



“My favourite design element is the island. It’s central to the room, it provides great storage and is completely functional. The location also allows me to keep an eye on the children”

MAURA HUGHES

Maura and Ian chose to combine furniture painted in Pointing by Farrow & Ball with stainless-steel appliances for a simple yet stylish look. Glass doors in a floor-to-ceiling bank of cabinets have prevented this corner of the room from becoming too dark

▼ The couple were keen to add a lattice to the front of the cupboards either side of the sink to generate interest at the window. ‘I wanted a bit of contrast in the room,’ says Maura. The subtle Moth Grey splashback tiles with a stylish crackle finish were sourced from Marlborough Tiles



Most people would find having to install a supporting pillar in the middle of their new kitchen more than annoying. American-born Maura Hughes, however, wanted one so much that she had planned to incorporate one into her design even before she knew she needed to. ‘I come from New England where ornate kitchen columns are incredibly popular,’ she explains. ‘They remind me of home, so I was thrilled when I discovered we needed one.’

Having moved around the UK and US eight times, Maura, her husband Ian and their two daughters, Elleri, 14, and Madison, eight, knew what kitchen style would work for them. ‘We’ve had pine, Shaker-

style and stainless steel,’ recalls Maura. ‘Each time you learn what you prefer.’

The couple approached Steve Jacobson at Harcourt Designs as he had created kitchens for some of their friends in the past. ‘We told him we were knocking two rooms into one and would need an RSJ to support the ceiling but that we wanted a hand-crafted column too,’ says Maura.

Steve sketched several different layouts incorporating the pillar and the Hugheses opted for a central island with integrated appliances and decorative side panels.

Maura and Ian chose a mix of Shaker and lattice-style doors for a New England look. ‘Friends say our new kitchen is “very American”. I take that as a compliment,’ smiles Maura. **BK**

Supporting role

A potentially awkward column has been turned into a stylish, Shaker-style feature in the Hugheses’ cool white scheme



TRADITIONAL

“Friends call our kitchen “very American” – I take it as a compliment”





As well as a large hob arrangement, the island incorporates a handy wine cooler, integrated chopping boards and roomy wicker baskets for storing fresh ingredients. Maura spent a long time looking for floor tiles that would withstand the wear and tear of her family while also keeping the room light, and she finally chose Jerusalem Grey stone tiles from Core and Ore. 'I am so happy with them,' Maura smiles. 'They fit in with the muted colour scheme perfectly'



Integrated within the island, Maura uses this fridge drawer to store her fresh produce. 'It has a handy alarm that sounds if one of the children leaves it open,' says Maura

The drinks cooler has two temperature zones to correctly store red and white wine

Maura chose Old White by Farrow & Ball for the walls. For Bertolli prints by Carboni, visit AllPosters.com

Pull-out wicker baskets within the island add warmth and texture to the scheme. 'They are perfect for storing potatoes,' says Maura



THE KITCHEN FILE

DESIGN & CABINETS

- Steve Jacobson at **Harcourt Designs**, 4 Harcourt Road, Redland, Bristol BS6 7RG (0117 975 6969) www.harcourtdesigns.co.uk
- Bespoke hand-painted MDF furniture with glass cabinetry

WORKTOPS

- Star Galaxy granite, Avon Marble. Price per linear m **£382**

SINKS & TAPS

- RF4095 Regis farmhouse double-bowl ceramic sink, The Kitchen Sink Company **£470**
- 19940W Modultop undermounted single-bowl ceramic sink, Kohler **£199**
- Doric Trispray monobloc mixer filter tap with rinse in chrome, Franke **£450**
- 4841CP Mimas single-lever C-spout tap in chrome, Perrin & Rowe **£176**
- ISE78 waste disposal unit, In-Sink-Erator **£259**

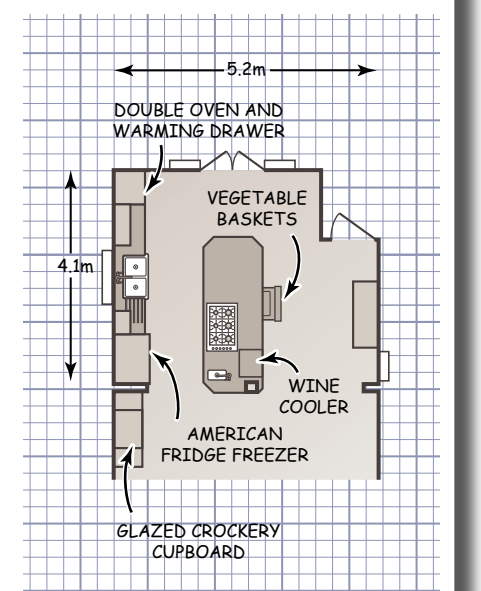
APPLIANCES (shown)

- B904.1 built-in double electric oven, Baumatic **£417**
- B17.6 six-burner gas hob, Baumatic **£184**
- CH1950X island extractor hood, Electrolux **£600**
- PD4SS built-in warming drawer, Baumatic **£303**
- HDR1901 fully integrated refrigerator drawers, Hotpoint **£650**
- 628FIRS Precision freestanding American fridge freezer, Amana **£3,500**
- W16221 built-under wine cooler, Caple **£660**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- 2 x fully integrated DishDrawer dishwashers, Fisher & Paykel, each **£599**

☎ For stockists, see page 153



GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a Harcourt Designs kitchen **£12,000**