

REAL READERS' HOMES

THE owners

High-flying couple, Andrew and Samantha Harrison, bought their five-bedroom, detached Edwardian home in Northamptonshire as a project, and it's since undergone a complete renovation. But it's their elegant yet quirky Heaven & Stubbs bespoke kitchen that's the jewel in the crown of this stunning newly renovated period property.

DEEP PURPLE

This enormous kitchen, with plenty of personality and the perfect splash of statement purple, provides a superb space for hard-working social butterflies Andrew and Samantha to work, rest and play.

One of the couple's favourite features is a pair of capacious Fisher & Paykel fridge freezers. Cabinetry in a neutral cream helps to balance the bold but stylish purple throughout.

There are no fewer than three seating areas, over two large islands. One island has integrated bench seating in washed oak with a freestanding dining table featuring matching washed oak supports and a glazed tabletop. There's also an integrated washed oak breakfast bar. The adjacent island features an end-integrated table, used by the Harrison's as a home workstation.

The cabinetry is of an Edwardian style, in keeping with the period of the property and features a moulded Shaker door design. It features natural washed oak and painted furniture finished in a variety of Farrow & Ball shades. The islands are painted in Pelt purple and the outer furniture in Stony Ground No2.

Now their children have flown the nest, Solicitor Andrew and Samantha, a doctor, are free to enjoy the space their home offers – with extensive gardens, a swimming pool and gym – but they admit it's the kitchen where they spend the majority of their time. And with a space this spectacular, can you blame them?

34 T

There's no doubt that designer, Howard Stubbs, was spoilt for space with the Harrison's roomy kitchen, which was created by incorporating a number of outbuildings into an extension. But, as he explains, large spaces can create their own problems.

"We've successfully avoided simply filling the space with runs of boring cabinetry, and this could have happened if the homeowners had opted for an 'off the shelf' furniture brand with standard cabinet shapes and sizes," he said. "Instead, everywhere you look there are interesting elements and every item of furniture has a specific purpose; it's very much a case of style and function working hand in hand."

The vast scale of the kitchen meant that some truly huge bespoke furniture pieces could be created. For example, the mantel spans not only a large range, but also symmetrical, extra wide, three-drawer cabinets either side of the Aga, yet the furniture still maintains a classic and graceful aesthetic.

Other large pieces include the tall tower units, designed to house the capacious double Fisher & Paykel fridge freezers. This piece of furniture also provides cupboard space above the fridge freezers as well as library shelving either side, for Andrew and Samantha's extensive collection of cookery books.



The Harrison's wanted a dramatic colour with a contemporary look, but were also keen to keep the kitchen in keeping with the property's Edwardian heritage.

The kitchen is in-frame, totally bespoke and features two truly huge islands. The unique features are further highlighted by a daring purple, which adds the dramatic colour the Harrison's requested. Thanks to the classic lines and neutral tones used in other parts of the kitchen, the purple makes a statement without being overpowering. It creates the perfect balance.

THE designer

"The overall look is refreshingly different and exciting, whilst giving a sympathetic 'nod' to the period architecture of the home."

Howard Stubbs, designer and co-founder, Heaven & Stubbs



The bold statement colour scheme and contrasting finishes beautifully define a very large space.

The two huge islands were made possible because of the enormous kitchen space. They were expertly made with Accoya timber, which is an ultra stable, specially modified timber. Its level of stability is great for achieving a long-lasting, super smooth, factory spray-painted finish, since the timber won't move due to temperature and moisture changes in the air, which can crack and spoil the paint finish. However, the granite used on the islands were both one piece sections and required 10 men to lift! Heaven and Stubbs try to ensure as few granite joins are used as possible, to achieve a smooth seamless finish.



The integrated bench seating, tables and workstation demonstrates the skill of the designer and the success of the design to blend Edwardian traditional cabinetry with contemporary design cues and 21st century living requirements.

“When we’re at home, we’re almost always in our new kitchen! The original kitchen was boring, tired and simply a place to cook. “Even the food we produce in our new kitchen is much better, not just because of the appliances, but because we take our time preparing food since the room is a nice space in which to be.”

Andrew and Samantha Harrison, homeowners.

“Just as with small spaces, a very large space can be a challenge,” continues Howard. “Particularly in terms of maintaining visual interest and keeping the working triangle to a reasonable and practical size.” Making such a large space work visually and with the right levels of functionality would perhaps have been very difficult if the furniture hadn’t have been bespoke.

Standard cabinet sizes and shapes would not only look lost in a room of such big proportions, but also monotonous. “Bespoke is a great option for a kitchen of this size,” Howard explains. “And it’s often far more reasonably priced than people think.” With the Harrisons’ kitchen cum social space cum ad hoc office, Howard & Stubbs have created an inviting and innovative living area ensuring the kitchen is the most frequented and loved place in the home.



38

“We love the fusion of period Edwardian and modern styling as well as the colour.”

Homeowners, Andrew and Samantha.



THE details

Kitchen designed Howard Stubbs from Heaven & Stubbs, with solid timber cabinetry and moulded shaker doors in a painted and washed oak finish heavenandstubbs.com

Visso extractor from Best by Britannia britannialiving.co.uk

Domino induction hob, single steam oven with microwave and S51 E40X2GB integrated dishwashers by Neff neff.co.uk

Electric Aga oven agaliving.co.uk

Fridge freezer E522BLXF004 by Fisher & Paykel fisherpaykel.com

Gosford tap in chrome and tap with Atlas spray by Abode abodedesigns.co.uk



Respoke Kitchens



Contact us now to make an appointment for a free consultation
e: howard@heavenandstubbs.com t: 01295 812 423
w: heavenandstubbs.com



Visit our showroom at
Unit 16, Twyford Mill, Adderbury, Oxfordshire OX17 3SX
(Please call prior to visiting)