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A Roundhouse design in Farrow & Ball's Railings is a contemporary take on the Shaker-style kitchen. See page 24.
PICTURE DARREN CHUNG









f all the properties Laura Butler-Madden and her husband Patrick have developed together over the past seven years, this space was the most challenging. 'It's a huge area that would have been used as stables for the horses when the property was first built back in the 1880s,' explains Laura. 'It's 16 metres by six metres wide and four-and-a-half metres high, so we were worried it wouldn't be quite cosy enough and would feel too big.'

Originally the carriage house for the stately home which burned down in the 1960s, the building in the Dorset countryside had been turned into three separate dwellings. 'The huge space where the kitchen is now would have been used as a 'Christmas room', maybe once a year. It had sofas and a piano but not much else,' explains Laura. The couple set about restoring the building into one single home, and turning the huge neglected area into a multi-functional open-plan space they could use all year round. 'Many features we didn't change at all,' says Laura. 'The long block of windows was already there, for example, but we did add French windows on the other side and a round window to match. We wanted to let more light in and make the most of the wonderful views at the back.'

Although the period building was brimming with potential, there was a lot of work to do. 'It hadn't been done up since the 1970s,' says Laura. 'The walls were a dark sludgy green and it was very tired.' The challenge was to create a cosy atmosphere within the large room, while also giving it a fresher, lighter lease of life. Laura and Patrick were in a unique position as the building offered character without the need to sensitively preserve any period features. 'It's not a classic farmhouse or a Georgian rectory, so we could do the house in a slightly different way, she explains. We could add pieces you might not expect to see in a house in the middle of the countryside. We chose the dark cabinetry and marble to avoid the country kitchen look.'

Did the risk pay off? I think people are surprised when they come into the room because there are so many things to look at. It feels unusual for a country house. It's just what we wanted - comfortable and friendly but with a bit of wow factor!' *CKBB* 



# ESSENTIAL kitchens













# HIDDEN KITCHEN

Above It's not instantly obvious that the room houses a kitchen when you look down towards it from the seating area. The units appear like separate pieces of furniture to blend the boundaries between kitchen and living space

ALL THE RANGE
Right In such a large area it was always
going to be an Aga or a big range cooker
that filled the space and made the kitchen feel homely and lived in. It brings warmth, character and country style to the kitchen



ALLISON LYNCH DESIGNER, ROUNDHOUSE

What was the client brief for the space? The client wanted a kitchen that didn't look like a standard built-in kitchen. The island has space for cookery books on two sides to give it a less formal, more furniture-like feel, which helps to blur the lines between the

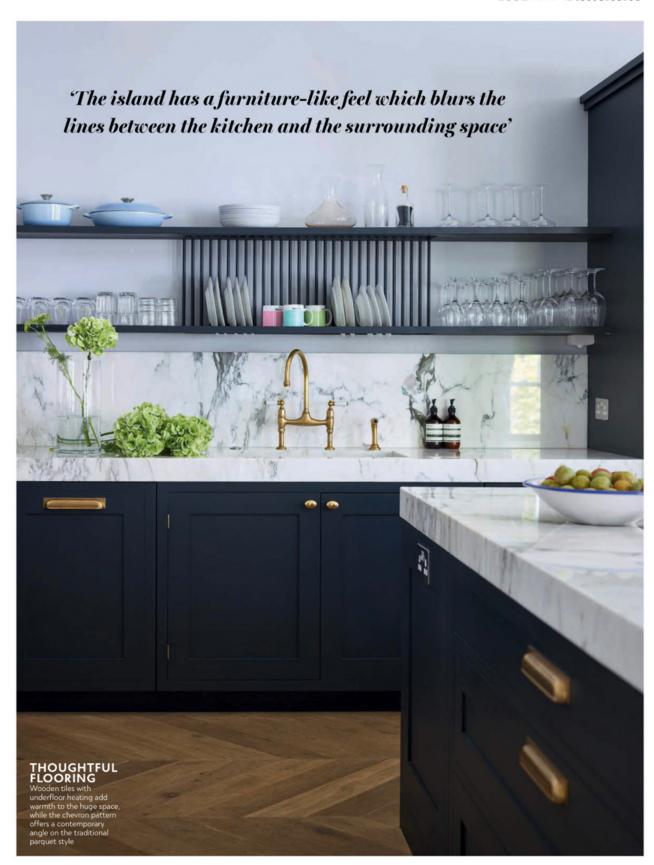
kitchen and surrounding space.

Are there any clever storage features within the cabinetry? The bespoke storage is carefully planned and behind the sleek façade, the interiors of the cabinets house everything from 'magic corners', which utilise otherwise dead space, to pan drawers, bin cabinets and a single door larder with spice racks.

How did you achieve a

modern take on the more traditional farmhouse kitchen? The units are a contemporary Shaker-style. This kitchen features Roundhouse hand-painted Classic and Metro cabinetry in Farrow & Ball's Railings. The burnished brass cup handles, hinges, knobs and painted limed oak drawer boxes also offer some lovely details.







# ROOM WITH A VIEW

Above Laura and Patrick added French doors to the room to emphasise the beautiful views and let more light in

## UTLITY CHIC

Right Just underneath the mezzanine level is a door into a separate utility room, featuring statement gold wallpaper and traditional white cabinetry from deVOL



### **FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS**

Cabinetry: Metro & Classic cabinetry hand-painted in Farrow & Ball Railings, from Roundhouse. Worktops and splashbacks: Stone from MGLW in Wandsworth fitted by MG Granite, from £8,000. Marmorea in Battersea flooring, £80 per sq. m. Lighting: Sputnik Chandelier, POA; Frizt Fryer pendants from £180 each, all Marmormea in Battersea. Midas bar stool, £125, Rockett St George. Danish Designs Wishbone chair, £139, Cult Furniture. Crumpet sofa, from £1,295, Loaf. Artwork is a private commission by Kristin Gaudio Endsley, circa £1,000, kristingaudioendsley.com.

INTERIOR DESIGN: Self designed by Laura Butler-Madden, Ibmdesignstudio.com. Her blog is laurabutlermadden.com

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 154

