

KITCHENCORNER

# The past revisited

Jenny and Tim renovated their dated kitchen and turned it into an elegant living space fit for all the family.

When Jenny decided to move back to the Surrey village she was brought up in, it was her mother who came up with the notion that she and her family should consider buying Jenny's childhood home. "My mother suggested this house after my father had passed away as it was far bigger than our property in London," Jenny explains. She admits that her mother had originally installed the kitchen in the 60s, so it was desperately in need of some TLC. "When Mum designed her kitchen it was state of the art but, with four children, we needed plenty of space and were looking for something more up-to-date."

Although the family initially moved in 13 years ago, most of the work has been done more recently, as Jenny points out, it is quite hard to be very ruthless about changes when mum is still living in the village. First, a coal bunker and an internal air-raid shelter were removed to free up more space to fit in a large utility area which the family used as a temporary kitchen whilst the next phase of work went ahead with the help of Jenny's trusted architect, Martin Johnson. She explains: "Our main aim was to have a family kitchen area which could be used for a variety of activities." When it came to style, the



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## FOCUS ON: creating a pretty window display

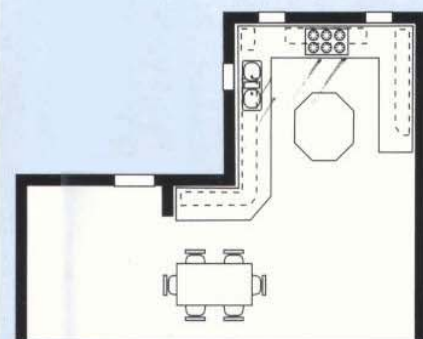
- Roman blinds are key to keeping this space looking neat and, if they overlook a sink, are easier to keep free from inevitable water splashes. Hillarys provide an extensive range of made-to-measure blinds. Tel: 0800 9166524 or visit [www.hillarys.co.uk](http://www.hillarys.co.uk)
- When choosing fabric for your windows, if your cabinetry is plain like Jenny's, opt for a floral design to brighten up the room. John Lewis offer some exquisite materials if you prefer to make your own. Tel: 0845 604 9049 or visit [www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com)
- Once you have chosen your fabric, opt for trimming like Jenny has done for a finishing touch to your window blinds.
- Buy an elegant clear vase and fill with a spray of flowers which you have carefully matched to your blind fabric for a co-ordinated look. Marks & Spencer sell a beautiful range of vases and flowers. Tel: 0845 603 1603 or visit [www.marksandspencer.com](http://www.marksandspencer.com)

### INSIDE INFO:

Who lives here? Jennifer, a resource ecologist, and Tim May, a coal broker and their four children, Emily, 17, George, 15, Jamie, 14, Hazel, 8, and Dilly, a 12-year-old fell terrier.

Where is the house situated? The property was originally built around 1900 and is located on the Surrey/Sussex border.

### FLOOR PLAN:



couple chose classic wood cupboards, with beautiful antique bronze knobs and cub handles, hand-painted in cream to match the walls using Farrow & Ball's New White. Jenny opted for black granite-topped worksurfaces in Angola Gold for the 'homely but smart' look she was after, while the sturdy European oak floor was delivered from a saw mill in Kent and laid by the builder's joiner. Meanwhile, a local cabinet maker, Graham Clifton, made the painted cupboards

and a built-in oak dresser which separated the living space from the working area of the kitchen. And, with a family of six, cooking is a priority so Jenny chose an elegant Falcon range to give her the capacity and versatility needed to cook for everyone. They also extended the area by two metres to create a large airy bay which helps make the kitchen light as well as spacious. Roman blinds, rather than curtains, in complementary colours >>

**Far left** Oak has been used for the dresser to help differentiate the living area from the working area of the kitchen and its cream cabinets.

**Above left** Jenny's spacious kitchen, with its painted wooden units and beautiful oak flooring, has been architect designed to provide for family living.

**Above** Jenny simply adores her new light and airy kitchen which provides the perfect place for family and friends to gather.