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Words **Rebecca Drake** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

UNDERSTATED OPULENCE

Lynn and Steve Frith bought their spacious three-bedroom detached house in Bramhall just over two years ago. Seduced by the beautiful period features, wonderful location, large garden and opportunities for improvement that the property offered, they envisaged a family home they could be truly proud of



“We have always wanted a house on this road and so we rushed to see it as soon as it went up for sale,” said Lynn Frith. “We loved it immediately. Put an offer in straight away and luckily our old house sold as soon as we put it on the market. It all just fell into place, like it was meant to be!”

The Frith’s purchase of their light, airy period home went exactly according to plan; but when they moved in, the hard work began, as Lynn explained: “When we moved in we had to put on a new roof, replace the boiler system, downstairs cloakroom and repair the shower, which was leaking into the hallway. The kitchen extension was the next thing we did and it took six months!”

Creation of a new kitchen extension, incorporating a dining area and a lounge space, was high on the couple’s list of priorities. The old kitchen more than doubled in space resulting in an open plan room, flooded with light from the Velux windows and the large expanse of glass bi-fold doors.

Building through the winter, and

some unexpected construction delays, meant that the addition did take rather longer to complete than expected. While the team of excellent contractors got on with the nitty-gritty of building the extension, Lynn focused on planning the furnishings and creating the kitchen of her dreams.

The starting point for the kitchen design was a classic black AGA that was in the house when Lynn and Steve moved in. Lynn liked the daring idea of contrasting a classic AGA with a contemporary kitchen, which has worked brilliantly.

Lynn said: “We went to so many

kitchen showrooms, but as soon as we walked into Modo, we knew it was the right place for us. Modo were brilliant and got so involved in the project from the beginning. David came up with lots of ideas that we would never have considered.”

Calling on the experience and skills of kitchen designer David McGarty of Modo Cucine in Bramhall, Lynn and Steve settled on a cream Bon Tempi Cucine kitchen, with velvet granite surfaces and splashbacks. Unfortunately the original AGA could not be repositioned so the couple opted for >>>

“WE WENT TO SO MANY KITCHEN SHOWROOMS, BUT AS SOON AS WE WALKED INTO MODO, WE KNEW IT WAS THE RIGHT PLACE FOR US.”



THIS PAGE The luxurious use of bi-fold doors not only helps bring the outdoors in, but also adds to the stylish feel of the Frith’s new kitchen. Adding light and creating an inviting atmosphere where all the family can come together and relax. OPPOSITE A sleek, modern kitchen is the ultimate contrast to a traditional range, but they work in tandem to create a bold and interesting design statement.



THIS PAGE The use of a bold feature wall in the hallway inspires the Frith's to take this scheme through to the rest of the house, creating a more homely feel. The Frith's are set to make a stamp on the rest of the rooms, steering away from safe neutral tones.



ADDRESS BOOK

Bon Tempi Cucine kitchen and velvet granite work surfaces from Modo Cucine in Bramhall.

Tel. 0161 439 5508 or visit: www.modocucine.co.uk

Building work by Courtney Builders.

Tel. 0161 485 3456 / 07747 608 387

or visit: www.courtneybuilders.co.uk

Weru bi-fold door system from Bayfield Windows Ltd.

Tel. 0161 927 4961 or visit: www.bayfieldwindows.co.uk

Vintage-style cast iron radiators from Castrads.

Tel. 0161 297 0015 or visit: www.castrads.co.uk

Re-enamelled and reconditioned 13 amp electric AGA from

The Traditional AGA Cooker. Tel. 01423 359 323 or

visit: www.traditional-cooker.co.uk

Bonaldo 'Hoppy' bar stools from Homefrenzy.

Tel. 0870 7200098 or visit: www.homefrenzy.com

Moooi 'Random' pendant, Moooi 'Rabbit' light, Knoll 'Plateur' coffee table

and black and white drip paintings by Sam Tonge, all from Ferrious.

Visit: www.ferrious.com or tel. 0161 228 6880

a re-enamelled and reconditioned electric one instead.

"I love the look of the traditional AGA with the sleek, modern kitchen. I wanted a cream kitchen, as it goes with anything, and we went for the matt finish as it's understated. We saw the velvet granite worktop in the Modo showroom window and loved it. To use the same material for the splash backs was David's idea, and at first I was worried it might be too much, but I'm so pleased we did – it really works!"

To complement the up-to-the-minute kitchen design, the Friths decided on top-of-the-range Miele appliances: integrated fridge and freezer, plus a separate induction hob and oven.

"We got the induction hob and oven, so that the AGA doesn't have to be on all the time. I've really taken to the Miele hob, it's so easy to use and cook on and it's nice to be cooking and not facing the wall – it's much more sociable."

The sociable kitchen island was a must-have for Lynn and is undoubtedly one of her favourite components of the room: "I really wanted an island. It has created so much storage. There are half-depth cupboards at the back that I didn't even realise were there – it's great!"

Although Lynn explains that there is still a lot more work to carry out on the house, she has many ideas to focus on. "The whole house was

"I LOVE THE LOOK OF THE TRADITIONAL AGA WITH THE SLEEK, MODERN KITCHEN."

painted magnolia and fitted with beige carpets when we moved in, because it had been rented out. We recently redecorated the hallway and I chose some Neisha Crosland wallpaper; it's the first time I've chosen bold, feature wallpaper like that. I'd like to go for something even more opulent when we redecorate the dining room!"

It would seem that Lynn has, most definitely, been bitten by the interior design bug! ☺



DINING SPACE

Maximise light and space in any room with the addition of a large mirror. 'Camille' silver rectangular mirror, £180, Raines & Willow.



<<< LIVING SPACE

Quirky and fun, this unmistakable Moooi 'Rabbit' lamp will add a touch of glamour to any space. Moooi 'Rabbit' lamp, £324, Ferrious.

STEAL THEIR **STYLE**

Lynn and Steve have created a multi-purpose kitchen, dining and living space in their contemporary extension. Focusing on calm, neutral shades contrasted with black contemporary leather furniture, you can recreate the stylish look of their multiuse room in your own home using these on-trend products For stockist details see page 128



LIVING SPACE

An unusual coffee table, like this 'Platner' coffee table from Knoll, adds the wow-factor to a modern design scheme. Knoll 'Platner' coffee table, £929 (91.5cm diameter), Ferrious.



<<< LIVING SPACE

Create a relaxing environment, whilst maintaining a cool contemporary look with a black leather corner sofa. 'Lorenzo' four seater corner sofa with chaise end, £2,520, Darlings of Chelsea.



<<< KITCHEN AREA

An elegant bar stool can create extra seating around a kitchen island; transforming a practical space into a sociable one. 'Casper' bar stool, £139.98 for a pair, Drinkstuff.



KITCHEN AREA >>>

As Lynn and Steve's kitchen proves, traditional AGAs aren't just for country style kitchens. A glossy black AGA offers an opulent alternative to a modern range cooker. Pictured, black three oven AGA, from £6,995, AGA.



<<< KITCHEN AREA

Store your fresh produce and create a shiny, modern focal point with a contemporary fruit bowl. Fruit bowl, £25, Stylish Life.

