

Their level best

With a whole host of smart solutions, including a lowered peninsula, Barbara and Steve Farris' maple and walnut kitchen is a perfect fit



‘I love the retractable Häfele Powerdock in the worktop. Steve couldn’t reach the sockets in the old kitchen, but this is the perfect height for him to use when cooking.’

Barbara Farris



Barbara and Steve Farris' five-bedroom home in Hertfordshire is what they describe as a 'chalet-bungalow'. Unusually, it has one upstairs bedroom and the rooms all have high ceilings with Tudor-style hardwood window frames. When they bought the house, the couple felt the kitchen wasn't in keeping with this look. 'It was quite new though, so we couldn't justify changing it,' says Barbara.

A decade later and the kitchen was ripe for transformation. The couple knew they wanted a bespoke design but weren't sure they could afford it. In order to find out what they could get, Barbara, a researcher for a firm of headhunters, set about contacting companies.

'We really liked what Charles Yorke had to offer but when their quote came in it was more than we could afford. To bring costs down, we opted for flush doors rather than panelled ones and plain maple units with black walnut edging,' says Barbara. 'I also bought our appliances, handles and granite worktops online.'

The layout did not need to change drastically for former architect Steve, who was left wheelchair-bound after an accident, and a few tweaks have made life easier. 'The old range cooker was a difficult height for Steve to use so now we have a built-in oven with a side-opening door and our new peninsula has space underneath so he can put his legs below it comfortably,' explains Barbara.

The new design isn't just practical, though. The couple love its linear look and are pleased that they were able to achieve their dream without breaking the bank. 'It's chic without being too modern,' says Barbara, 'and it finally matches our house.'

BK



INNOVATIVE

The peninsula has two smart features – a lower level worksurface, so that the hob is easy for Steve – a keen cook – to use from his wheelchair, and storage for books and more on the reverse

▲ A cavity beneath the worktop of the peninsula is a comfortable fit for Steve's knees while he's cooking. The stylish black walnut handles came from Vonsild



A pull-out drawer is located on one side of the cavity beneath the peninsula, so that Steve can reach for spices as he cooks at the hob

The Neff barbecue grill is one of Barbara and Steve's favourite appliances. 'It cooks food beautifully and is great for kebabs,' she smiles



Finding the right configuration of ovens that Steve could use was a challenge. 'In an ideal world, we'd have had two side-opening ovens – one large and one compact – because you don't have to lean right into them. However, the Bosch pull-down compact oven we settled on is a good capacity for its smaller size,' says Barbara



Where to buy AEG-Electrolux 0870 535 0350 Bosch 0870 727 0446 Carron Phoenix 01324 638321 Häfele 01788 542020 Neff 0870 513 3090 Rock Revelations 0845 351 0415 Vonsild www.vonsild.com

THE KITCHEN FILE

DESIGN & CABINETS

- Jamie Ellis at **Charles Yorke**, Prospect Close, Lowmoor Business Park, Nottinghamshire NG17 7LF (0870 428 1630) www.charlesyorke.co.uk
- Maple veneer and black walnut furniture

WORKTOPS

- 30mm Madura Gold granite, Rock Revelations. Price per sq m **£353**

SINK & TAP

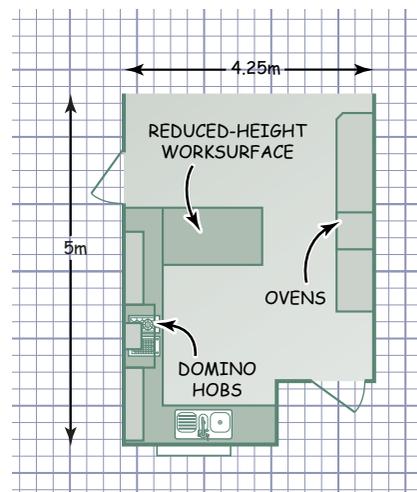
- Arristo 50 inset single-bowl sink in stainless steel, Carron Phoenix **£229**
- Tri-Pure Crystal Lever monobloc mixer filter tap in pewter, Carron Phoenix **£299**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- HBN43L550B multifunction single oven in brushed stainless steel, Bosch **£590**
- HBN43K550B compact single oven in brushed stainless steel, Bosch **£569**
- HMT9656GB microwave in brushed stainless steel, Bosch **£400**
- N2262N3GB two-burner, gas-on-glass domino hob in brushed stainless steel, Neff **£377**
- Existing two-zone ceramic domino hob, for similar try PKC345EGB, Bosch **£200**
- N1662N2 barbecue grill, Neff **£440**
- HD8694M curved chimney hood in stainless steel, AEG-Electrolux **£616**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated column larder fridge, AEG-Electrolux **£440**
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Bosch **£630**



GUIDE PRICE

- Total cost, excluding flooring **£33,300**