

# Golden touch

Warm orange walls and striking granite worktops add a sense of drama to the Barkers' honeyed oak scheme

The Shaker-style, solid oak cabinetry in Lynda and Les's kitchen utilises every inch of space so they could include a peninsula. 'I love the Rosso Marinace granite worktops as they make the layout look anything but ordinary,' smiles Lynda. Spotlights and under-cabinet lighting add a feeling of character to the Barkers' design

TRADITIONAL





◀ Lynda and Les do their washing up in the utility room so they didn't need to have a large sink and draining board taking up valuable space in their kitchen. 'We opted for a small, multifunctional model instead,' explains Lynda. 'With portable attachments, including a measuring bowl and a colander, it's perfect for our compact room'

▼ A row of box-style spice drawers is conveniently situated near the hob for easy access when Lynda and Les are preparing meals. Simple brushed-steel bar and knob handles maintain the flow of the uncluttered scheme

**R**enovating their four-bedroom bungalow in Essex gave retired couple Lynda and Les Barker a long-term project to throw themselves into. 'We decided to include a traditional-style kitchen with warm, natural materials that would make a cosy retreat when we were eating or entertaining,' explains Lynda. Knowing the type of scheme they wanted, the Barkers chose solid oak furniture from WA Croker & Son, although it wasn't the first kitchen company they approached. 'We'd ordered cabinetry from another firm but it went bankrupt,' explains Lynda. 'We saw an advert in a local paper for WA Croker and decided to drop in. We instantly liked designer Billy's "can-do" attitude and thought he'd be able to help us create our dream kitchen.' While the work was being carried out, Lynda took her time to source their appliances. 'I particularly enjoyed visiting the Miele showroom and trying out its products,' she smiles. Integrated appliances and a wet area form a perfect working triangle for maximum functionality, while bold worktops and copper-coloured walls add real character and individuality to the room. 'The shape of the kitchen is fairly standard, so we wanted to inject a feeling of drama by using unusual Rosso Marinace granite,' says Lynda. The couple have thoroughly enjoyed renovating their kitchen and are looking forward to living with their new design. 'It's such a welcoming room now,' smiles Lynda. 'We really enjoy spending time in here together.'

**BK**



The Barkers' kitchen has limited space, so they wanted to keep appliances to a minimum. This Miele warming drawer was a luxury for Lynda and it has become her favourite item in the new scheme. 'I used to stand our plates in a bowl of hot water to heat them through, so the drawer is rather useful,' she explains

“My top tip for successful planning is to do your research.

It's also worth shopping around for bargains, as saving where you can will make it easier for you to stay within your budget”

LYNDA BARKER



TRADITIONAL

“Our new kitchen is such a welcoming room to be in”



'Lynda wanted somewhere to store wine as well as her sewing equipment,' explains designer Billy. 'I knew it would be a squeeze in such a small space, so I designed a tall in-frame cupboard with six small drawers and an eight-bottle wine rack above'



## THE KITCHEN FILE

### DESIGN & CABINERY

- Billy Croker at **WA Croker & Son**, Unit 20, Waterhouse Business Centre, 2 Cromar Way, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2QE (01245 392211) [www.wacrokerandson.com](http://www.wacrokerandson.com)
- Bespoke Shaker-style solid oak furniture

### WORKTOPS

- Rosso Marinace granite, Marbonyx.  
Price per sq m **£364**

### SINK & TAP

- BBX160 Beach undermounted one-and-a-quarter-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke **£515**
- Olympus monobloc mixer tap in Silk Steel, Franke **£140**

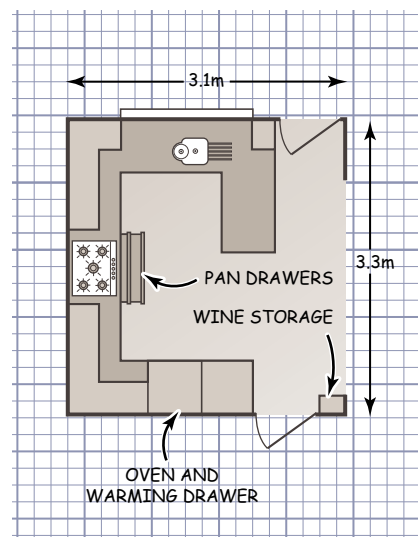
### APPLIANCES (shown)

- H4271BP built-in multifunction oven, Miele **£900**
- T2576 five-burner, gas-on-glass hob, Neff **£587**
- Igloo chimney extractor hood in glass and stainless steel, Elica **£599**
- EGW4060-14 built-in warming drawer, Miele **£330**

### APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Existing fully integrated larder fridge, AEG-Electrolux **£500**

 For stockists, see page 153



### GUIDE PRICE

- Cabinetry only **£17,000**