



Old Becomes New

An extension to their Lurgan home prompted Stephanie and Michael to visit Wilsons Conservation Building Products in search of a kitchen with functionality that suited their lifestyle, as well as being individual and reasonably contemporary.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DREW MCWILLIAMS.



Having taken the decision to open up the back of their home with a conservatory extension to solve the problem of poor natural light in this area of the house, Michael and Stephanie were eager to get rid of their standard fitted, dark oak kitchen, so they headed to a favourite spot for other furnishings throughout their home, Wilsons Conservation Building Products in Hillsborough.

'Wilson's was our first port of call when we knew we were going to change our kitchen. We had bought pieces of furniture from here for other rooms in our house, and I knew that they would deliver the kitchen I was looking for. In fact, it was the island unit in their showroom which I had seen in the past that made up my mind to go with them,' comments Stephanie.

'I knew I didn't want a packaged solution, I wanted something different, and while I would describe our house as contemporary, it has classical elements, and I feel that the final kitchen design fits perfectly with the rest of our home.'

'Previously, our kitchen, which came with the house, was a pretty standard fit out with dark, wooden cupboards and a grey, slate floor. I wanted to brighten things up in here and also hankered after a bespoke kitchen design that included an island unit.'

With a third more space, and a wider area to work with, Stephanie's coveted reclaimed French oak island unit takes pride of place. 'The oak came from vintage railway carriages that chugged around France for 60 years and had a great depth of colour and grain that you just can't get

from new timber. We then matched this with tasteful pewter handles and the 'Amadeus' granite worktop from Lamont Stone in Coleraine. I just loved the combination of purples and greens and subsequently picked up the purple veining with Farrow and Ball's Bringal, which was used on the large cupboard that houses our fridge-freezer. I have to say that both the island and painted cupboard rank amongst my two most favoured items in the kitchen. It is amazing how everyone homes in on the island and we just seem to spend so much of our time around this area of the kitchen, whether preparing food, eating or entertaining.'

The biggest challenge Stephanie and her kitchen designers faced, was ensuring that the kitchen looked light and airy without looking dull, washed out or bland. Indeed, the aubergine tones picked up in this kitchen perfectly complement the warmth of the French oak and add interest alongside the cleanliness of the cream floor and walls.

'We worked closely with the team at Wilson's to select all the integrated appliances. I didn't want an ordinary fan oven, but I also knew that an Aga would be too old-fashioned in our kitchen space, so I decided to go with a range cooker from Falcon. The coffee machine is a welcome addition. We didn't have one before, but it is really useful and definitely a worthwhile addition.'

Other additions by Stephanie in this open-plan kitchen include the reproduction leather chairs and period style radiators, all of which she was able to get from Wilson's, and which perfectly complement this area of the house.





From initial discussions to installation, Stephanie and Michael's kitchen took around six months, but the schedule was dictated by other building work being completed. The kitchen designers and the couple did liaise closely throughout the project with the builder and conservatory manufacturer, Dask Timber in Banbridge to ensure all went smoothly.

'The whole build and installation went according to plan,' says Stephanie. 'I love my new classical, yet contemporary kitchen. It is open, bright and airy, a far cry from our previous kitchen. We all spend so much of our time in here now, even the children, Michael and Guy, who are found in here more often than not.'

'The kitchen really is the heart of our home now. Apart from spending more time in this part of the house, it is the first thing you can see when you open the front door, and honestly, I wouldn't change a thing.' ✕



Kitchen Contacts

KITCHEN DESIGN
Wilson's Conservation Building Products
 Hillsborough 028 9269 2304.
www.wilsonsyard.com

Worktop: Granite

APPLIANCES

Cooker: Falcon
Fridge-freezer: Neff
Microwave: Neff
Coffee Machine: Neff
Dishwasher: Neff

