETRY**

Farrow & Ball's eggshell paint in Stone Blue gives the Shaker-style oak veneer and MDF furniture a hard-wearing finish

#### **FLOORING**

An eco-friendly choice, durable **Vivace Granada Marmoleum** covers the floor



**WORKTOPS**  
The **Blue-Black** slate worksurfaces from The Slate Worktop Company have been sealed to ensure easy maintenance

**CERAMIC DOOR KNOBS**  
The **handmade** handles were crafted specially for the kitchen by Jo Young Ceramics using stoneware clay and coloured glazes

**EYE-LEVEL APPLIANCES**  
To minimise bending, Jo requested a built-in oven at waist-height. As room to prepare food was at a premium, the Bosch microwave has also been built in

**BK loves**

Jo's unique ceramic door knobs, which were inspired by some blue plates she designed years ago



'WE THOUGHT ABOUT EXTENDING THE WORKSURFACE OPPOSITE THE FRIDGE TO GIVE A LITTLE BIT MORE SPACE. WITH HINDSIGHT I WISH WE'D DONE IT'

**PREP AREA**

An inset ceramic sink and Clarendon chrome tap, both by Lansdowne, stand out against the dark worktop

**COOLING**

The family's American-style fridge freezer is by Samsung

**DISHWASHER**

The freestanding black dishwasher is from Bosch



**JO AND STEVE YOUNG LIVE IN A DETACHED PROPERTY IN BRISTOL WITH THEIR DAUGHTER HOLLY, 12**

As they negotiated the purchase of their home four years ago, Jo and Steve Young realised that far from being a drawback, its worn kitchen was a bonus. 'The house was just beyond our budget, but it was clear that the kitchen would need some work, and that helped us get to a price we could afford,' explains Steve, a freelance magazine editor.

Aside from its tired cupboards, the kitchen lacked light and its rectangular shape felt cramped. After much consideration, the couple agreed that a small extension would be the solution. 'It was expensive to build but it meant we could put in a roof light as well,' says Steve.

Once they had decided to go ahead, Jo, who is a potter, and Steve began looking around showrooms and quickly homed in on the simple styling of a bespoke classic Shaker look. 'When we pulled out the old kitchen, we found lots of gaps behind it, where standard units had been put across the contours of the walls,' explains Steve. 'With bespoke cupboards, we knew every inch could be used.'

Jo approached Howard Purse, owner of The Bristol Kitchen Company, who she knew as a parent of one of Holly's classmates. He offered to help with the design and plans but ended up making and fitting the kitchen, too. 'Price-wise, there wasn't a massive difference between Howard's furniture and ready-made DIY units,' says Steve.

Howard recommended painting the furniture, so Jo and Steve narrowed their colour choice down to several shades of blue, which Jo tested by painting the old units. 'We kept coming back to the same particular shade,' she says. 'We liked the softness.'

Choosing handles to suit the doors proved one of the biggest challenges, as Jo and Steve could find nothing they liked. In the end, Jo solved the problem by making her own ceramic handles, each with a distinctive swirling pattern of blues and greys.

After months of work, the family is now thoroughly enjoying their bright new room. 'It's practical and so easy to use,' smiles Jo. 'I never thought I'd say this, but I actually even enjoy cleaning it!'

BK

FEATURE ANNABELLE GRUNDY PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE



**PRICE GUIDE**  
Starting price  
**£15,000**  
for a design by The  
Bristol Kitchen  
Company

## THE KITCHEN AT A GLANCE

### DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Howard Purse at **The Bristol Kitchen Company**, 14 Redcross Street, Bristol, BS2 0BA (0117 914 0340) [www.thebristolkitchencompany.co.uk](http://www.thebristolkitchencompany.co.uk)
- Bespoke, hand-painted Shaker-style oak veneer cabinetry with MDF units

### WORKTOPS

- 30mm Welsh Blue-Black slate, The Slate Worktop Company. Price per sq m, from **£350**

### FLOORING

- Vivace Granada Marmoleum, Aztech Floors and Walls. Price per sq m **£20**

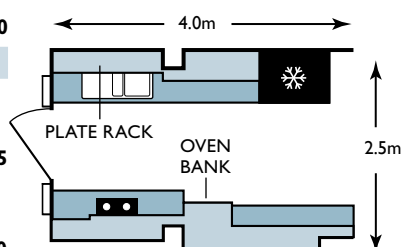
### SINK & TAP

- Oakwood inset one-and-a-half-bowl ceramic sink, Lansdowne **£365**
- Clarendon mixer tap in polished chrome with crosshead handles, Lansdowne **£110**

### APPLIANCES (shown)

- Built-in single oven, for similar try HBN331S0B, Bosch **£254**
- Built-in microwave, for similar try HMT84M661, Bosch **£310**
- Four-burner gas hob, for similar try T22S36, Neff **£210**
- DHL535BGB canopy extractor hood in metallic silver, Bosch **£88**
- RSHIDBRS freestanding American-style fridge freezer, Samsung **£763**
- SMS50E06 freestanding dishwasher, Bosch **£420**

For stockists, see page 144



### ♻️ RECYCLED FURNITURE

The extra space created by the extension means the kitchen can now accommodate an existing **circular dining table** and **wooden chairs** that were salvaged from a café

### SMART → SPICE STORAGE

Jo has a huge collection of **Marmite jars** to store her herbs and spices. The screw tops and brown glass keep the contents fresh

## GREAT IDEA

Recycling doesn't have to mean throwing it away – try reusing glass jars for storage

