

**Kitchen  
FACT FILE**

**THE FAMILY** Hannah and Simon Fowler. Hannah is an artist and Simon is a land agent. They live with their daughters, Rosie, seven, and Isabella, five, plus Mabel the Jack Russell  
**THE HOME** A detached seven-bedroom stone house in Wiltshire, built in the early 1900s  
**THE CABINETRY** Bespoke hand-painted MDF furniture from the New Shaker range by Guild Anderson

**PRICE GUIDE**  
**£14,500**

for a similar Guild Anderson kitchen, cabinetry only



**A**s a land agent working on a large country estate, one of the perks of Simon Fowler's job is being able to rent one of its properties. Not only does this make the morning commute far more pleasurable, it also means that he and his wife Hannah, together with their daughters Rosie and Isabella, have the opportunity to live in a stunning home with breathtaking views, plus plenty of peace and quiet.

However, life wasn't always so tranquil. 'The estate office used to take up half the house,' recalls Hannah. 'I can remember walking through the sitting room door straight into the office. It's all changed now and it's nice to have it to ourselves, though the gamekeeper still uses a small area at one end of the property.'

**TWEAKING THE LAYOUT**

Removing the office space from the equation meant that the house finally felt like home, and Hannah and Simon turned their attention to updating the kitchen. 'The boiler took up too much space and the room always felt cramped and messy,' says Hannah. Keen to create more space without adding an extension, Hannah and Simon decided that the best solution was to relocate the boiler to a shed at the back of ►

# Pure & SIMPLE

*Painted Shaker units are a timeless addition to the Fowlers' country estate kitchen*

**FEATURE** HAYLEY GILBERT • **PHOTOGRAPHY** COLIN POOLE



*'A lot of our **BUDGET** went on employing Guild Anderson, but it was money **WELL SPENT** because it saved us so much **TIME** and **STRESS**'*

**BESPOKE CABINETRY**

Hannah and Simon's in-frame, Shaker-style furniture has been painted in Pigeon and Lime White, both by Farrow & Ball. A mix of knobs and cup handles adds variety

## Advice from the OWNERS

**DO** think about moving out while your kitchen is refurbished, especially if you're having building work carried out as well. Or do it in the summer when you can cook and eat outside.

**DON'T** underestimate how much time the project will take. Always be prepared for it to take longer than you think. It's worth it, though, as you'll have a wonderful new kitchen at the end.

**DO** use your imagination when creating the finishing touches. We saved money when we found the old pew in my mum's barn and the table was already here when we moved in, so we simply sanded it down.

### TRADITIONAL COOKING

The two-oven, oil-fired Aga was already in the property when the couple moved in, so Hannah had it reconditioned by O'Briens Cookers. Fired Earth's Valencia glazed tiles in Opal form a smart splashback.

### SMART STORAGE

A spacious larder to the left of the Aga has solid oak internals and door-mounted shelving to maximise the available space.

the house and position the cabinets away from the window. This opened up the room and gave a much better view of the garden and lake outside. Blocking up one of two doors in the kitchen also freed up a handy spot that was earmarked for the fridge.

### TRUSTED DESIGNER

With the basic layout decided on, Hannah and Simon knew instantly who should design their cabinetry. Guild Anderson was already a regular on the estate, making bespoke units for the converted dairies. 'We've always hankered after its furniture,' says Hannah. 'Designer Nick Anderson and his team are lovely and Simon was already familiar with the company. We did worry about spending a lot of money because this is not our house per se, but we're hoping to be here for many years, so we thought we might as well have exactly what we want.'

### CLASSIC CHOICES

The couple opted for bespoke Shaker units painted in a cream and green/blue shades, the inspiration for which came from a Vanessa Arbuthnott fabric Hannah chose for the blinds. 'I picked that first and then matched the units to it,' she explains. 'I knew

