

Advice from the OWNERS

DON'T rush into a project. Spend as much time as you need on the plans and make sure you're happy with every single element.

DO be open to new styles and ideas instead of playing it safe. I had a few qualms about modern appliances but they work much better with the new scheme and are far easier to use.

DON'T be frightened of upsetting your kitchen designer to get exactly what you want. It's you who has to live with it, after all.

Kitchen FACT FILE



THE OWNERS Carol Liddicoat and her husband Victor, a builder, live with their three Hungarian Vizslas, Merlin, Otto and Jasper

THE HOME A four-bedroom, Grade II-listed, semi-detached house in Gloucestershire, built in the 1840s

THE CABINETRY White hi-gloss lacquered units with wenge-veneer furniture from the Sinousa range by Effeti

PRICE GUIDE
£25,000

for a similar kitchen at Abitalia, cabinetry only

Modern TOUCH

Carol and Victor Liddicoat's decision to have a sleek, new kitchen in their Grade II-listed home was a welcome change from the norm

FEATURE VICTORIA JENKINS • **PHOTOGRAPHY** WILL GODDARD

OPEN-PLAN SPACE
From utility room to kitchen to dining area, each zone flows naturally from one to the next. A bespoke floor-to-ceiling wenge veneer unit has been set within a recess in the partition wall to give the impression of height



ISLAND UNIT

The workstation's abstract 'S' shape allows for more storage than a standard rectangular unit. It forms a breakfast bar at one end and leaves plenty of floor space around the sink area for ease of use

Carol Liddicoat had always believed that a kitchen without an Aga lacked heart, and as a consequence has had seven of them throughout her married life. So when she and her husband Victor were planning the new kitchen in their Grade II-listed house in Gloucestershire, an Aga was the first item on the wishlist.

However, after visiting many kitchen companies and finally discovering Abitalia and its proprietor GianLuigi Moretti, Carol's mind was promptly changed. She is now the proud owner of a contemporary kitchen

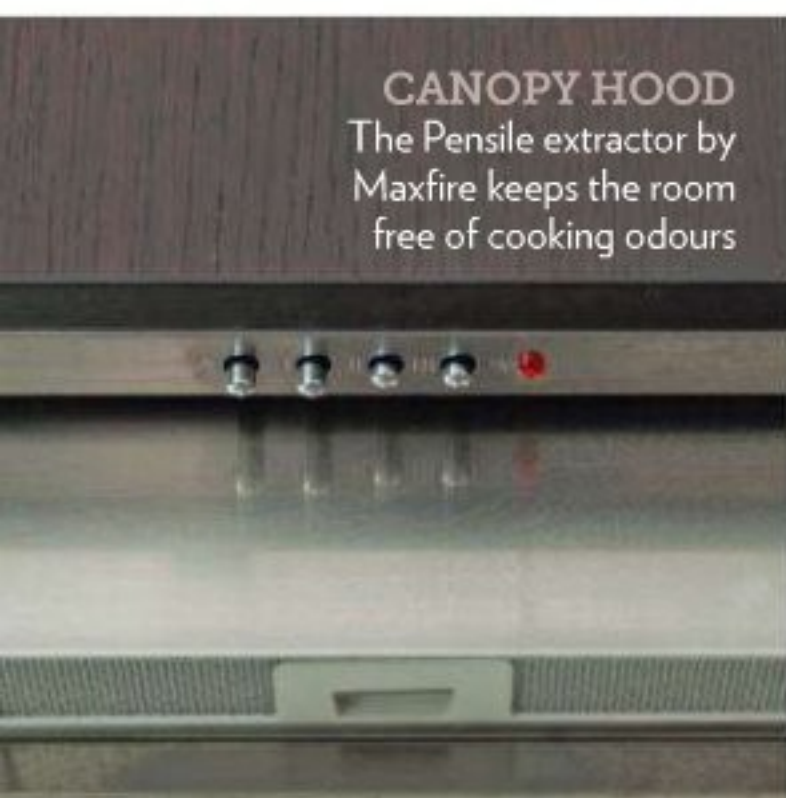
featuring a pair of built-in Gaggenau ovens – one for steaming and one pyrolytic, with a warming drawer underneath. 'After a chat with GianLuigi, I realised that having an eye-level oven is a more practical option for those of mature years, rather than bending down to retrieve food from the Aga ovens all the time,' says Carol. 'Although it goes against the grain to admit it, I do find the new cookers so much easier to use.'

She was also persuaded to invest in a Gaggenau induction hob, but being unable to turn her back on her old habits completely she

ordered a gas wok burner as well. 'It means that I can cook if there's ever a power cut,' Carol laughs. 'I also use it to quickly make gravy from the meat juices in the roasting tin.'

