

MY KITCHEN COLOUR SCHEME WAS inspired by my wardrobe!

Forest green cupboards, soothing pink walls and a waterfall breakfast bar turned **Cara Martin's** disjointed room into an inviting space for everyone



'We love the quality of the Homebase cupboards and opted not to have the angled cornice along the top to have a more streamlined look,' says Cara

TOTAL
£13,585



'Forest green doors pack a punch and light pink walls brighten up the room,' says Cara. 'I saw the white waterfall worktop and thought the continuity of the design looked beautiful and high end'

The room feels like a proper multifunctional family space now



About me

I'm Cara Martin, a speech and language therapist. I live here with my husband, Rik, a buyer for an electrical company, and our son, 11. Our detached, four-bed home in Antrim was built in the late 1990s and we moved here in April 2021. I share more on Instagram @yellowbrickcourt.

BEFORE



My problem kitchen

Cream cupboards and white tiles were too plain. The beige tiled floor didn't match the wood in the living area and dining room, and the L-shape layout lacked flow. I wasn't keen on the hob being at an angle in the corner or the storage finishing by the utility room door.

How I made it work

Streamlining the layout and adding a breakfast bar makes the kitchen look like it

has always been like this. Soft pink walls work in harmony with the dark green cupboards because the light tone doesn't compete, while a white worktop brightens the palette a touch further.

My favourite part

I'm not a fan of conventional cooker hoods and we solved the problem with a brass cover we had made, which I absolutely love.

As soon as we viewed this four-bedroom house with two living rooms, I could see us living here. There was no need to extend or knock down any walls because there was already an L-shape kitchen-dining-living room at the back of the house. This meant we had social space and could also be doing different activities at the same time. I've always liked a green and pink colour combo, including in fashion, and I was inspired by a top I'd recently bought to choose forest green cupboards and light pink walls. As our kitchen looks onto the back garden, which is filled with shrubs, greenery and mature trees, I knew the scheme would really connect with outside too.

I found exactly the kitchen I wanted at Homebase, which worked with our budget. Rik and I took out the old kitchen but when we began taking the tiles off the walls, we discovered another layer underneath – and the same thing happened with the floor tiles. We had to hire a handheld industrial drill to speed things along because the trades were lined up to start. In the end, the carcasses were fitted before we'd plastered the walls, which wasn't ideal, but luckily my uncle is a plasterer so he did it for us.

For cohesion, we took the colour palette through to the dining area. We also laid real wood in the kitchen and, to match it with the existing wood planks, a professional sanded and stained the whole floor. I love the breakfast bar – I've always wanted a waterfall worktop. My son does his homework while I'm cooking, and we enjoy eating and hanging out there together as a family. We love it all!



'The washable rug frames the dining table and softens the space,' says Cara. 'The pattern picks out the pink on the walls, painted in Calamine by Farrow & Ball, along with the chairs and pendant light'



'My two-seater Ercol sofa is perfect here because it doesn't overfill the space,' says Cara. 'It's a nice place to relax with a coffee at the weekend or chat while one of us is cooking'

My shopping list

For similar, try Artemisia **kitchen** in Dark Green, from £2,470 for 8 units, B&Q. For similar, try GoodHome Granna natural wood effect pine **solid wood flooring**, £35 per sq m, B&Q. White Attica quartz **worktop**, POA, Project Marble. For similar, try 3-in-1 **hot water tap** in Brushed Brass, £579, Verana. For similar, try Reginox Amsterdam 50 single bowl granite composite undermount **kitchen sink & waste kit** in Pure White, £179.99, Tap Warehouse. Brass **cooker hood cover**, POA, Halman Thompson. **Wood shelves**, £136 for 4, UrbanReclamationCo.etsy.com. Sky 3-light **bar pendant**, £53.99, Online Lighting. For similar, try Elm Home solid hard wood Gold metal **bar stools**, £69.99 each, Robert Dyas.

For similar, try Ercol heritage **loveseat** in Dead Matt, £930, Furniture Village. For similar, try Aftas oval **rug**, from £99.99, La Redoute. Kamran Coral **rug**, from £99, Ruggable. For similar, try Boden 4-seater **dining table**, £156; Clara cotton velvet square **cushions** in Dusky Pink, £22 each, both Dunelm. For similar, try Kimberley **pendant** in Copper, £85.69, Tesco.



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Style idea

Cupboards in a classic colour and fuss-free design create a base that can be personalised through styling, and easily updated

Style advice

Three simple tricks to try in your own home

1 Make the most of accessories

Styling with accessories like vases and candles in a variety of pink tones adds warmth and interest, while soft furnishings and textures break up lines and stop the space from looking too cold or too hard. The fluffy pink throw and pendant light pick out the wall colour, while natural textiles in the wood picture frames, jute rugs, woven plant pots and rattan mirrors echo the garden, along with the softness of leafy green plants.

2 Think about function and style

Previously, the kitchen had wall cupboards either side of the window but they made the room feel dark and enclosed, so I decided to put up shelves instead. I could have gone for brass but I wanted a warmer, more natural feel on the walls that complemented the textured furnishings. I found handmade wood shelves from Urban Reclamation on Etsy that came in a choice of sizes and shades of wood stain. I love the look of the rich brown Tudor Oak stain and chunky black brackets against the soft pink wall. They make our high street kitchen look more bespoke, too.

3 Follow your heart

I had my heart set on dark green cupboards, brass details and pink decoration before we moved in. I painted sample pinks on the walls in a range of shades and brands and finally settled on Farrow & Ball's Calamine. I wanted a brass cooker hood but couldn't find one, so Rik made an MDF frame and we found a company to make a brass cover to slot over the top. It really elevates the room.