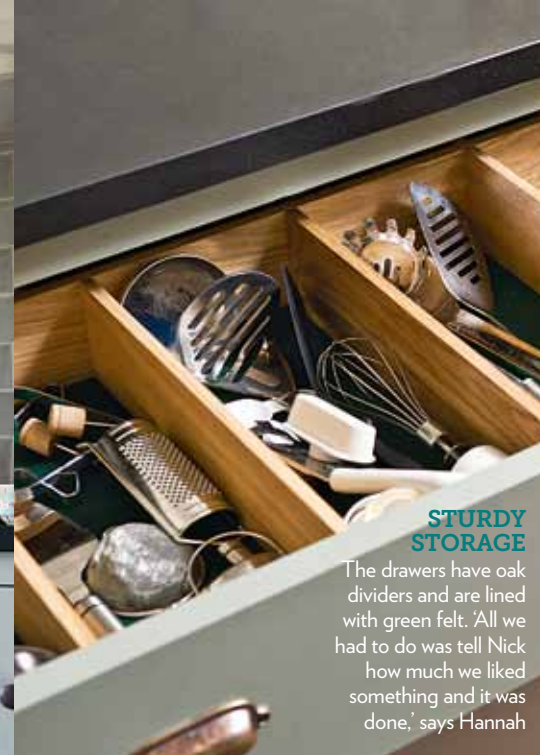
I wanted blue cabinets to contrast with the terracotta flooring, and it works perfectly. In daylight the base units look blue but during the evenings they appear green.'

Hannah and Simon's only requirements were to have a run of worktop along one wall, for the sink not to be positioned under the window, and to incorporate the existing Aga into the scheme – the rest was up to designer Nick. 'He paid a lot of attention to the finer details,' explains Hannah. 'He decided where to position everything in the room, their dimensions, the finish, even how much clearance to put between the cupboard shelves – cereal boxes fit perfectly because Nick designed them that way.'

### FIVE-STAR SERVICE

The Fowlers are thrilled with their kitchen and agree that Guild Anderson's customer care made the upheaval worthwhile. 'Sometimes you wonder if designers will try something too clever or be too pushy, but Nick wasn't like that,' smiles Hannah. 'He listened, was easy to chat to and time didn't seem to be a problem at all. We've retained the key elements of a working kitchen, but now it feels much bigger and is so easy to keep clean, which makes a huge difference.'

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### STURDY STORAGE

The drawers have oak dividers and are lined with green felt. 'All we had to do was tell Nick how much we liked something and it was done,' says Hannah.



### SINK AREA

The deep stainless-steel Peak sink and Bridge Lever tap are both by Franke. Honed Absolute Black granite worktops complete the understated look.

## DESIGNER'S TIP

'Removing a door to the utility room and replacing it with a stud wall means the bulk of the fridge is hidden in a recess, taking up less floor space' **NICK ANDERSON**

### MODERN COOKING

When the Aga is turned off during the summer months, Hannah uses her built-in single oven and ceramic hob, both by CDA. 'I would have preferred a gas hob, but we don't have a mains supply here,' she explains.



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## SHOP THE LOOK

### CABINETRY

■ Bespoke, hand-painted MDF furniture from the New Shaker range by Guild Anderson. Prices for a similar kitchen, cabinetry only, start from **£14,500**

### WORKSURFACES

■ 30mm honed Absolute Black granite, Cool Rock. Price per sq m **£421**

### SPLASHBACK

■ Valencia glazed tiles in Opal, Fired Earth. Price per sq m **£149.94**

### FLOORING

■ Existing terracotta quarry tiles, for similar, try Reclaimed Terracotta, Fired Earth. Price per sq m **£99.79**

### APPLIANCES

■ Existing two-oven, oil-fired Aga in Cream, reconditioned by O'Briens Cookers **£3,300**  
 ■ Built-in single oven, CDA **£327**  
 ■ Four-zone ceramic hob, CDA **£260**  
 ■ Freestanding larder fridge, CDA **£274**  
 ■ Fully integrated dishwasher, CDA **£444**

### SINK AND TAP

■ Peak undermounted single-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke **£448**  
 ■ Bridge Lever mixer tap in chrome with deck-mounted porcelain levers, Franke **£199**

### FINISHING TOUCHES

■ Rise and fall pendant light, Manufactum **£184.80**  
 ■ Hector small dome wall lights, Original BTC, each **£96**  
 ■ Window blind in Cow Parsley fabric in Cornflower and Duck Egg, Vanessa Arbuthnott. Price per m **£41**  
 ■ Existing oak dining table, bench and reclaimed pew, for similar, try architectural salvage yards  
 ■ Pigeon and Lime White estate eggshell paint, Farrow & Ball. Price per 2.5l **£43.50**  
 ■ Green and cream throw, for similar, try Windowpane Check throw, Peacock Blue **£49**  
 ■ Kettle, for similar, try Aluminium Kettle, Aga **£84.99**

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 134