

PROJECT
DETAILS

DESIGNER

Lauren Strong,
kitchen designer at
The Main Company
(maincompany.co.uk)

PROPERTY

A four-bedroom
converted 1850s
Victorian workhouse

WORK A complete
kitchen design for
the new property

LOCATION

North Yorkshire

HIGH IMPACT

The success of this kitchen all came down to the choice of units, which are striking but also let the space do the talking

WORDS JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS SNOOK

COLOUR CONTRAST

'Having a pitched ceiling and plenty of natural light allowed me to go darker than usual with the painted cabinetry, which I offset with a light washed oak,' says Lauren.

Washed oak cupboards from the Reena Simon range; bespoke cabinetry painted in Farrow & Ball's Down Pipe, both The Main Company. Verona quartz worktop, CRL Stone. Black converted 1500mm Aga range cooker, The Main Company. Fusion Round Classic tap in Patinated Brass, Quooker

A Victorian workhouse was converted into a house with a barn-style kitchen extension. Lauren Strong was brought in to do the kitchen design for the owners who are a retired couple. 'The room needed to complement the double-height space with timber beams and a wall of glazing,' she says.

1 STYLE INSPIRATION

Lauren began work on the design off plan while the conversion was underway. Taking cues from the architect's modern interpretation of the historical building inspired a contemporary kitchen with elements of the traditional. 'The simplicity of the Scandinavian washed oak cupboards from our Reena Simon range don't compete with the rustic oak features,' she explains. 'While bespoke single bead Shaker cabinetry, painted lead grey, brings in a traditional feel.'

2 LAYOUT SYMMETRY

The 49.7sq m room required the kitchen layout to be appropriately scaled to suit the voluminous space. An island with a sink was placed central to the main wall of glass, prompting a single run of storage and appliances down the long wall. An Aga sits in the middle with matching tall cabinetry at either end. 'I designed the cupboards to finish below the existing high level windows and in line with the beam above doors to the garden,' says Lauren. 'With all our projects, we do our final measurements once the new space has been plastered.'

3 ISLAND FEATURE

Seating arranged in an L-shape around the island is angled to the garden and to interact with those preparing food. The work surface combines a thickset 30mm slab of white quartz to reflect the light with a softened edge of washed oak to match the cabinetry. 'The island measures 3.6m x 1.64m and typically we would advise a break of 1000-1100mm between here and the cupboards,' says Lauren. 'But in this kitchen, we had ample space for a 1200mm gap as well as room for casual sofa seating on the other side.'

4 FINAL DETAILS

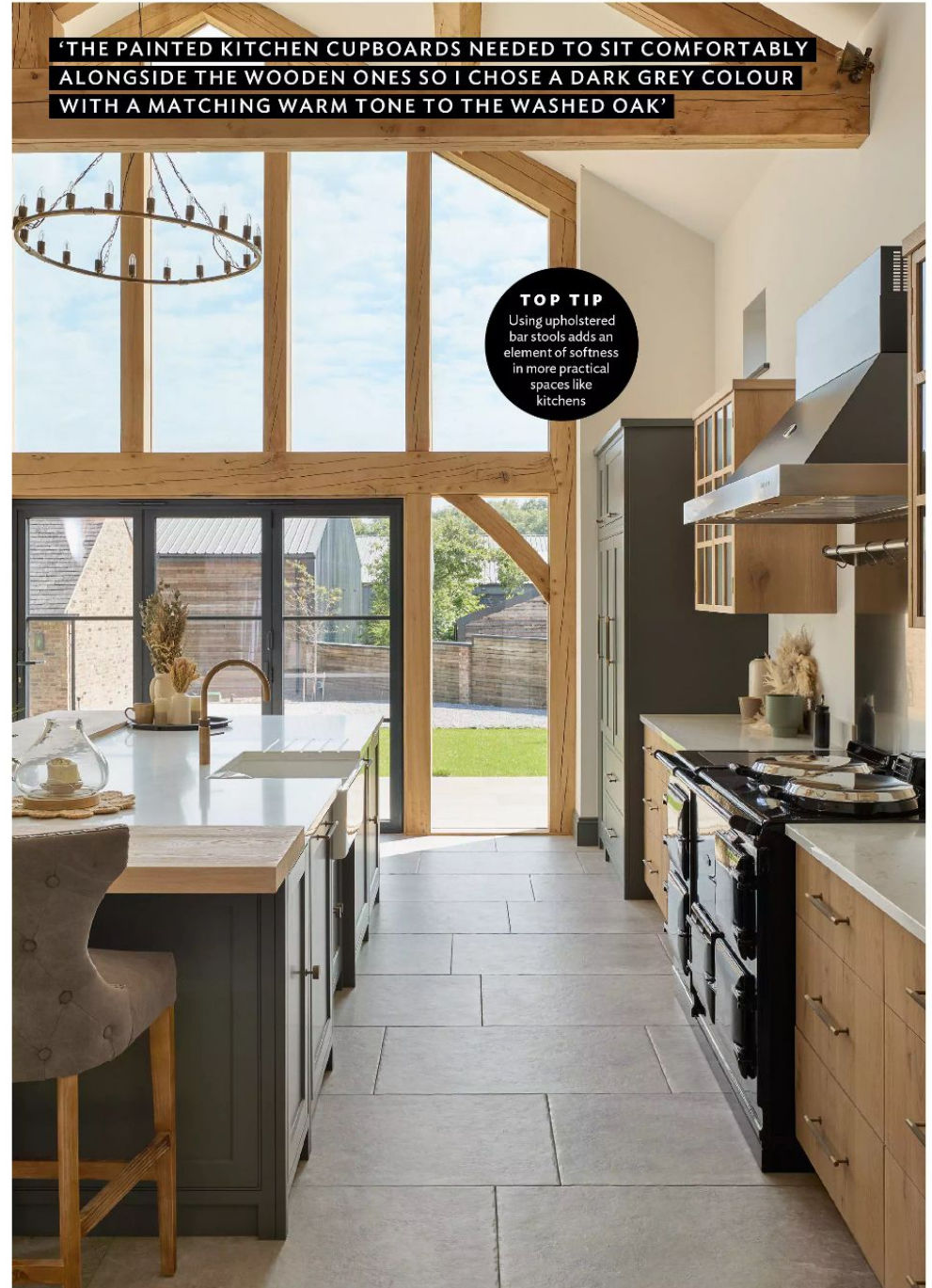
Upholstered grey bar stools and a black Aga nod to the traditional Shaker cabinetry to allow the oak to remain the focus. Gnarled antique brass handles match the patinated brass Quooker tap on the island. 'The balance of Scandi and Shaker aesthetics in the kitchen really complement the drama of the room as you come in -- the owners were blown away.'



ATTENTION TO DETAIL

'Wall cupboards with fluted glass for textured detail repeat on the island to balance the modern with the traditional,' says Lauren. 'The sliding door into the pantry meant we could have pull-out cupboards on the end of the run.'

Glazed washed oak wall cupboards with fluted glass from the Reena Simon range; washed oak worktop; antique brass handles, all The Main Company. Large round rustic chandelier is similar, Light In The Box. Ostuni grey porcelain floor tiles, Mandarin Stone. Washed Oak Stone bar stools, Coach House. Reclaimed silver spruce pantry door, The Main Company



'THE PAINTED KITCHEN CUPBOARDS NEEDED TO SIT COMFORTABLY ALONGSIDE THE WOODEN ONES SO I CHOSE A DARK GREY COLOUR WITH A MATCHING WARM TONE TO THE WASHED OAK'

TOP TIP

Using upholstered bar stools adds an element of softness in more practical spaces like kitchens