

# Period drama

A modern couple are looking for advice on successfully blending old and new in their 16th-century property. Designers Carol Cameron and Joe McLeod devise two very different concepts

Report: Linda Clayton

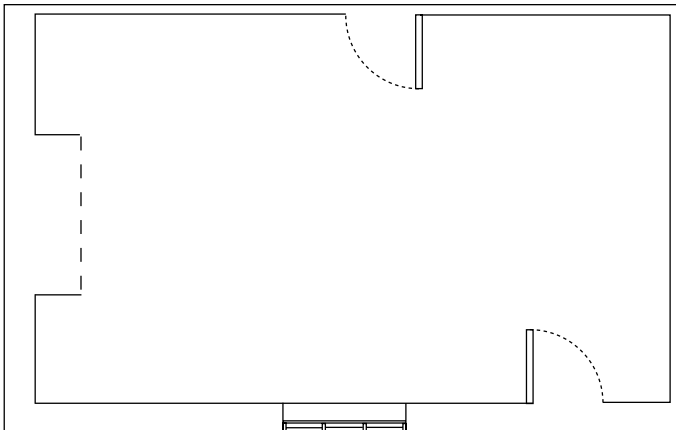
## THE CLIENT

Marla and Alex Barrett live in a 16th-century Devon longhouse. They have two children, aged six and 11, as well as two family dogs – a Labrador and a Dachshund. Marla is a housewife and loves to bake, and the house is often filled with guests at the weekends.

## THE BRIEF

This is the family's first period home, and although they love its traditional features they are used to cutting-edge appliances and the latest materials and finishes in the kitchen. Elsewhere in the house they have successfully merged their modern art and furniture collections with traditional features and would like to do the same in the kitchen. Marla is a very practical cook, and wants easy-clean surfaces and an efficient working space. She also needs to accommodate her food processor and countertop espresso machine. They would like some kind of informal dining space, for at least four people, and they are not opposed to the idea of some country or classic features if subtly done.

## THE SPACE



Complete with original beams, slate flagstone floors and a wonderful inglenook fireplace, the room is brimming with character. It is entered from the main hallway, and exits into a boot room that leads into the garden. The original features must all remain, although the inglenook could be concealed or extended upwards to create more height if desired.

## THE BUDGET

Around £35,000

## SOLUTION ONE



## SOLUTION TWO





SOLUTION ONE



CAROL CAMERON



Carol Cameron, senior sales designer at Kitchens International's Dundas Branch, has worked her magic with walnut and ivory cabinets to provide a light-filled kitchen with curves in all the right places

Starting at her drawing board, Carol played with various layout ideas before hitting on a striking rounded island with complementary curves mirrored in the surrounding cabinetry. “I began with a modern Germanic design,” Carol explains, “but soon realised the room deserves something with a more classic contemporary feel. Callerton’s range available from Kitchens International allows me to use curves rather than straight lines for a softer, more organic layout.”

The beams dictated the layout to a degree, as Carol realised they would make it hard to position an extractor over the island, and the flagstone floor prevented a downdraft extractor. “That meant the cooking area had to go on an outside wall, but once that was in place the rest of the layout flowed around it,” says Carol.

Once the basic layout was set, Carol’s colleagues put her ideas onto a CAD program, where she began refining materials. Since the room might be dark and dingy without care, she selected a mix of flat-fronted and Shaker-style doors painted in Ivory, with a large glass splashback panel on the rear wall, which reflects light around the space. Surrounding the Siemens hob and

side-by-side ovens are glass wall cabinets and a curved plinth above, which all boast integral lighting to create a light and airy feel.

Using the inglenook fireplace as a design feature, Carol has provided a tambour door unit to the left of the woodburner, allowing Marla to leave her food mixer plugged in ready for use. To the right, a built-in fridge-freezer is concealed behind walnut Shaker-style doors from Callerton’s Berkley range, while a slim-line pull-out larder provides accessible storage for baking ingredients.

Carol’s pièce de résistance is the stunning island that features three worktops: a walnut end-grain circular top by Spekva that’s perfect for Marla’s baking; a hard-wearing composite stone in Ivory Coast by Silestone; and a 19mm-thick curved glass breakfast bar by Intaglio Glass. “I wanted to create something really interesting without going to the expense of bespoke, and it’s amazing what can be achieved,” says Carol.

**Kitchens International 0131 337 3434 or [www.kitchensinternational.co.uk](http://www.kitchensinternational.co.uk)**

THE SPECIFICATIONS

Cabinetry	£20,915
Worktops and glass	£7050
Sinks and taps	£528
Appliances	£4629
Lighting	£576
Installation	£2643
<b>Total</b>	<b>£36,341</b>

CONTACTS

ELICA 01252 351111 or [www.elica.co.uk](http://www.elica.co.uk)  
INTAGLIO GLASS & DESIGN 01355 248899 or [www.intaglioglass.com](http://www.intaglioglass.com)  
SIEMENS 0844 892 9044 or [www.siemens-home.co.uk](http://www.siemens-home.co.uk)  
SILESTONE 01256 761229 or [www.silestone.co.uk](http://www.silestone.co.uk)  
SPEKVA 01702 468241 or [www.spekva.com](http://www.spekva.com)

