

RESOURCEFUL SHOPPING

'I saw these chairs in a cafe and liked the pinky-wood tone so much I tracked them down online'



'I just wanted a RELAXING ROOM'

UPLIFTING SCHEME

'Shaker kitchen cupboards are very "me" and the white finish with white worktops, walls and stools makes the room look fresh, rather than old-fashioned'

Buy it
Recreate Donna's look in your home
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A side extension decorated in harmony with the rest of Donna's house has resulted in a comfortable family space

After we moved here 13 years ago, the whole house had to be updated and we knocked through a muddle of small rooms to make a bigger kitchen,' says Donna. 'As time went on, we found that although the kitchen was long, it wasn't wide enough, and it felt like we were on top of each other all of the time. I just wanted a relaxing room where we could all hang out.'

Initially, our planning application to extend the rear was refused because of light issues with neighbours. A different architect suggested we extend three metres to the side. At first I wasn't convinced but making the room square has made a huge difference - we didn't need to go out at the back at all.

The biggest headache was moving the drains. The plumbing was on the outside wall where we were extending, and we wanted the sink and dishwasher on the opposite wall. The quickest route would have been beneath the kitchen floor, but it could have been a nightmare to sort out if there'd been a leak. Instead, we ran them around the outside of the house.

The big idea

The room needed to visually flow with the rest of our house, which is decorated in greys, dusky pinks and florals. The wood cladding was really important, too - I just love this look. I'm a huge fan of Pinterest and while I was looking for ideas, I kept being drawn back to the style of the shaker cupboards I'd had before. This time I wanted them in white for a French-Scandi look.

A friend of mine had bought a shaker kitchen from DIY Kitchens and her fitter said the cupboards were good quality. They were a fraction of the price compared to anywhere else and they >>

COME ON IN!

ABOUT ME I'm Donna Clitheroe, 42, a make-up artist, and I live with my husband, Dan, 47, who is in property lettings, and our children Oscar, 13, and Willy, eight, in a four-bed Victorian villa in Hove, East Sussex. We moved here in 2007.

THE CHALLENGE Our old kitchen was long and narrow with units down one side - when we had a party we got in each other's way. We wanted to extend and update our cream shaker kitchen.

MY WISH LIST A sociable room with enough circulation space to cook, eat and relax, defined by an island, large dining table and sofa.

IDEA TO STEAL

'Charity-shop stools are cheap to buy and easy to revamp with a matt spray paint'

TOTAL
£13,782
TURN OVER FOR MY SHOPPING LIST



BE CREATIVE WITH SPACE

'I opened-up the chimney breast to fit in a range cooker – a white one was quite tricky to find'



FLEXIBLE DINING

'We've got space for a table twice the size as before, which makes entertaining so much more relaxing'

» sent me a number of white kitchen doors so I could choose the exact shade.

I wanted to make the kitchen look and feel like a room. Key was opening up the old fireplace so I could install a white range cooker. I planned a big, sociable island facing into the living area with a comfortable sofa and a long dining table next to the doors. I drew up the floorplan myself and my builder, Dave Bartlett from DB Builders, checked the measurements and then I sent my layout to DIY Kitchens. The cupboards arrived painted and already made and the builders fitted them into the room.

Finishing touches

The all-white kitchen needed softening, and in a house of boys, a bit of a feminine touch! I'm not one for fashion fads so I simply decorated the vintage shelves with candles and glassware, and hung up paintings of flowers found in flea markets and charity shops. The painted white wood cladding has made the room feel really homely – we all love being in here together. This project has been a real luxury to do, and the room feels like it has always been part of our home.'

Find more tips on how to create a light, spacious kitchen extension at idealhome.co.uk



WONDER WALL

'The tongue-and-groove effect has created a really homely feel'

Do it! TONGUE-AND-GROOVE WALL

- 1 Tongue-and-groove panels can transform the look of a wall and are easy to create. For full-height tongue and groove, aim for five battens at even points across the wall, starting with one at floor level and one at ceiling height.
- 2 Make sure the battens are level, then mark the positions on the wall. Mark drill points, then drill the holes, plug and screw in place.
- 3 Starting on the left, fix the first plank in place by nailing a panel pin through the batten. Use a spirit level to check the plank is vertical before fixing to the other battens. Continue fixing the planks across the width.
- 4 Finish with capping at the top and skirting at the bottom.

Why it works



STYLE AT HOME SAYS...

'Donna's dedication to an all-white scheme – even down to the white cooker – ensures this look works'
HOUSES EDITOR Ruth Corbett

FEATURE LANE CRITTENDEN STYLING MARISHA TAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHS JAMES FRENCH



CLEAR VIEW

'Transparent glass bell pendants above the island help to increase the feeling of space here'

'A LOCAL APPLIANCE SHOP AGREED TO PRICE-MATCH WITH PRODUCTS ONLINE AND DELIVERED FOR FREE'

KITCHEN MAKEOVER

Love it

Where to buy Donna's style

Helmsley White shaker units, £3,500, DIY Kitchens. Carrara marble worktop, £3,200, Kitchen Stone Worktop. Rangemaster Elise 110 dual-fuel range cooker is similar, £2,279, discount Appliance Centre. Electra slimline dishwasher, £179; Electra fridge, £199; Beko freezer, £249, all AO.com. Villeroy & Boch double-bowl Belfast sink, £389; TreMercati Little Venice brass tap, £129, both Tap Warehouse. Kronoswiss Grand Selection flooring in oak tan, £14.95sq m. Best at Flooring. Larder fitted with old Dutch barn doors, £240, Back To The Grain. Arundel dining table, £2100, Neptune. Fameg's angled farmhouse chairs, £148 for two, Nisbets. Walls in Dulux Pure Brilliant White matt emulsion, £17 for 2.5lit; try Dafyd Cone Antique copper and smoke wall light, £26, both B&Q. Try Klovian glass pendant light, £12 each; Holmsund corner sofa bed in Grasbo white, £575; Ingolf are similar white stools, £65, all Ikea. Pom Pom fairy lights, £1750, notonthehighstreet.



ZONE LARGE SPACES

'The corner sofa bed was an Ikea bargain, and along with the rug is the right shape to frame the relaxing part of the new room'