

ADDING TO HISTORY

Leigh and Becky Shardlow's period farmhouse home needed a sleek but sympathetic kitchen to bring it seamlessly into the 21st century

AS
SEEN IN
BEAUTIFUL
KITCHENS
MAGAZINE

BESPOKE CABINETRY

Shaker-style solid American Black walnut furniture by Cotteswood of Oxfordshire has been finished with simple Long Rod handles

WORKTOPS

Chunky Cameo White Corian surfaces prevent the wood cabinetry and stone floor making the room too dark

'I LOVE OUR RECONDITIONED ELECTRIC AGA. I GREW UP LEARNING TO COOK WITH ONE AND NOW I CAN'T USE A CONVENTIONAL COOKER!'



LEIGH AND BECKY SHARDLOW LIVE IN A 15TH-CENTURY FARMHOUSE IN WARWICKSHIRE WITH THEIR CHILDREN, SAM, FIVE, CONNIE, FOUR, AND TOM, ONE

FEATURE LINDA PARKER PHOTOGRAPHY MARCUS PEELE

Leigh and Becky Shardlow bought their 15th-century farmhouse knowing that they faced a mammoth task of rescuing 8,500 sq ft of agricultural

buildings from years of neglect. 'Church Farm was difficult to date,' explains Leigh, a historic buildings consultant. 'It's next to a church, which is more than 1,000 years old, and the dating process is confusing because every time the church was remodelled, the leftover materials ended up being used to add features to the farm.'

For the first few months, the family lived in a 70 per cent uninhabitable home, with no heating and sandbags at the back door to stop flooding. 'It was a huge project,' recalls Leigh. 'We went ahead with it, took a break from

business and focused all our attention on making it into a home.'

The plan was to transform a derelict barn, attached to the main house, into the new kitchen. 'We restored the old barns and moved the living accommodation around,' says Leigh. 'When dealing with historic buildings, you have to listen to what they tell you – it's important to consider the existing openings, but at the same time remember that you're bringing the 15th and 16th century into the 21st century.'

Leigh approached several kitchen companies but eventually settled on

Cotteswood of Oxfordshire as he liked the furniture and designer Richard Sale's attitude. Together with Leigh, Richard produced a smart, functional layout. 'Leigh had very specific ideas on the style of cabinets but was unsure about using walnut or oiled oak. In the end, we produced a door in each to his design and looked at them in the room. After that, he decided to go with the walnut,' recalls Richard.

The kitchen was planned so that there would be a 43-metre view from the end of the kitchen where the fridge freezer was to be sited, right through

to the threshing barn. 'I realised we could create that unusual perspective,' says Leigh. 'It would have been easy to split the room in two with a breakfast bar but the island works perfectly.'

To save on costs but also to ensure he could achieve his vision, Leigh decided to install the kitchen himself. 'We'd paid enough attention to detail in the planning process to ensure that it all went together without a hitch,' he says. 'We sourced the appliances and worksurfaces ourselves as well and bought a reconditioned Aga.'

Despite being a listed building, and thanks to Leigh's expertise, the result is a kitchen that complements its historic setting. 'It was all worth it in the end,' he smiles. 'Now we have a stunning kitchen and exactly the kind of house that we wanted.' **BK**



FLOORING

The **Bassano Brushed limestone tiles** from Mandarin Stone have a textured surface and distressed edge

SPLASHBACK

Noir Chantilly Vivid tiles from Fired Earth protect the wall behind the Aga

SEATING

Cattelan Italia Toto bar stools from Mac & Mac Interiors are similar

BK loves
...the rustic dark limestone floor tiles

INTEGRATED COOLING

A three-door, American-style fridge freezer by Fisher & Paykel is framed by the walnut cabinetry, with a cupboard overhead to make best use of the space. A dispenser in the door supplies chilled water and ice

SPACE-SAVING STORAGE

The front panel of the **magic corner unit** has been designed to look like a continuation of the drawers. It opens to reveal a variety of wire baskets that store the family's pots and pans and swing out for easy access to the contents





GREAT IDEA

Adding a rack either side of the cooler allows Leigh and Becky to keep wine in one place

WINE STORAGE

An integrated wine cooler is flanked by two slim racks above the cabinets that house bottles of wine at room temperature. For a similar wine cooler, try Samsung

BUILT-IN APPLIANCES

The Fisher & Paykel double dishwasher has been integrated next to a combination microwave by Neff that provides an alternative to the Aga



PROFESSIONAL-STYLE TAP

Leigh saved money on his tap as it was an ex-showroom model. For similar, try **Oxygene Hi-Tech** by Gessi

PRICE GUIDE
Starting price
£12,000
for a Cotteswood of Oxfordshire design, cabinetry only

THE KITCHEN AT A GLANCE

DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Leigh Shardlow with Richard Sale at **Cotteswood of Oxfordshire**, Station Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 5XN (01608 641858) www.cotteswood.co.uk
- Bespoke, Shaker-style solid American Black walnut furniture

- Integrated wine cooler, for similar try RW33EBSS1, Samsung **£265**
- Integrated double DishDrawer dishwasher, for similar try DD60DDFHX6, Fisher & Paykel **£874**

☎ For stockists, see page 162
PLAN SCALE 1cm:1m

WORKTOPS

- Cameo White Corian. Total cost **£3,000**

FLOORING

- Bassano Brushed limestone tiles, Mandarin Stone. Price per sq m **£57.56**

SINKS & TAP

- 2 x 881 Corian single-bowl sinks, as integral part of worktop, each **£850**
- Single-lever monobloc mixer tap with pull-out spray, for similar try Oxygene Hi-Tech in brushed steel, Gessi **£688**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- Reconditioned four-oven electric Aga in Pewter, Midland Cookers **£5,000**
- Built-in combination microwave, for similar try C57M70, Neff **£707**
- Chimney extractor hood in stainless steel, for similar try DA4224EXT, Miele **£1,198**
- Integrated American-style fridge freezer, for similar try RF540ADUX1, Fisher & Paykel **£1,762**

