

Classical elegance

Luxurious textures and subtle patterns update a timeless palette for modern-day living



Wide pinched **shade**, Silver, £19.99 (266365);
Foster **base**, Chrome, £14.99 (171233)



Petals faux-silk **cushion**, Duck egg,
50 x 50cm, £12.99 (277757)



Petals **candle jar**,
Cream, £3.99 (15519)

Make the look work



IDEAS
Expert

Andrea Maflin, Interior designer

- Keep shapes and lines in the room clean and simple
- Add plenty of texture to avoid the final effect looking too stark
- Stick to neutral tones, occasionally introducing accents of richer taupes – this will add warmth to the room



Darcy **wallpaper**, Pearl/Silver,
£19.99 for a 10m roll (581083)



Cream **vase**,
£14.99 (233086)



Megan three-seater **sofa**, extra large, £399.99 (635942)

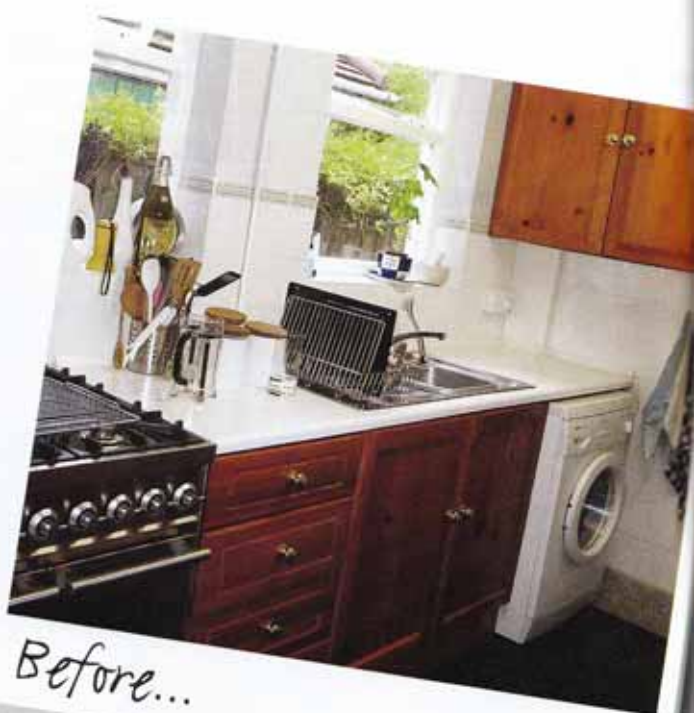
Clockwise from top left: Megan oversized **armchair**, Cream, £299.99 (647026); pleated **cushion**, Duck egg, 50 x 50cm, £12.99 (717572); Taupe (748527) and Duck egg (742118) chenille damask **cushions**, 50 x 50cm, £14.99 each; pintuck **throw**, Duck egg, 127 x 152cm, £19.99 (687342); **Window sill**: leaf-foil **shade**, Duck egg (658751), and mirror glass column **base** (217073), £24.99 each; pearl lustre squat **vase**, £12.99 (121194); **Floor**: Darcy **wallpaper**, Amethyst/Gold, £19.99 for a 10m roll (586607), Beige (686280), Blue (6873221) and Chocolate (693015) button-wrap **candles**, £4.99 each; silver swirl **candle holder**, £19.99, (664860); Cream (28838) and Taupe (32470) embossed flower **pillar candles**, £4.99 each



Reader's kitchen makeover

A SHINING EXAMPLE

To achieve her dream of a light and airy kitchen, Catherine Fearon opted for an extreme makeover



CATHERINE FEARON, 30

Home Semi-detached in Oxford, which she shares with her partner Dan, 31, and Elvis the cat, six
Project Relocate old kitchen to the more spacious, but seriously dilapidated extension

Soon after moving into her new home, in October 2005, Catherine decided she couldn't live with her tiny, cramped and dingy kitchen (above). It made sense to transfer it into the extension area, which itself was in need of a makeover. 'The extension had been built in the 1960s and was hideous,' says Catherine. 'It had a concrete floor with cork tiles, and peeling, unattractive wallpaper. The previous owners had advertised it as a "sun room", but it certainly wasn't a place we wanted to spend any time in.'

Catherine decided to turn the old kitchen, which backed onto the extension, into a utility room and turn the extension into her dream kitchen. 'My main aim was to have a gorgeous, light and airy space, where Dan and I could cook together without falling over each other,' she explains.

Once all the old wallpaper and cork tiles had been removed, it was time for Catherine to

choose her materials and décor, bearing in mind that the extension was north-facing.