CAREFUL PLANNING

Carol and Victor moved into their house in 2006 and spent three years meticulously planning the changes. 'The house was in a poor state of repair and had been occupied by the previous owners for 42 years, so it really needed an upgrade,' explains Carol. The original kitchen was situated inside a



CANOPY HOOD
The Pensile extractor by Maxfire keeps the room free of cooking odours



OVENS
Carol traded in her beloved Aga for modern Gaggenau ovens

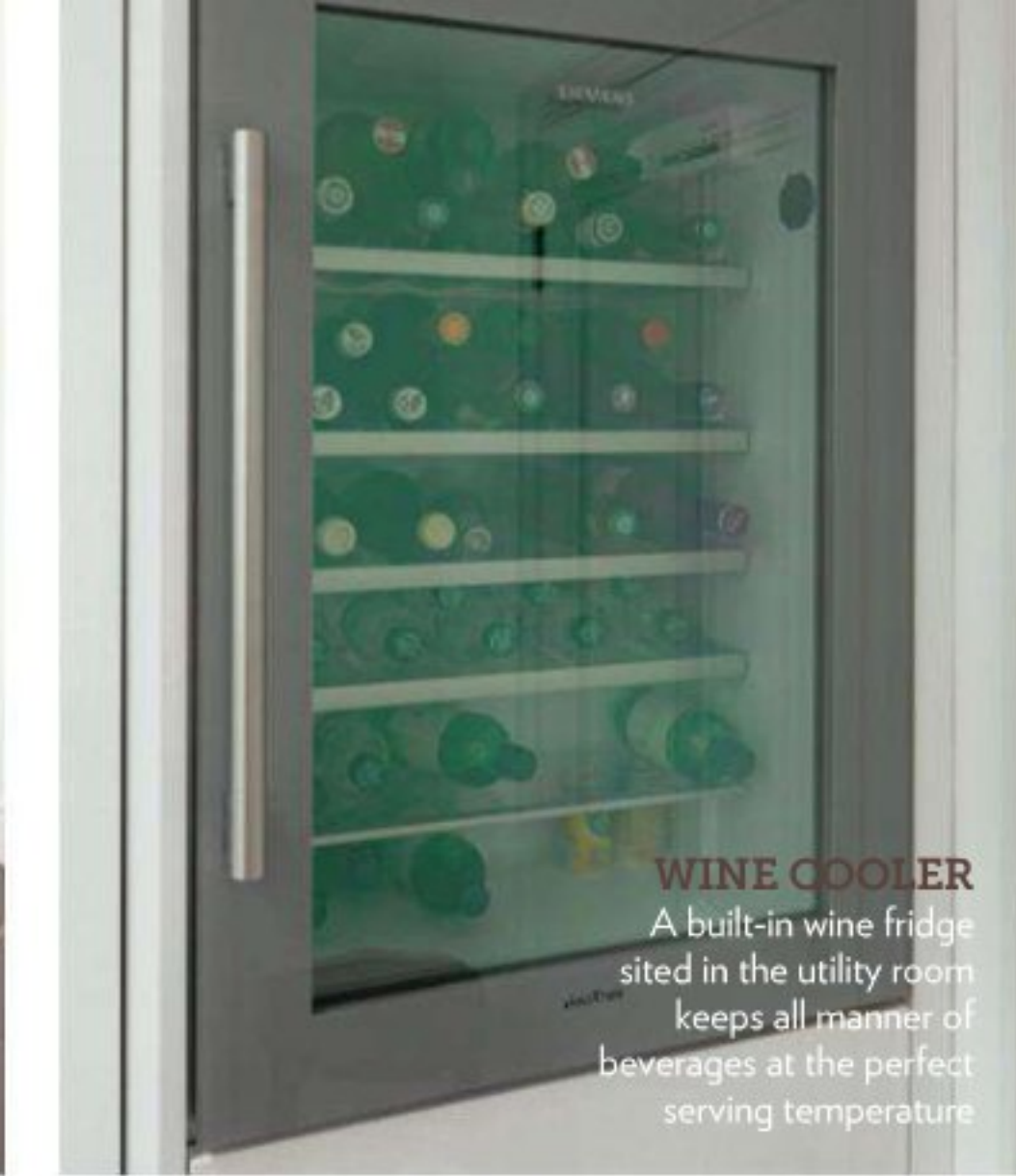


COOKING ZONE
An induction hob is faster and more energy efficient than an electric hob. Beside it is a gas wok burner, which is ideal for stir-fried dishes

**INSPIRED DESIGNS
WHITE AND WENGE**



PULL-OUT LARDER
Carol stores all her spices and everyday essentials in a tall, slender pull-out unit



WINE COOLER
A built-in wine fridge sited in the utility room keeps all manner of beverages at the perfect serving temperature



1960s, two-storey, flat-roof extension. It was very small and narrow with unattractive oak-panelled cupboards and vinyl flooring, and inappropriate PVC windows.'

