

Rustic revival

Pastel-coloured cabinetry creates a suitably homely atmosphere in Pam and Michael Gallagher's newly built farmhouse kitchen



TRADITIONAL

The traditional styling and attention to detail of Matthew Marsden's designs encouraged Pam and Michael to revisit him when they needed a kitchen for their new home. An island painted in Farrow & Ball's White Tie forms the hub of the scheme and features a handy prep sink, an integral chopping block and semi-circular breakfast bars at either end

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when I saw them in the showroom I just had to have them’





The success of the island can be attributed to its multifunctional design. A vast granite worktop, which was fitted in two pieces, serves as both a handy preparation surface and a place where Pam and Michael's two children, Hannah, 11, and Jack, eight, can sit and enjoy a snack. 'I requested the semi-circular breakfast bars at either end of the island in place of a kitchen table because it's a more relaxed arrangement,' says Pam

▲ Four small oak drawers carved with descriptions of their contents are a fine example of Matthew Marsden's artistic flair and meticulous approach, as are the elegant turned handles in contrasting American Black walnut

▼ 'Our favourite appliance has to be the Sub-Zero wine cooler, which has two drawers that we use to keep bottled beers and soft drinks chilled,' says Pam. 'It's especially useful when we're entertaining as it holds so much.' The compartment dedicated to wine storage has two independent, digitally controlled zones, which allow Pam to keep red and white wines at their optimum temperatures



Pam and Michael Gallagher's Lancashire home is not all it seems. First impressions suggest that it was built in the 18th century, so it's a surprise to learn that the traditional-style property is actually brand new. 'It was constructed in the footprint of a dilapidated farmhouse that we'd razed to the ground,' says Pam. 'We couldn't use any of the materials or architectural features from the original property as they were in such a poor state, but we were determined to rebuild in the same style.'

Though the look of the new house is in keeping with its predecessor, featuring stone flooring, timber beams and oak doors throughout, some rooms were expanded so they would be more suited to modern family life. The original kitchen was particularly small and dark, so the Gallaghers replaced it with a much larger, more sociable space featuring a light-filled orangery at one end.

When it came to the style of the cabinetry, the couple were eager to enhance the rustic look with traditional furniture, but the colour scheme they opted for is an interesting twist. 'I never thought I'd choose a mauve and pink kitchen,' smiles Pam, 'but when I saw the colours in our kitchen designer's showroom, I had to have them.'

Pam and Michael had first been wowed by Matthew Marsden's work when he'd designed their previous kitchen, and couldn't wait for him to start planning the new one. Matthew was equally enthusiastic. 'The Gallaghers' kitchen-cum-orangery offered me plenty of space to work with and I could get away with using splashes of colour because of the abundance of natural light,' he explains. 'My brief was to create a room that would change and adapt as the day passed, from a working kitchen in the morning to an elegant living space in the evening. All this had to be done in a style befitting the property, while incorporating the latest appliances.'

Matthew's design more than lives up to the Gallaghers' expectations. The chunky cabinetry is suitably rustic, yet sits happily next to modern stainless-steel elements such as the Sub-Zero fridge freezer and wine cooler. 'I couldn't resist the traditional cream Aga though,' says Pam. 'It's a must for any farmhouse kitchen and if you're used to cooking with one, as I am, nothing else will do.'

Guests have a choice of places to sit while Pam prepares dinner. Many opt for the orangery with its inviting armchairs, but for those who like to be at the centre of the action there are semi-circular breakfast bars situated at each end of the island. 'This room is perfect for entertaining,' smiles Pam, 'and Matthew hasn't had to compromise the look of the scheme in order to accommodate its practical features. I have the gadgets I need, such as an ice maker and a dishwasher, yet we've still managed to inject plenty of traditional character into our cosy new kitchen.'