THE VERDICT

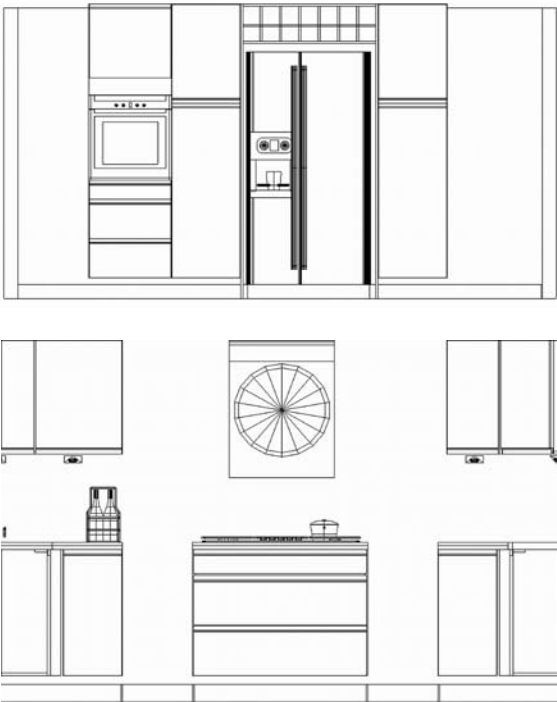


The Barrett family are thrilled with Carol’s design and feel it goes “above and beyond” their dream wish list. “I especially love the island – the higher breakfast bar level is incredibly chic,” says Marla, who is also impressed by the idea of keeping her baking appliances plugged in behind the tambour door. “I’d never have to lift them again,” she says.

Alex’s favourite feature is the shaped corning above the hob, which is made from MDF veneered in walnut. “It’s inexpensive to achieve but makes a real feature out of the cooking area, especially with the built-in lighting,” he says.



SOLUTION TWO



JOE MCLEOD



Moben's designer Joe McLeod has combined contemporary finishes with plenty of storage and a striking walnut-topped island for a streamlined space with family entertaining at its heart

Taking a modern approach, Joe has chosen cabinets from Moben's Geneva range, which sport sleek recessed handles and flat-fronted doors and drawers. "I opted for the Matt Chalk finish, rather than the bolder options of Anthracite or Lemon, as I felt it would better suit the property's traditional charm," says Joe. "A splash of solid walnut block worktop on the island also gives a nod to the fabric and age of the building."

The classic U-shape layout aims to provide maximum storage and a smooth traffic flow around the centrepiece island, which includes a sociable seating area for all the family. In a brave but effective move, Joe has suggested creating a stud wall in front of the inglenook, which could be plastered to create a modern alcove with clean lines rather than leaving the stonework exposed. The wall could be easily removed at a later date if desired and wouldn't damage the original stonework. "This would create a crisp frame for a really contemporary black glass extractor by Elica and coordinate well with the clean lines of the cabinets," explains Joe.

The main sandstone-coloured worktops continue along this contemporary path, and would be in a slick

composite material by Maia, which is both stylish yet practical to maintain. Joe suggests appliances by Neff for their modern looks and affordable but high-spec features, and says an extra-wide gas hob is perfect for catering en masse. A pyrolytic single oven will cut cleaning time, and an American-style fridge-freezer will be especially appreciated when entertaining on the weekends. The sink is a generous Blanco model with matching taps.

With ample cupboards and drawers, Marla's baking equipment can be hidden away behind closed doors when not required. "This is undoubtedly a modern design, but I have chosen pale finishes, which I think will lighten the effect of the flagstone floors and beams. With no fussy details, everything is easy to clean and there's a wealth of worktop and cupboard space for this busy family," says Joe.

**Moben 0800 413413 or [www.moben.co.uk](http://www.moben.co.uk)**

THE SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Cabinetry and worktops</b> <b>Installation</b> <b>Sink and taps</b> <b>Appliances</b> <b>Extractor</b> <b>Lighting</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>Around £21,000*</b>
(*breakdown of costs unavailable)	

CONTACTS

BLANCO 020 8450 9100 or [www.blanco.co.uk](http://www.blanco.co.uk)  
ELICA 01252 351111 or [www.elica.co.uk](http://www.elica.co.uk)  
MAIA 01773 521300 or [www.maiaworksurfaces.co.uk](http://www.maiaworksurfaces.co.uk)  
NEFF 0844 892 9033 or [www.neff.co.uk](http://www.neff.co.uk)

THE VERDICT



The Barretts are sorely tempted by concealing the inglenook fireplace, which would give the clean lines of a more modern alcove and say it might be a more hygienic choice in the kitchen. "The house has inglenooks everywhere, so as long as we're not damaging it, I think it's a nice idea," says Alex.

Marla is blown away by the amount of storage on offer and loves the sleek design of the recessed handle cabinets. "There are plenty of drawers, which I find so much easier to access than cupboards," she enthuses. The American-style fridge-freezer is a hit with the whole family.