In 2009, the couple consulted an architect and after many alterations and almost a year later, plans were submitted to the council to demolish the extension and build a bigger structure with a pitched roof, plus a single-storey side addition with a poly-edge roof. Building work began in March 2010, during which the Liddicoats lived in their other house

in Hertfordshire. They were able to move in the following November, when the extension was complete and their sleek Italian kitchen fitted. 'The space is so much wider now and we've also added a light-filled utility area, a cloakroom and wonderful bi-fold glass doors leading out to the garden,' says Carol.

TIME FOR CHANGE

The kitchen cabinetry consists of contrasting wenge-veneer furniture and white hi-gloss lacquered units, a choice that is in stark

3 m

7.5 m



ACCENT COLOUR
Plum porcelain floor tiles from Keope plus Aplomb cement-coloured pendants by Foscarini contrast well with the wenge cabinetry. The old, wooden bar stools give the room a lived-in feel

'Spend as much time as possible WORKING on the DRAWINGS and CHANGING them as often as necessary'

INSPIRED DESIGNS WHITE AND WENGE



GARDEN VIEW

On warm, sunny days Carol and Victor love nothing more than to pull back the bi-fold doors, sit at the breakfast bar and enjoy their garden

contrast to the more sober and traditional design Carol would have usually opted for. 'I'd originally looked at painted or natural wood kitchens, but after seeing the display in Abitalia's showroom, I knew it was time for a change,' she says. 'Modern units are so much easier to clean than panelled doors, which collect dust on the ledges.' The Okite and Corian worktops are simple to look after and contrast with the chocolate-brown elements.

An expansive central island dominates the open-plan space, separating the kitchen and dining areas. In addition to providing lots of storage and worktops, it's unusual abstract 'S' shape means there's a wider working zone at one end, which enables the oven doors to open freely without obstruction. The unit also boasts a breakfast bar and a multifunctional stainless-steel sink, which is a generous

110cm long and comes with a host of removable accessories, including draining baskets and chopping boards.

UTILITY SPACE

All of the cooking appliances are encased in a tall wenge veneer unit set into a recessed partition wall. Directly behind is the utility area, which boast the same white cabinetry as the kitchen and house a microwave, an undermounted sink with a boiling water tap, a wine cooler and the couple's existing laundry appliances. 'In retrospect, we should have bought an integrated washing machine and dryer, because they move around and damage the units surrounding them,' says Carol.

Aside from that, the couple are pleased with the final result. 'I've never had a kitchen without an Aga, but I love it,' smiles Carol. 📷

PROFILE

The Corian worktop has a stylish shark-nose profile and a silver trim detail just below to echo the steel appliances



HIDDEN STORAGE

Multiple drawer systems are hidden behind single door fronts for a cleaner and more aesthetically pleasing appearance



DESIGNER'S TIP

'In a limited space, curves not only add a visual feature but also soften the whole effect'

SHOP THE LOOK

CABINETRY

■ Bespoke white hi-gloss lacquered units with wenge-veneer furniture from the Sinouza range. Price for a similar Effeti kitchen at Abitalia, cabinetry only, starts from £25,000

WORKSURFACES

■ 20mm Bianco Assoluto Okite. Price per linear m £350
■ 40mm bevelled Glacier White Corian. Price per linear m £500

SPLASHBACK

■ 20mm Bianco Assoluto Okite. Price per linear m £350

FLOORING

■ Plum porcelain tiles, Keope. Price per sq m £61

APPLIANCES

■ Built-in single oven, Gaggenau £2,500
■ Built-in microwave, Siemens £365
■ Built-in steam oven, Gaggenau £3,000
■ Four-zone induction hob, Gaggenau £1,230
■ Gas wok burner, Gaggenau £680
■ Pensile canopy extractor hood in stainless steel, Maxfire £1,320
■ Built-in warming drawer, Gaggenau £600
■ Fully integrated fridge freezer, Siemens £744
■ Fully integrated freezer, Siemens £495
■ Built-in wine cooler, Siemens £1,185
■ Fully integrated dishwasher, Miele £1,126

SINKS AND TAPS

■ 810 x 461mm Nework flush-mounted single-bowl sink in stainless steel (excluding accessories), Steel Time £949
■ 1,100 x 461mm Nework flush-mounted single-bowl sink in stainless steel (excluding accessories), Steel Time £1,300
■ 2 x Inox single-lever monobloc mixer tap in stainless steel with pull-out rinse, KWC, each £600
■ Basic boiling-water tap in stainless steel, Quooker £665

FINISHING TOUCHES

■ Torso T3 dining table, Potocco £2,160
■ Dining chairs, for similar, try Zocalo Toscana, CSN Stores. Price per pair £276
■ Wooden bar stools, for similar, try Breakfast Stool, Batheaston, each £126
■ Aplomb pendant lights in brown concrete, Foscarini, each £289
■ Ray F2 floor lamp, Flos £1,000
■ Antique oak dresser, for similar, try sellingantiques.co.uk, from £2,000

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 134