

Period House

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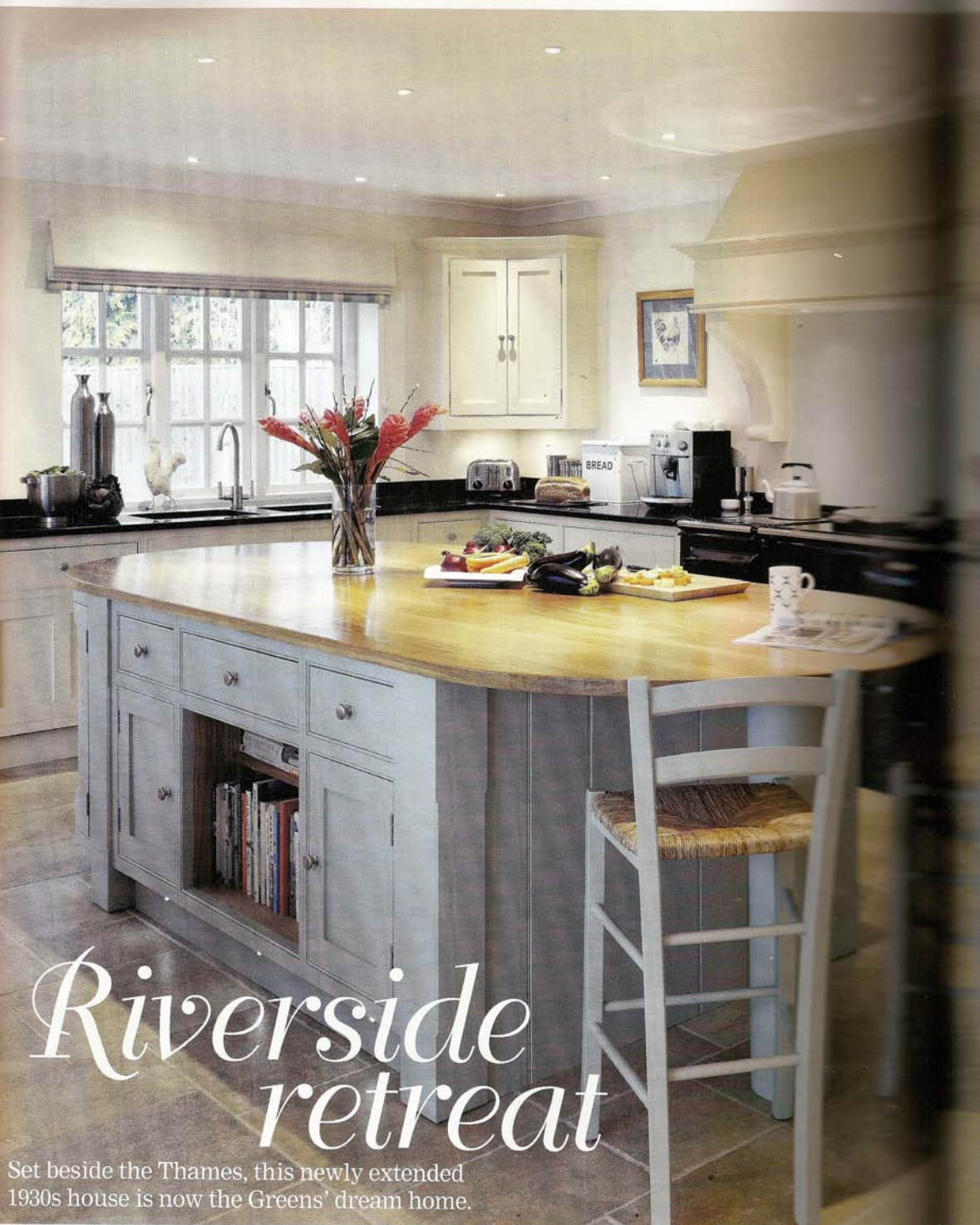
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- A PERFECT CAMBRIDGESHIRE THATCHED RURAL RETREAT • ANCIENT SOMERSET SANCTUARY RENOVATION
- IDYLIC GEORGIAN HOUSE WELCOMES THE FAMILY • ENCHANTING TUSCAN VILLA MARRIES OLD WITH NEW





Riverside retreat

Set beside the Thames, this newly extended 1930s house is now the Greens' dream home.



Left Peter and Lindsay were looking for a large kitchen, and they adore their new island unit which is perfect, not only to prepare food but for entertaining too.

Above Stylish and innovative, the built-in oven is ideal for the couple to quickly conjure up tasty treats when visitors arrive.

Top right A double bowl sink is really practical in that it ensures that food and crockery can be washed side-by-side if required.

Above right The existing Aga was kept in its original setting and the cabinetry crafted around it.



