

NO.5 : FAMILY FRIENDLY

Leading light

LEO BEAR visits a Queen Anne house in Berkshire, where a designer from bespoke kitchen specialist Martin Moore has married classic style with clever solutions for family life

A calming atmosphere was required as a backdrop for the busy lifestyle of this family with four young children. 'I am completely in love with this room,' says the owner. 'When I tiptoe down each morning and see the light pouring in, it brings back the feeling I had when I first saw the house. I just knew it was right for us.'

As a father of four himself, Andrew Wartnaby, one of the senior designers at Martin Moore, was ideally suited to the job. 'They wanted a light, airy, traditionally English kitchen in keeping with the style of the property – a glorious Queen Anne house,' he says. But there were a few obstacles to overcome.

The kitchen was previously much narrower and there was a large bulkhead above the fridge. Andrew tweaked the height of the cupboards, created a vertical pantry and converted awkward nooks into useful storage. Elegant Italian Arabescato Corchia marble was chosen for the work surfaces and the splashback behind the Aga, while the floor in Martin Moore Stone's pale 'Aged Ashmore' limestone keeps the look light.

It was important for the owners to have a practical place for their young children to sit and eat, as well as a more formal dining area for entertaining guests. The breakfast bar was Andrew's idea and is a 'total win', according to the owner. Housing an integrated microwave, toaster and coffee machine, it allows them to tuck everything away after the morning rush to restore that wonderful sense of calm. Hand painted in the same Martin Moore 'Palladian White' as the island, the 'New Classic' cabinets open to reveal a flash of 'Pale Cornflower'.

In addition to having a place for everything, the kitchen needed to be warm and inviting. Hampshire-based interior design partnership Eadie & Crole was already working with the owners and designed the bespoke wall panelling, which adds character. It also sourced the artisanal fabrics by Namay Samay from Tissus d'Hélène used for the window bench and the blinds. martinmoore.com | eadieandcrole.com

OPPOSITE Farmhouse Table Co's 'Camborne' bar stools provide smart seating. The pendants above are from The Limehouse Lamp Company. THIS PAGE FROM TOP Blinds in Namay Samay's 'Bahaar' linen tone with its 'Sharang Tara' on the bench seat. Antique brass cabinet handles from Optimum Brasses were chosen to complement the Perrin & Rowe taps

