



MINT *condition*

Hi-gloss turquoise and sumptuously tactile materials have given the Churchills' Georgian home in Bath a dramatic, contemporary flourish

FEATURE TRACEY WILLIAMS • PHOTOGRAPHY JUSTIN PAUL

When you own a house in one of Bath's most prestigious areas, you really need the interior to go with it. Unfortunately, the one that Karen and Lawrence Churchill inherited in 2007 left much to be desired. 'When we moved in the entire house needed bringing up to date. The kitchen in particular was awful,' remembers Karen. 'The lighting was dreadful and the whole room, including the ceiling, was painted in a deep red colour, which made it incredibly oppressive. Even the appliances had seen better days – we had to use matches to light the hob and the oven, which meant getting down on our hands and knees.'

One of the most important factors in the Churchill's plans was to restore the house as much as possible to its former glory. 'When the property was originally built, the two ground-floor rooms

were linked by an archway to create one large space. At some stage, the arch had been bricked up to create two separate rooms, one of which was the kitchen,' explains Lawrence.

The couple wanted to return the room back to its original layout by removing the wall, but this wasn't as straightforward as it sounds – as the house is Grade I listed it meant that any changes needed permission, not just from the local council but also English Heritage. After numerous visits from both parties and 18 months of designs, discussions and visits, the relevant consents were granted and work started.

From the outset, the couple had a very clear picture of how they felt the kitchen should look. 'We always favoured a modern style, but we also wanted something a bit different and exciting,' Lawrence says. 'In the past, we've always had traditional kitchens ▶

Kitchen FACT FILE

THE OWNERS Karen Churchill, a housewife, and her husband Lawrence, a non-executive company director

THE HOME A six-bedroom Georgian townhouse in Bath

THE CABINETRY Bespoke Mente Brillante Lucido furniture

PRICE GUIDE
£49,000

for a similar Marazzi Design kitchen, cabinetry only



BESPOKE DESIGN

Opening up the original archway has created a breathtaking entrance to the kitchen, with a crescent-shaped island taking centre stage. The archway and large windows opposite limited the positioning of the cabinetry, but an island provided the perfect solution



WHY WE LOVE our kitchen

THE COLOUR The vibrant turquoise shade reminds me of the sea in Cyprus, where we often go on our holidays. Although we were taken with a deeper colour at first, we're very glad we opted for this one in the end.

THE EXTRACTOR We splashed out on great finishing touches, such as the extractor hood – it looks like a sculpture.

THE STYLE In the past, we've had quite traditional kitchens but this time we felt that a classic look would be playing it too safe. We definitely wanted a modern style to mix the old with the new.

CABINETRY

Light bounces off the hi-gloss *Mente Brillante Lucido* turquoise furniture, an effect emphasised by its sleek curves and handleless doors

CLEVER STORAGE

In place of cupboards, deep drawers have been used to make the most of every possible inch of space in the island



HIDDEN GADGETS

Toasters, blenders and other small appliances are concealed in a cupboard, along with power points. A pull-out shelf provides an extra workspace



FRIDGE FREEZERS

The recess of a decorative arch offers the perfect place to site the fridge freezers. The appliances fit neatly into the alcove, so the façades sit almost flush to the rest of the cabinetry



GLASS SURFACE

The stunning Venetian cracked-ice glass breakfast bar makes an eye-catching addition, especially when lit from underneath by blue LED strip lighting. The splashback is in the same material



OPEN-PLAN LIVING

Lawrence says the family room, seen through the arch, works very well with the kitchen. 'As the two rooms are openly linked, the kitchen needed to be as clutter-free as possible,' he explains. Karen agrees: 'The previous layout of the rooms was very separate, so I love it now I'm not isolated in the kitchen when we have guests'



but this time, we felt that a classic look would be too obvious and too safe. Also, it just didn't appeal in the space we now had.'

Having trawled through numerous magazines and visited various showrooms, it was the creative flair of Paul Marazzi at Marazzi Design that caught the couple's eye, so they visited the company's London showroom. Hitting it off with Paul immediately, the couple were delighted to find a designer who not only understood what they wanted, but encouraged them to be bold with their design choices.

