

AS  
SEEN IN  
BEAUTIFUL  
KITCHENS  
MAGAZINE

#### BESPOKE CABINERY

Tulipwood furniture with glass-fronted doors has been painted in Bone by Farrow & Ball. Laura opted for open shelves to stop the run of cabinetry from looking too closed in DINING AREA

The large wooden table came from The French House and the Regency-style chairs were bought at Mealy's Auction Rooms. Both take centre stage in the open-plan room

#### PERIOD DETAILS

Laura sourced cast-iron radiators from The Victorian Salvage and Joinery Company. Traditional style has been added with the plaster corning from The Old Mould Company

## PERIOD LIVING

Nestled into the top of a former Regency coach house, this Georgian-inspired, open-plan kitchen is everything Laura Bowe and Brian Willis hoped it would be



**WORKTOPS**  
 Inspired by the grey marble slabs used in Victorian kitchens, Laura chose **Carrara marble surfaces** from Miller Bros Stone

**COOKING AREA**  
 A sleek stainless-steel splashback sits behind the industrial-looking **range cooker and chimney hood**, both from Indesit



**LAURA BOWE AND BRIAN WILLIS LIVE IN A LISTED COACH HOUSE IN IRELAND WITH THEIR CHILDREN, BEAU, SEVEN, AND HANNAH, THREE**

When her parents retired and Laura took over the family-run Marlfield House Hotel in County Wexford, not only did she change career from interior designer to hotelier, it also meant a change in living arrangements. 'Running the hotel means that someone has to live on site,' explains Laura. 'My parents originally converted the adjacent coach house for that purpose but, after 25 years, it needed an overhaul to modernise it and make it suitable for us as a family.'

Among Laura's plans was the conversion of the small kitchenette, the bijou proportions of which needed to expand to create a more family orientated kitchen for Laura, husband Brian, a film producer, and their children. 'I wanted both the kitchen and the dining room to become one big, open-plan area,' says Laura. 'Already very grand, the dining room was draped in fabric, and it was only when we took out the modern partition wall and stripped back the fabric that we found all the original brickwork and the arches of the coach house doors below. We decided to try and reinstate as much of the character as we could.'

Laura was adamant that she wanted to support local businesses, so it was Wexford company Andrew Ryan Traditional & Modern Furniture that she commissioned to design her new space. 'I wanted to keep the kitchen to one end with everything running

**GREAT IDEA**  
 Mixing and matching eclectic furniture and heirlooms creates an individual look



**EXPOSED BRICKWORK**  
 Laura kept many original features, including the brickwork and arches



**VENTILATION**  
 A Rita Jordens chicken ornament from Marlfield House Hotel sits in another original feature, a vent for the hay loft. Laura retained them as they provide natural ventilation

**FINISHING TOUCHES**  
 For a similar chest of drawers, try Graham and Green. The lamp is from Carlos Remes

**FLOORING**  
 Lime-treated engineered oak planks from Matt Britton Flooring are actually contract flooring, manufactured to be more hard-wearing than most domestic alternatives



'I OPTED FOR A MORE CONTEMPORARY OVEN AND HOOD BUT I'VE HAD THE FLOOR REINFORCED AND A FLUE ADDED IN CASE I DECIDE TO REPLACE IT WITH AN AGA!'

along one wall, and the dining table as the main focus,' explains Laura. 'I didn't want it to look fitted, so I've added items, such as lamps and chests, to soften the look.'

Inspired by traditional Georgian design, a mixture of solid doors, glazed units and open shelving fills the back wall. While the low ceiling determined the layout, it also dictated the palette of soft colours designed to create a feeling of space.

The sloping ceiling either side of the back wall also made any tall storage impossible, so it was left to kitchen designer Aiden Ryan to devise a way to hide the fridge, freezer and larder. With the only area available to site them within the confines of the dining area, creating a large armoire-inspired piece of furniture was the ideal solution. Its freestanding appearance blends as easily with the dining furniture as it does with the kitchen – a bonus, since Laura bought the dining table and chairs on a whim. 'I buy things because I like them,' she says. 'I bought these before we even knew for definite that we would be living here!'

The kitchen, tempered by the scattering of occasional furniture, has become exactly what Laura wanted – an elegant family space, not too traditional, but perfect for her Regency home. **BK**

FEATURE TRACEY WILLIAMS PHOTOGRAPHY BARBARA EGAN



**BK loves**  
...the veined marble worktop on the island

### APPLIANCE CUPBOARD

Designed to blend in as part of the dining room furniture, a bespoke, armoire-inspired cabinet was created by designer Aiden to hide the fully integrated fridge, freezer and larder

### ISLAND UNIT

Home to an integrated dishwasher, the island is topped with Carrara marble. Not usually recommended for the kitchen as it can stain easily, Laura used a protective coating on it

**PRICE GUIDE**  
Cabinetry only  
**£13,619**  
for this Andrew Ryan Traditional & Modern Furniture design

## THE KITCHEN AT A GLANCE

### DESIGN & CABINERY

- Aiden Ryan at **Andrew Ryan Traditional & Modern Furniture**, Clonattin Lower, Gorey, Co Wexford (00 353 539 421585) [www.andrewryan.ie](http://www.andrewryan.ie)
- Bespoke, hand-painted tulipwood furniture with glass units

- H391 chimney extractor hood, Indesit **£145**

### APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated fridge, Liebherr **£1,150**
- Fully integrated freezer, Liebherr **£1,249**
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Siemens **£430**

For stockists, see page 151

PLAN SCALE 1cm: 1m

### WORKTOPS

- 40mm Carrara marble, Miller Bros Stone. Price per sq m, from **£470**

### FLOORING

- Lime-treated engineered oak, Matt Britton Flooring. Price per sq m **£75**

### SINK & TAP

- 6585W Irontones undermounted single-bowl cast-iron sink, Kohler **£319**
- FBTSSL Bridge Lever mixer tap in Silk Steel with resin levers, Franke **£199**

### APPLIANCES (shown)

- Existing gas range cooker, for similar try KP9F11, Indesit **£649**