'I couldn't resist the cream Aga — it's a must for any farmhouse kitchen'



THE KITCHEN FILE

DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Matthew Marsden at **Matthew Marsden Furniture**, 28 Liverpool Road, Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire PR1 0DQ (01772 744165)
- Bespoke hand-painted tulipwood furniture

WORKTOPS

- Beige Speckle Qstone (UK), Cheshire Marble Industries. Price per sq m including cutting and finishing **£410**
- Nero Absoluto granite, Cheshire Marble Industries. Price per sq m including cutting and finishing **£420**

SINKS & TAPS

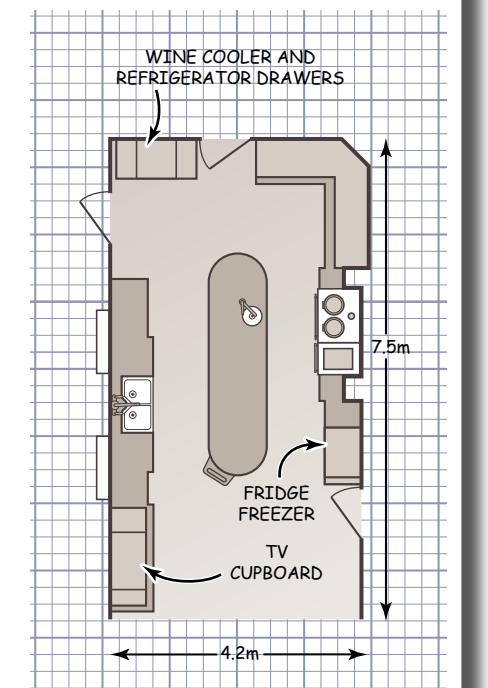
- Classic 800 single-bowl Belfast sink in Biscuit, Shaws of Darwen **£374**
- Ceramic round single-bowl sink in Biscuit, Shaws of Darwen **£176**
- 4193PF Ionian mixer tap in pewter with porcelain lever handles, Perrin & Rowe **£406**
- 4866PF Oberon C-spout mixer tap with rinse in pewter, Perrin & Rowe **£356**
- ISE55 waste disposal unit, In-Sink-Erator **£154**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- Four-oven gas Aga **£7,500**
- 650 fridge freezer with internal ice maker in stainless steel, Sub-Zero **£7,696**
- 427R wine cooler with fridge drawers in stainless steel, Sub-Zero **£7,760**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated dishwasher, Neff **£564**



GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a Matthew Marsden Furniture kitchen **£20,000**



Behind the homely four-oven Aga is a tiled splashback that was created using designs from Marlborough Tiles' Contemporary Classics range. For decorative gold letters similar to those resting on the mantel try Emily Readett-Bayley. Pam found the elegant black and chrome bar chairs on eBay

A rustic ceramic sink complements the creamy quartz composite worktop that surrounds it. The couple chose a model with one large single bowl to ensure there is enough space to soak crockery that won't fit inside the dishwasher. The units beneath are painted in Craig & Rose's Mackintosh Mauve

Pam has used Laura Ashley's Erin fabric to create the Roman blinds above the kitchen sink and to cover the orangery's tall shutters, which has strengthened the link between the two areas. The material also coordinates with the tall dresser painted in Craig & Rose's Venetian Red. Matthew built this piece of furniture specifically to fit snugly around the wooden beam above



There's copious storage for food and kitchenware in the heart of the room, so Pam and Michael have mounted a television inside the tall dresser cabinet that stands between the island and the sitting area. The remaining cupboards and drawers house a music system, a DVD player, CDs and DVDs



My favourite design element is the pink-painted dresser. The name of our house has been carved across the top, which is a lovely personal finishing touch

Pam Gallagher (left) with daughter Hannah



Where to buy Aga 0845 712 5207 Cheshire Marble Industries 0161 926 8775 Craig & Rose 0870 600 1829 eBay www.ebay.co.uk Emily Readett-Bayley 01400 281563 In-Sink-Erator 0800 389 3715 Laura Ashley 0871 230 2301 Marlborough Tiles 01672 512422 Neff 0870 513 3090 Perrin & Rowe 01708 526361 Qstone (UK) 01909 731647 Shaws of Darwen 01254 775111 Sub-Zero 020 8418 3800