

## £16,116 MAKEOVER

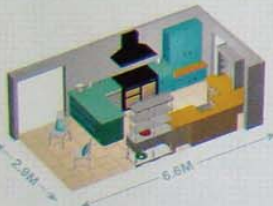


### PROBLEM

After moving into a new home in Blackfield, New Forest, Suzi and Peter Curtis felt their kitchen was boxy and narrow and didn't offer the light or space they craved.

### SOLUTION

Knock down the arch between the kitchen and breakfast room, swap the layout round and put in bi-folding doors to the garden.



### COST

Limestone tiles in Antique Marble, £42 per m<sup>2</sup> (total, £5,000 including laying), Granite, Marble & Stone. **Matt emulsion** in Tallow, £23.99 for 2.5L; Farrow & Ball. **Matt emulsion** in Alpine, £16.99 for 2.5L; Dulux. **Kitchen units, sink and beech worktop**, £6,650, Furlong New Forest Furniture. **Tap** by Perrin & Rowe, £200, John Lewis. **Handles**, £3 each (total, £69), PC Building Supplies. **Glass worktop**, £1,590, Glass Express. **Oven**, £1,074; **cooker hood**, £251, both Flangemaster. **Splashback**, £450, Fine Art Tiles. **Dresser**, £200; **chairs**, £75 each (total, £150), both Forever England. **Curtains** in Bellini Plain Hot Pink, £24 per m (total, £360), Voyage fabrics. **Kettle**, £29.98, Amaroni. **Storage jars**, £10 each (total, £20); **scales**, £25, both Typhoon Europe. **Tea towels**, £5 for two, Tesco.

**TOTAL £16,116.36**

PLAN BY PERSOVALD



Suzi has the light, open space she dreamed of, finished with feminine accessories that enhance the retro '20s theme.



Above and below Suzi strapped up the dresser from a local shop to display her china collection. The colours work well with her painted blue worktop.



# Pretty kitchen

Suzi and Peter Curtis broke away from their rigid layout to create a personal space with a pastel vintage feel

Words and styling Tamsin Weston Photography Colin Poole

“When we moved into our new home, the poky kitchen just wasn't what I wanted as I like to be able to work and see the garden at the same time. We immediately saw the potential to create a more social, open-plan space as both the kitchen and adjoining breakfast room had windows overlooking our south-facing garden. So we called in a surveyor and made a plan.

We decided to install bi-folding doors along the back of the house to replace the windows and to remove the arch between the two areas. The plan then was to swap

the layout round, placing the units towards the back of the space where the arched breakfast room was, and create a casual seating area at the other end by the new garden doors. To the right of that we knocked down the wall through to the adjoining dining room to open it all out.

### Made to measure

Choosing a kitchen was difficult – most of the companies we visited gave us very rigid designs and set plans. In the cottage I lived in as a child, my grandmother had an Aga, a butler's sink and a table that we

could all sit around, so that was a big inspiration. I wanted to create that same homey feel in this house.

It was our builder who suggested having a kitchen made and recommended a bespoke furniture-maker who's fairly local. I thought it would be too pricey, but we went to look at one he'd just fitted and loved it. Made of solid wood, I could have it painted any colour I wanted and design the layout myself to meet our needs. What really took us by surprise was that it actually worked out cheaper than any of the kitchen companies I had approached.

TURN TO GET THE LOOK →



The hot-pink curtains make a real focal point of the doors leading out to the couple's garden

It was quite a daunting task taking the measurements ourselves, but we found it really helpful to draw it out on the floor first to see how the space would work.

#### Finding a theme

We chose duck-egg blue and cream for the units. I found a company that paints the surface of glass worktops and chose a lovely turquoise on the main island return and along the stove area. But the pièce de résistance for me is the splashback. I love the art deco and art nouveau eras and thought it would be fun to bring this into the kitchen. I saw an advert for a company that makes handpainted glass and ceramic tiles and chose a '20s Parisian scene by a French artist. Finally the pink touches were added after I casually placed a pink bowl on the worktop and thought it looked great. I then chose a hot-pink silk fabric for the curtains by Voyage Fabrics.

I'm thrilled to bits with the kitchen – it's so light and spacious and full of sunshine. The room is now ideal for entertaining in as I can cook while our guests sit and chat. We can all congregate here, and there's still plenty of space. **EH**

For stocklists **EH** see page 108



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### GREAT IDEAS

#### 1 Heart of glass

A glass windowsill makes a lovely feature and is easy to wipe down and keep clean. If a sheet of glass seems extreme, opt for glass tiles from B&O ([www.diy.com](http://www.diy.com)) or Original Style ([www.originalstyle.com](http://www.originalstyle.com)).

#### 2 All in the handling

Although handles tend to be standard with most kitchens, don't be afraid to find your own to make the units feel more unique.

#### 3 Splash out on art

Commissioning one-off pieces of art can add real individuality. If a mural is too bold, try painted tiles from companies such as Welbeck Tiles ([www.welbeck-tiles.co.uk](http://www.welbeck-tiles.co.uk)).



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real solutions



£25

Jiangsu crackle Lazy Susan, £25, The Pier  
0845 603 1234 [www.pier.co.uk](http://www.pier.co.uk)



£20

Waves cushion in Blush, £20, John Lewis  
0845 504 3049  
[www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com)

## Get the look!

Plenty of accessories in soft tones add extra charm to a light and bright kitchen



£3.99

Lykta table lamp in Blue-grey, £3.99, Ikea  
0845 355 1141 [www.ikea.co.uk](http://www.ikea.co.uk)



£7.50

Potted phalaenopsis in Pink, £7.50, The Pier  
0845 603 1234  
[www.pier.co.uk](http://www.pier.co.uk)

From £15

Green vases, from £15 each, Debenhams  
0844 561 6161  
[www.debenhams.com](http://www.debenhams.com)

£699

Loire two-door glazed dresser, £699, Marks & Spencer  
0845 302 1234  
[www.marksandspencer.com](http://www.marksandspencer.com)