

# 'IT WAS TIME to modernise OUR SPACE'

Margaret and Tony Marsh breathed new life into their kitchen with a light, classic scheme – and created more room in the process

FEATURE NICOLA WILKES • PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE

**When Margaret and Tony Marsh moved into their home, the kitchen was given a quick refresh. Nine years later, it was time for a complete redesign.**

### What made you decide to refurbish your kitchen?

The house was relatively new when we moved in, which was one of the main reasons we did nothing major to it for so long. We did give the kitchen a subtle makeover, however, by replacing the mustard floral wallpaper with cream-painted walls, painting the cabinetry and retiling. It seemed such a waste when the kitchen worked perfectly well, but the way it looked didn't do anything for the space.

We kept the Indian slate flooring but it made the room quite dark and oppressive, and we were desperate for a more modern look. So when we were invited into a neighbour's house to see their new kitchen, it didn't take much to convince us to rip ours out and follow suit.

### How did you go about finding a kitchen company?

Our neighbour works for Leekes and had used the company to design his own kitchen, so it came highly recommended. This was also the first time that we'd taken on this kind of refit, as we'd always moved

into a house with a good kitchen, so it was important to us to know we could trust the team we would be working with.

### What happened next?

Leekes's kitchen designer, Craig Randall, came and measured up and returned with a variety of cupboard door options and samples of tiles and worktops. The initial process was all about making sure the colours were right in our home, rather than just picking something we liked in the showroom, as light can vary enormously from house to house. We were impressed by Craig's attention to detail and consideration for our home.

### Were there any issues or problems?

The first floor tiles we chose didn't go with the cream cupboards we'd decided on, as they made the cabinetry look like they had a pink hue, which was awful. It was at this point that I realised what an expensive mistake you could make if you weren't one hundred per cent sure.

When it came to the glass splashback, we'd originally picked a pale taupe shade, but when Deco Glaze sent over samples, it worried me that it was too pale. Luckily, when the fitters came to measure up they had more colour choices in the van, and we found the perfect shade. The glass ►



Margaret and Tony freshened up their scheme with cream Shaker-style cabinetry from Leekes and Mocca Creme travertine floor tiles. Glass elements, including glazed door panels and tinted splashbacks, help reflect light around the room

## Kitchen FACT FILE

**THE OWNERS** Margaret and Tony Marsh are both retired and live with their cat, Whingey  
**THE HOME** A four-bedroom detached house built in 1997, in a village in Wiltshire  
**THE CABINETRY** Painted MDF furniture with glass units from the Sheraton Edwardian range from Leekes

PRICE GUIDE  
**£9,468**

For a similar Leekes kitchen, cabinetry only



## 3 GET THE LOOK Bar handles



**LARK & LARKS** This slim, barrel rod handle in brushed nickel measures L34cm and costs £15.72



**B&Q** A great-value, cuffed bar handle in brushed nickel, measures L28cm and is priced at just £11 for two



**TURNSTYLE DESIGNS** The Rough Cut door pull in a choice of finishes and sizes, is L20cm and priced from £120

**STYLISH SOLUTIONS  
U-SHAPED DESIGN**



A space-saving breakfast bar was incorporated into the design to replace the couple's old pine dining table. 'It's surprising how often we sit here to eat, chat or have a coffee,' says Margaret. The black leather stools are from John Lewis



**Where we SPENT... Where we SAVED...**

'Keeping our existing Siemens American-style fridge freezer and oven meant we saved nearly £2,000, which is a nice feeling when you're spending so much on a kitchen' **MARGARET MARSH**

**DESIGNER'S TIP**

'Margaret and Tony wanted their existing freestanding American-style fridge freezer to be incorporated into the new design, so we moved the plumbing and built a tall larder unit around it, giving it a much better, more "fitted" look' **CRAIG RANDALL**

**SHOP THE LOOK**

**CABINERY**  
■ Painted MDF and glass units in Buttermilk from the Sheraton Edwardian range from Leekes. Total cost, cabinetry only **£9,468**

**WORKSURFACE**  
■ Kashmir White granite. Price per linear m **£500**

**SPLASHBACK**  
■ Toughened glass in Linen, Deco Glaze. Price per sq m **£550**

**FLOORING**  
■ Mocca Creme travertine tiles. Price per sq m **£54.89**

**APPLIANCES**  
■ Existing built-in single oven, Siemens **£879**  
■ Built-in microwave, Neff **£350**  
■ Four-zone ceramic hob, Neff **£699**  
■ Luminaire chimney hood, Franke **£450**  
■ Existing American-style fridge freezer, Siemens **£1,050**  
■ Fully integrated dishwasher, Baumatic **£499**

**SINKS AND TAP**  
■ Undermounted one-and-a-half bowl ceramic sink, Franke **£590**  
■ Kubus Triflow monobloc mixer tap in Silk Steel, with pull-out rinse, Franke **£630**

**FINISHING TOUCHES**  
■ Glass shelves with lights, Leekes, each **£99**  
■ Iris bar chair, John Lewis, each **£125**  
■ Cuba blinds in 2828, Luxaflex **£POA**

**FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150**

**ADVICE FROM THE OWNER**

**Margaret and Tony reveal how to make the most of your space**

**SWAP A TABLE FOR A BREAKFAST BAR**

It's wonderful to have somewhere to sit and eat without taking up the entire space with a large dining table.

**MAKE ROOM FOR A LARDER**

Our larder's an amazing storage area and means we just keep out the things we use every day. It was a good opportunity to have a purge of any items we hardly ever use.

**CHOOSE A PALE-COLOURED FLOOR**

The limestone flooring wasn't the cheapest option but has made the biggest difference to the space, as it's so light on the eye.

splashback was an investment buy so it had to be right, but it was a bit touch-and-go as to whether it would arrive in time for Christmas. When it eventually came, all the way from France, the fitters worked around the clock and finished it in the nick of time.

**Are you pleased with the final design?**

What we have now is spot on and looks fantastic. We weren't rushed at any point, either, which was important to us. The first few days of fitting were awful, though; the slate floor was so hard to get up that the mess was horrendous. But the process of seeing something different every day kept me going.

**Did you save any money?**

We kept our original American-style fridge freezer and Siemens cooker, which meant we saved nearly £2,000. I'd always hated the way the fridge freezer was just 'plonked' in the room before, so Craig built cabinetry around

it. We also planned to use our old granite worktop for the surface of the breakfast bar, but it just didn't look right.

**What's your favourite part of the kitchen?**

We always knew the pine dining table would go, but we didn't bargain on how much usage we'd get out of the new bar area. It's great for just the two of us or when we have guests over – it's somewhere to congregate. Tony's a real gadget man, so I let him choose the glass shelves by the breakfast bar. They light up and are very practical and look amazing in the evening when we're entertaining.

**How have others reacted to the kitchen?**

We had a kitchen-warming party and spent the evening huddled around the breakfast bar. Everyone was surprised by the transformation. It was great to see people have the same reaction that we first had when we nipped next door for a nose at their new kitchen! 📸



Pull-out corner storage makes the best use of space in the Marshes' U-shaped kitchen



An undermounted one-and-a-half-bowl ceramic sink has been paired with a Triflow Kubus tap, both by Franke