Enlightened by a 1930s house in Oxfordshire and its beautiful riverside location, Peter and Lindsay Green overlooked the bountiful proportions of the kitchen when they moved in.

A 'bottom heavy' property, it was obvious that extending would be necessary in order to create more space upstairs and the couple held off making any changes for five years. "We wanted a large cook zone, but it's because we needed much more space on the top level of the place that it actually ended up being this big!" explains Lindsay.

Not that they missed the kitchen they inherited. With just one set of units and range oven, it really needed some fundamental alterations, but it was also essential that the layout capitalised on the views of both the garden and the river – a factor that was lacking previously. So, with the structural plans under way, Peter and Lindsay spent lots of time browsing round the various kitchen companies but it wasn't until they entered the Griggs & Mackay showroom that they knew it had all been worth it – the search for their dream design was now over.

INSIDE INFO:

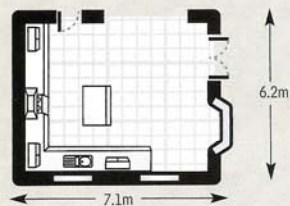
Who lives here?

Peter and Lindsay Green and Maisie, their German Pointer puppy.

Description of kitchen

This timeless, elegant kitchen by Griggs & Mackay, is a skilfully crafted, in-frame hardwood design, hand-painted in a cheery light blue hue. The bright scheme has been given depth with tactile oak and Zimbabwe Black granite worktops while an original Aga and farmhouse-style furniture echo the classical charm. Expect to pay from £18,000.

KITCHEN FLOOR PLAN:





Immediately liking the skilled craftsmanship which went into every piece of furniture, they worked with designer John Griggs to find something that would be ageless and exude a relaxed aura. "This was an extension to a lovely house backing on to the Thames with wonderful views. It was a room that would be used not just for food prep but also for enjoying a coffee while choosing recipes," he says.

Having drawn up three different plans, there was one that really stood out, bringing together everything that the couple had envisaged; from the inclusion of the existing range oven to the generous proportions of the almost oval-shaped island. "Its positioning was important because we wanted to ensure the kitchen was kept quite tight with all essentials within reach. I didn't want to be walking all over the place. Instead, everything had to be easily accessible," continues Lindsay. "We also didn't ask for any wall units, preferring to maintain all the open space we now had. The only dilemma was whether, by avoiding this option, it would result in a diminished amount of storage," she explains. >>

Above This project has resulted in an incredibly light and airy kitchen space, which is a pleasure for the couple to spend time in.

Left What entertaining enthusiast's home would be complete without a selection of recipe books?

Below A bespoke rack keeps glassware safe and, hung upside down, the glasses collect much less dust too.





Above Taking pride of place, the oval island sets the scene for cooking, eating and family get-togethers.

Left Natural wooden elements complement the Ringwood Ground Light paint shade of the cabinetry to perfection.

Below left Once having to store all her belongings in a shed, Lindsay now has space for those daily items.

The island has proved to be a perfect addition. Having considered housing a sink or hob within it, the couple quickly established that the entire space could be put to better use by keeping it clear, utilising it purely as a workspace and entertaining area. But, it's the breakfast bar that gets the most attention, as the couple frequently relish the chance to settle down with a cup of tea and the papers while embracing the lovely views down to the river.

Storage is vital in the kitchen, especially for Lindsay who previously had to keep most of her items in a shed. However, they didn't want it to overcrowd the room. John says, "I set to create somewhere that was light, very comfortable and spacious. There's nothing worse than filling a room with furniture just because you have the wall space, so I kept the top cabinets to a minimum with just a larder cupboard sitting on the worktop and a concave corner piece to give a few extra inches."

In fact, it's now a hub that works from every

angle, as Maisie, the owners' German pointer puppy will attest. "She absolutely loves it because she uses the island as a race track before flopping down and snoozing in front of the sink," laughs Peter. "We are really happy as well because it's functional and practical plus has that desired 'wow' factor too - we've noticed everyone gasps with amazement when they walk in," he concludes. **PH**

Address book

Aga (appliance), tel: 0845 712 5207 or visit www.aga-rayburn.co.uk

Astracast (sink), tel: 01274 654700 or visit www.astracast.co.uk

Bosch (appliance), tel: 0844 892 8925 or visit www.boschappliances.co.uk

Farrow & Ball (paint), tel: 01202 876140 or visit www.farrow-ball.com

Griggs & Mackay (kitchen), tel: 01318 946 3440 or visit www.griggsandmackay.com

Hyperion Tiles (tiles), tel: 01628 475888 or visit www.hyperiontiles.com

In-Sink-Erator, tel: 0800 389 3715 or visit www.insinkerator.co.uk

John Cullen (lighting), tel: 020 7371 5400 or visit www.johncullenlighting.co.uk

Neff (appliance), tel: 0844 892 9033 or visit www.neff.co.uk