

Irish
kitchen

Jacqueline and Frank wanted a traditional look with a contemporary twist so combined hand-painted furniture in a specially mixed cream shade with a walnut island to stunning effect. Pale walls and porcelain floor tiles from Gilroy Tiling keep the room bright

IN THE MIX

Country-style cabinetry combines with a modern island in the Morrissions' kitchen



“I wish I’d known before we started that we’d have to level the floor. We chose large tiles and the surface had to be perfectly even or they would have broken. We hadn’t planned for that extra expense”

JACQUELINE MORRISON





◀ Housed within the island, a circular, ceramic sink is ideally suited for Jacqueline and Frank to rinse vegetables when they are preparing meals. A crook-style tap in an antique nickel finish is the perfect accompaniment to the Morrisons' second wet area

A capacious double-doored larder opens to reveal a multitude of storage solutions. Built-in spice racks and two large, square internal drawers are just two of the options the couple chose. A slab of cool granite is great for storing cheese and preserves ▶



THE KITCHEN HAS CHANGED OUR LIVES: 'The island allows me to work in the middle of the room without feeling cut off from the rest of the family and I love the way everyone spends all their time in here and we can all interact. When we entertain, our guests sit up on the bar stools and chat to me while I'm cooking'



Topped with granite, the island is the focal point of the new kitchen and boasts deep drawers, making it practical as well as stylish

Moving to the countryside is a dream for many people and so it was for Jacqueline and Frank Morrison, who decided that having lived in Dublin for years, it was time to make the change. 'We'd been happy there and brought our children up in the same house for 12 years,' explains Jacqueline. 'However, we wanted to be closer to other members of our family.'

With their hearts set on a seaside village in the north west of Ireland, the Morrisons decided to build their own home when they couldn't find a property to suit them. 'Jacqueline had a clear idea of what kind of house she wanted for us,' recalls Frank. Having built their large, dormer-style bungalow, the couple moved in with their three children, Luke, 12, Ella, seven, and Lucy, four. For six years, they lived happily in their traditional-style house but they were always disappointed with the small, dark-coloured kitchen they'd installed. 'We didn't have an island and the layout never worked,' recalls Jacqueline. 'I wanted a large open-plan family room that included a kitchen and a dining area.'

To create the new multifunctional space, the Morrisons employed a builder to rip out the old units, take down an outside wall and add a large extension, replacing the L-shaped kitchen with a huge rectangular space. The work continued over three months and gave Jacqueline time to consider how the new scheme could look. 'I looked through magazines, such as *Beautiful Kitchens*, for inspiration,' she recalls. 'I wanted a mixture of both modern and traditional styles.'

Having approached a number of local design firms, the couple chose Cliffoney Kitchens and visited the company's showroom to discuss their requirements with its designer Maureen Boyle. 'I showed her my file of ideas and she worked with it, coming up with a beautiful layout that Frank and I loved,' explains Jacqueline. 'She included an amazing, contemporary-style island that took centre stage with a combination of fitted and freestanding beautifully traditional painted cabinetry.'

With the building work complete and the new kitchen installed, the couple are thrilled with the results. 'It's such a generous family space and is so bright, even when it's a dull day outside,' explains Jacqueline. 'This is my perfect kitchen and the island's the big winner because it's where everyone wants to be.' **BK**

A freestanding dresser has been hand-painted in the same shade of cream as the rest of the cabinetry and boasts pretty features, such as pilasters and notch-detail corning. Mahogany handles keep the look simple, while decorative details identify it as part of the living area and separate from the kitchen furniture



DESIGN & CABINETS

- Maureen Boyle at **Cliffoney Kitchens**, Cliffoney, Co. Sligo, Ireland (00 353 7191 66219) www.cliffoneykitchens.ie
- Turin hand-painted tulipwood furniture with solid walnut cabinetry

WORKTOPS

- Venetian Gold granite. Price per linear m **£295**
- 80mm solid maple. Total cost **£944**
- Solid oak. Price per linear m **£134**

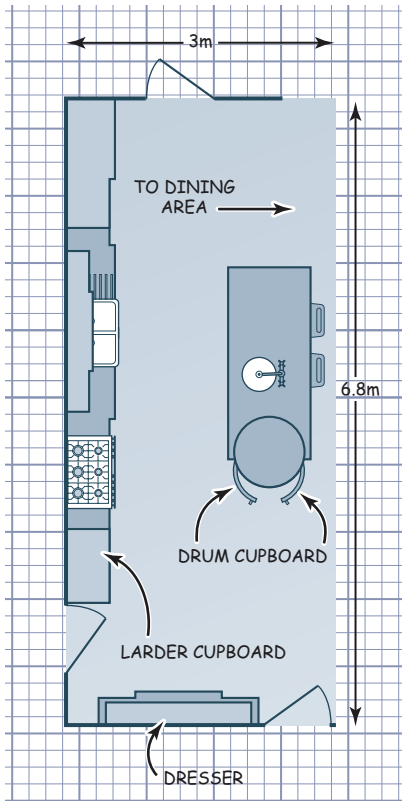
SINKS & TAPS

- Sudbury double-bowl ceramic Belfast sink, Astracast **£277**
- Lincoln undermounted round single-bowl ceramic sink, Astracast **£158**
- TP0039 Bridge Carmargue mixer tap in antique nickel, Astracast **£161**
- TP0035 Carmargue monobloc mixer tap in antique nickel, Astracast **£97**
- ISE65 waste disposal unit, In-Sink-Erator **£335**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- Existing dual-fuel range cooker, for similar try Classic 90, Rangemaster **£1,787**
- HB86K570B built-in multifunction oven, Siemens **£849**
- TK68E57GB built-in coffee machine, Siemens **£998**
- GZ2626GEKB freestanding American fridge freezer, Maytag **£1,992**
- Existing semi integrated dishwasher, for similar try SE55M677GB, Siemens **£504**

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GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a Cliffoney Kitchens design **£5,500**

Central to Jacqueline and Frank's new scheme, the stunning solid walnut island has a thick-set solid maple chopping block, which is great for meal prep work. In addition to being an eye-catching feature of the room, its cylindrical drum cupboard offers an ideal spot to store drinks for guests when they visit. Stainless-steel plinths under the unit create the feeling that it is floating and add a sense of light to the room



A hand-finished, birch dining table offers the family a place for formal meals and is surrounded by Camilla dining chairs from Instore. Painted in a specially mixed green, the freestanding dresser adds a bold splash of colour

