

# 'It's a lovely, sociable space'

The Lawrences made a traditional look work in a very modern layout – and so could you

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

**T**asmanian-born Jo Lawrence spent her twenties in Melbourne and then Perth, where she loved hanging out with friends at their homes in the countryside. 'The properties had enormous kitchens and I loved that everyone gathered around a big stove,' she explains. 'I'm quite sentimental, so those happy times have stayed with me.'

Jo got her chance to create her own country kitchen when she and her husband Mark bought their first house in Surrey in 2011. The galley kitchen had dated cupboards and pine cladding on the ceiling, but it was usable, so they saved up before starting a revamp. The couple decided to create a kitchen-diner by knocking through to the adjoining living room and building a double-storey side extension. 'We assumed we'd fit the kitchen in the area where the galley kitchen had been, but our architectural designer, Rob Beer from 3eleven, suggested switching it to the back of the new room, which would make space for a laundry area, too.'

Jo had very clear ideas about what style of kitchen she wanted: 'I've been compiling a scrapbook of pictures for several years, but this was the first time I was able to put it all into practice,' says Jo. 'Open-plan living is the way in Australia, so we wanted to make sure the space had plenty of light and bifold doors to the garden. It's a great feeling to finally have my own country kitchen within a lovely, sociable space.'



**Rustic sink**  
The Belfast sink stands on a piece of quartz mounted onto the cupboard below, giving the impression of being freestanding



## Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

### THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom detached Edwardian house in Reigate, Surrey, bought in February 2011.

### WHAT IT COST

Units.....£12,211  
Handles and knobs.....£272  
Worktop.....£5,112  
Sink and tap.....£430  
Appliances.....£9,899  
Floor tiles.....  
(including patio).....£1,050

Splashback.....£50  
**TOTAL.....£29,024**

### WHO LIVES HERE

Jo and Mark Lawrence, and their eight-month-old daughter Sophie.

### WHAT THEY DID

The couple knocked down the wall between the original galley kitchen and adjoining living room, and added a double-storey side extension

to create one big kitchen-diner. The old dining room became their living room.

### THE LOOK

Traditional farmhouse, with grey-painted Shaker-style doors, a range cooker, stone-effect flooring and marble-style worktops.

### LESSONS LEARNED

“Starting a scrapbook years ago has paid off, as it was clear I wanted a country look. But it was just as important to find a good kitchen designer.”

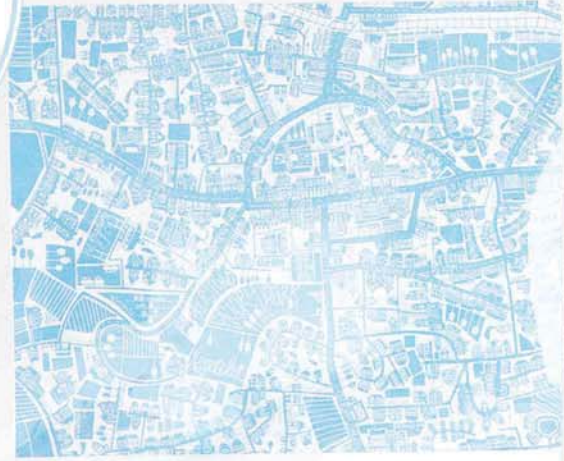


**THE LAYOUT** The base units are arranged in a square, with the range on one side and the sink on the other. The fridge-freezer is next to the door to the laundry area. Beyond the kitchen is a dining and seating area



Love their  
**STYLE?**

THE SHAKER UNITS IN EARL GREY ARE FROM JOHN LEWIS OF HUNGERFORD [£££](#). FOR SIMILAR, TRY HOWDENS JOINERY'S TEWKESBURY SKYE [£](#) OR MAGNET'S SOMERTON FERN [££](#)



**Gathering place**

'I love cooking and we're big on entertaining, so I'm really pleased with how our new kitchen has turned out,' says Jo

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW  
the Lawrences created their new kitchen





### Linked spaces

'We went for a ceramic floor tile that looks like limestone,' says Jo. 'It's really hard-wearing and we've also used it outside, so when the doors are open there is a sense of continuity'

### Where to buy ITEMS SHOWN

Classic Shaker **units** painted in Earl Grey satin eggshell, around £567 for a 600mm **unit**; JLH traditional **knobs** in pewter, £11 each; JLH cup **handles** in pewter-plated brass, £12 each; Artisan quartz **worktop**, £5,112; ceramic single-bowl **Belfast sink** with Abode **tap**, £430; all John Lewis of Hungerford. **Aga** Total Control, £9,000, Blades Heating. For a similar **microwave**, try the NNST479SB, £160, Panasonic range; for a similar **fridge-freezer**, try the RF540ADUSX4 Goliath, £1,999, Fisher & Paykel range, both Currys. Large ceramic **floor and patio tiles**, £35 per sq m; white brick-tile **splashback**, £50; both The Extra Special Tile Company. For a similar **table**, try the reclaimed pine (W91.5cm x L122cm), £390, Farmhouse Kitchen Tables. For similar **chairs**, try the Maison rattan cross-back in Antique White, £120 each, Occa-Home. For similar **pendants**, try the Industrial, £105 each, Idyll Home. For a similar corner **sofa**, try the Bluebell chaise, from £1,795, Sofa.com. For a similar **print**, try the city map print, £45, Bodie and Fou

## How we did it



“It was difficult to find a good kitchen company. The first one just didn't understand my dream of a mantel above a range cooker, saying it would be too crowded. It felt like a disaster as I was pregnant with my daughter Sophie and my due date was only a few months away. One of my colleagues recommended John Lewis of Hungerford in Fulham and Tanya Rossiter there was fantastic. She was really practical and thought of everything, from big drawers for the Aga pans, to a place to put our keys. Richard and Ziki, our builders from Taylor Property Services, started in June 2012 and finished at the end of September. I went into labour while they were still here! We spent about £70,000 on the whole house renovations, including the patio.”



### Practical finishes

Jo chose easy-to-clean painted units and quartz worktops. 'We wanted marble, but it stains too easily,' she says

FOR DETAILS TURN TO  
OUR SHOPPING  
DIRECTORY