GLASS ACT

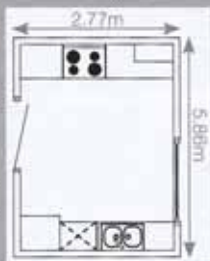
'I wanted there to be as much light as possible, so I went for a glass ceiling, large windows and double glass doors,' explains Catherine. 'The existing walls had to be trimmed down slightly, to adjust them for the fitting of the sloping glass roof, and the new doors reflected the size of the wall opening opposite them that leads into the dining room. This helped to provide the symmetry and idea of a continuous space that I wanted.'

The glass and frames of the new extension were made off site and took one week to install. Preparation for the glass, plus all the indoor work, including electrics and plastering, took three months. 'There was a period when everything was dusty and messy,' says Catherine. 'We

One kitchen space, three ways



JO BARNES
Homes Editor



Kitchen style Galley

Why? Provides efficient use of space. The proximity of appliances and preparation areas allows work with the minimum of movement between units. Storage space works vertically, featuring hanging pots, dish racks and ceiling-hung cabinets.



ANDREA MAFLIN
Interior Designer



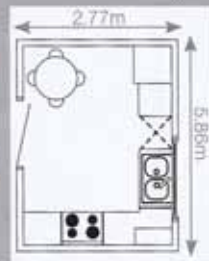
Kitchen style U-shaped

Why? This layout is perfect if you use your kitchen a lot and need plenty of space. The design requires three full walls. Appliances and counter spaces can be spaced out to allow for a number of areas for different types of kitchen work.

Catherine's choice



OLIVER HEATH
Design Expert



Kitchen style L-shaped

Why? Great if you want to use your kitchen for entertaining. It allows room for tables and chairs at one end, and eliminates through traffic. Also ideal if you do not have a separate dining room and want an eat-in kitchen.

After...

'My main aim was to have a gorgeous, light and airy space'

Walls: Dulux Celestial Cloud 5 paint, £17.99 for 2.5 litres (mixing code 70BG 68/056). Monza units, Gloss White, pick up a brochure in store for further information. Solid Walnut **worktop**, L300 x W60 x D2.7cm, £399 (811703). Caple Carlo **sink**, one-and-a-half bowl, £329 (165203). For similar wall tiles, try Homebase Islington gloss/matt **wall tiles**, 10 x 33cm, £9.99 for 16 (832367). For similar floor tiles, try Homebase Laura Ashley **floor tiles**, White, 33 x 33cm, £19.99 for 10 (038047). For similar tap, try Homebase Gemma **tap**, chrome, £119.99 (474983)





'The final effect is modern, but with a soft touch'

had to use a camping stove to do our cooking, but overall it was a pretty smooth installation.'

The feeling of space and light is further enhanced by the stunning white gloss units. Catherine decided to team them with walnut wood worktops, which have a wraparound effect and extend all the way down the sides of the units. The wood worktops also tie in with the wood floorboards of the dining room next door.

'While I wanted the kitchen to have a modern look, I was still keen to give it a certain warmth, which these worktops do beautifully. And I love the freestanding units, supported on dinky metal legs, as they really add to the airy feel of the kitchen. The only drawback, I would say, is that our and Elvis's food occasionally strays underneath them and needs sweeping out!'

The wall paint Catherine chose complements the grey of the metal frames of the extension and she opted for large-cut limestone tiles for the flooring. While their cream colour is perfect

for adding warmth to the overall look, Catherine wisely decided to install under-floor heating to help keep everyone's feet warm in the winter.

As Catherine also wanted to maintain a link with the original feel of the house, built in the 1930s, she opted for brickwork-style tiles for the walls. Details such as matt unit door handles, a matt-effect tap and a 1950s-style chrome Dualit toaster also help to soften the modern edge of the new kitchen.

THE FINAL VERDICT

'I love looking out into the garden from my new kitchen, while the indoor effect is just what I wanted – modern, but with a soft touch,' says Catherine. 'The U-shape layout turned out to be perfect for this space, as it means I can now be chopping vegetables at one end, or having a quiet glass of wine, while Dan gets busy with the cooking at the other. And there's plenty of space left over for Elvis to roam about, too!' ■

CATHERINE'S HOMEBASE SHOPPING LIST

Walls Dulux Celestial Cloud, 5 paint, five litres.....	£29.99
Units Monza, Gloss White, 18 units.....	£1,800
Worktop Solid Walnut.....	£940
Sink Caple Carlo, one-and-a-half bowl.....	£329
Underfloor heating Warmup DWS300 heater.....	£129.99
TOTAL	£3,229