

Beautiful
KITCHENS
SPECIAL REPORT



Plain English's creative director Katie Fontana painstakingly studied the principles of Shaker furniture-making to achieve optimum authenticity when designing this Williamsburg painted maple kitchen.

■ Prices start from £40,000 for a Plain English kitchen

SIMPLY SHAKER

This classically elegant cabinetry ticks all the style boxes and there's a version to suit every taste



CASE STUDY 1: COUNTRY

International businessman Jonathan Busher and his wife Noreen live in a five-bedroom detached cottage near Salisbury.

Having put up with a dark, dingy kitchen tucked at the back of their house for far too long, Jonathan and Noreen thought it was time they had a light-filled, open-plan space instead.

First there was the matter of knocking down virtually every wall in the house. Originally three workmen's cottages, the couple decided to transform it into a single sprawling property. 'At one point, it was hard to envisage it as our home,' recalls Jonathan, 'as all we had was four external walls and a roof!'

Gradually, the interior layout took shape, providing space for a large kitchen-diner with

south-facing windows. 'Although we've modified the property considerably, it still has low ceilings, a cosy feel, and works well with the rural location,' explains Jonathan.

To add cottage charm to their kitchen, the Bushers wanted a classically styled scheme, and on the recommendation of a friend, asked bespoke furniture company Podesta to come up with some ideas. 'I explained that Shaker-style doors would offer both the classic design and timeless look they were after,' says designer Matt Podesta. 'I also suggested a mixture of painted and wood finishes to provide a really warm and comfortable atmosphere.'

Thrilled with Matt's plans, the couple chose a combination of natural and painted

cabinetry in Pigeon by Farrow & Ball, chocolate-coloured, honed granite worktops and an English character oak island topped with light-reflective Carrara marble.

Other elements that embody the classic country look include an oak butcher's block set on top of a round end unit and a large farmhouse-style ceramic sink. As a trained chef, Noreen also requested a traditional Aga range cooker, with extra electric module for flexibility, which fits perfectly into the scheme.

'We love everything about our new Shaker kitchen,' says Jonathan. 'It's bright and inviting, and has the lovely homely feel we wanted.'

■ Bespoke handmade kitchens from Podesta start at around £35,000



'With simplicity at its core, the Shaker kitchen is a versatile design proposition for homeowners. In the hands of an experienced designer, it can be customised to suit a wide variety of styles'

BEN BURBIDGE, MANAGING DIRECTOR, BURBIDGE