This included a semi-circular island, which was inspired by the house's crescent location.

Despite the Churchills' desire for a kitchen that would stand out from the crowd, Karen

and Lawrence were conscious of not opting for style over substance. 'The finished design had to be functional and create a fusion between the working and social spaces, as well as enhancing the elegance of the Georgian architecture,' says Karen. 'With the kitchen linked to the family room through the arch, it was also essential that anything Paul designed should be clutter-free. So we came up with a wish list, which included our crescent-shaped island, and left him to come up with the design.'

In fact, Paul found himself creating two different plans. Lawrence explains: 'An Aga had been part of our lives for the previous 15 years and we couldn't decide whether to have one or not. So we asked Paul to come up with two different designs ▶

GREAT IDEA

Convex base units echo the curves of the island and add a sense of cohesion



ISLAND EXTRACTOR

The sculptural Vortex model creates soft, ambient lighting at night, along with the LEDs elsewhere in the room

SHOP THE LOOK

CABINETRY

■ Bespoke hi-gloss **Mente Brillante Luccio furniture** by Marazzi Design. Price for a similar kitchen, cabinetry only **£49,000**

WORKSURFACES AND SPLASHBACK

■ Avonite Cozumel **solid surface worktop**. Price per linear m **£440**
 ■ Venetian cracked-ice **glass splashback**. Price per linear m **£680**

FLOORING

■ **Sparkle chip LSI tiles**, Marazzi Design. Price per sq m **£55**

APPLIANCES

■ 2 x built-in **single ovens**, Siemens, each **£460**
 ■ Built-in **steam oven**, Siemens **£1,050**
 ■ Freestanding **microwave**, Panasonic **£160**
 ■ Five-zone **induction hob**, Siemens **£1,004**
 ■ Double island **extractor hood** in stainless steel, Vortex **£2,880**
 ■ 2 x built-in **warming drawers**, Siemens, each **£441**
 ■ Built-in **coffee machine**, Siemens **£1,452**
 ■ Integrated **fridge freezer**, Liebherr **£1,292**
 ■ Integrated **fridge freezer**, Liebherr **£1,390**
 ■ Integrated **wine cooler**, Siemens **£3,428**
 ■ 2 x fully integrated DishDrawer **dishwasher**, Fisher & Paykel, each **£1,120**

SINKS AND TAPS

■ 2 x single-bowl Avonite Cozumel **sinks**, as integral part of worktop, each **£460**
 ■ Morpho single-lever monobloc **mixer tap** in chrome, Newform **£649**
 ■ D-Rect single-lever monobloc **mixer tap** in chrome with separate spray, Newform **£594**
 ■ Hydrotap **hot and chilled filtered water tap** in chrome, Zip Heaters **£2,218**

FINISHING TOUCHES

■ Montana **bar stools**, Atlantic Shopping, each **£69.50**
 ■ 2 x Dar Excelsior **13-light pendant**, Lights 4 Living, each **£1,395**

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– one with an Aga and one without, just to see if it could work.' In the end, the couple decided to forego the Aga and opted instead for a bank of built-in appliances, which just left the question of the colour scheme.

Returning to her collection of magazine cuttings and swatches, Karen pulled out a vibrant turquoise shade that had caught her eye. 'I'd kept the cutting, purely because I love the colour,' she says. 'Now, I'm so glad I did. It works perfectly.'

From the hi-gloss of the cabinetry to the walls, worksurfaces and floor, everything has been carefully chosen to

counteract the original kitchen's gloomy oppressiveness. The result is a room filled with light and space in a scheme that manages to marry successfully the best of contemporary design with the Georgian surroundings, accentuating all the original features. 'It just all worked out incredibly easily and naturally

in the end,' concludes Lawrence. 'Everything went to plan, which was great, and the kitchen looks even better than we had anticipated it would. We're delighted with the overall result. It works on every level and now it's a real pleasure to spend time in here.' □

