



"Our cottage has a grey clapperboard exterior and is built into a bank on the edge of a woodland area – it looks like a little piece of Scandinavia in the middle of Surrey," says Caroline Reid, who works in media. "We lived in it for about nine months before we started renovating, but knew from the day we moved in that we wanted a kitchen reflecting the Nordic look. However, every room in the house is on a different level, which limited what we could do. You have to go up a set of stairs from the ground floor to the kitchen, and the dining area has a sloping ceiling due to another set of stairs above. We decided to keep the layout, because it worked for us as a family, and concentrate instead on updating the existing worn-out kitchen. This also meant we saved money by keeping the plumbing and cooker in the same place." **Kitchen**, The Main Company; **white chairs**, Kartell.



## The FACTS

**Who?** Caroline and Stewart Reid with Sam, 15, Gabriel, 11, and Barney the Labrador  
**What?** A kitchen renovation in a three-bedroom 1920s semi-detached cottage.  
**Where?** Surrey  
**Cost?** £15,000  
**Time?** Five months



# into the woods

Set within a quaint forest landscape, homeowners Caroline and Stewart Reid wanted to give their cottage kitchen a modern refresh while staying sympathetic to its picturesque surroundings >

Words: Yvette Murrell Photography: Sean Knott





## design edit

- 1 Windsor Quaker dining chair, £435, Ercol. [ercol.com](http://ercol.com)  
 2 4751 Provence sink mixer tap in Satin Brass, £744.72, Perrin & Rowe. [perrinandrowe.co.uk](http://perrinandrowe.co.uk) 3 Bristol table lamp in concrete, £59, Heal's. [heals.com](http://heals.com)  
 4 Deep metro tiles in white, £25 per sq m, Tile Giant. [tilegiant.co.uk](http://tilegiant.co.uk) 5 Princess II 76cm radiator in Caspian, £499.50, Castrads. [castrads.com](http://castrads.com)

Caroline and her husband Stewart, who is a carpenter and stay-at-home dad, both liked the idea of bringing Scandinavian and industrial styles into their kitchen and enlisted the help of designer Alex Main, director at The Main Company, as soon as the project started. "He is really creative, so there was a lot of brainstorming over cups of coffee with ideas and sketches flying to and fro," recalls Caroline. "I had collected images of walk-in pantries, inspired by Nigella Lawson's TV kitchen, which helped us come up with a practical solution for the tricky area beside the stairs. We also redesigned the space next door to the kitchen with floor-to-ceiling birch ply cabinets for a larder and fridge. I have to dash up and down the steps, but I love the quirky layout – plus it means the tins of beans are out of sight. In the kitchen, a smaller fridge for essentials is hidden in a cabinet." **Flooring**, Mandarin Stone; **wall lamp**, Love4lighting.



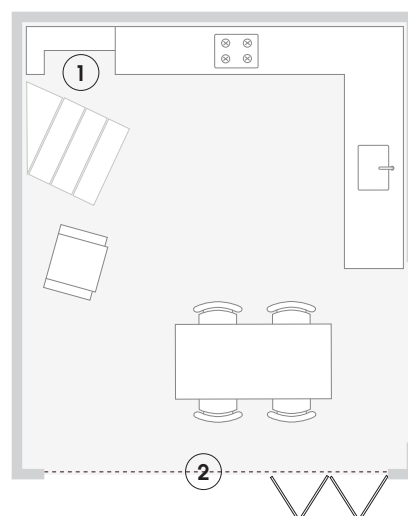
**#TRENDING**  
 Raw wood finishes offer an industrial look with natural texture

## The PLANS

Caroline and Stewart didn't change the layout of their existing kitchen, which saved them money, but instead focused on creating a Nordic look.

- 1 Larder** An open design was incorporated into the new scheme to help utilise the awkward space behind the staircase.  
**2 Bi-fold doors** Glazed doors open out to the garden and surrounding woodlands.

### KITCHEN-DINER

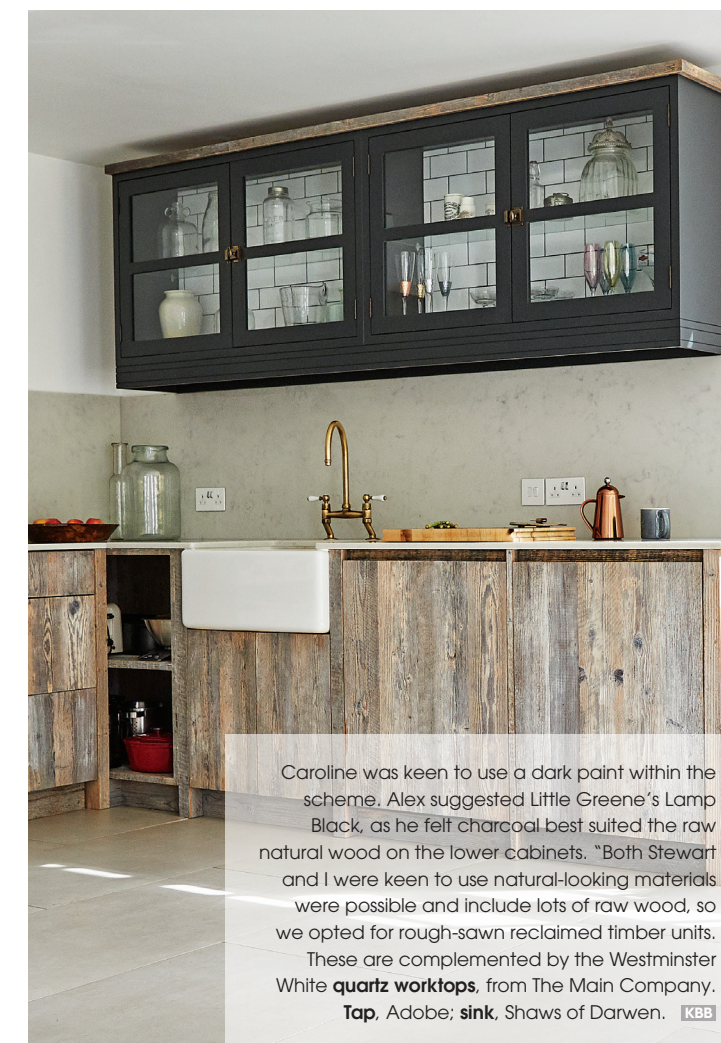


The overriding challenge was to keep the renovation sympathetic to the cottage's unusual layout – with every room being on a different level – while avoiding being twee. "We have a Swedish oak refectory table we bought from an antique shop in The Lanes in Brighton when our children were babies and it has followed us from house to house," says Caroline. "It's a bit rough round the edges but I love it – it holds so many memories of us as a family. We used it as our starting point and designed the look of the scheme around it. Now I love sitting at the dining table in my new kitchen with the bi-fold doors open onto the veranda, enjoying the view of trees and the woodland. It's quite a magical place." **Wooden chairs**, Loaf; **pendant lights**, Love4lighting; **radiator** Apollo.

## SOURCEBOOK

**Kitchen design** The Main Company 01423 330 451 [maincompany.com](http://maincompany.com)  
**Appliances** Range cooker, Lacanche 01202 733011 [lacanche.co.uk](http://lacanche.co.uk); Extractor, Faber 0845 548 3130 [faberhoods.co.uk](http://faberhoods.co.uk)  
**Flooring** Mandarin Stone 01600 715444 [mandarinstone.com](http://mandarinstone.com)  
 For full stockist information, see page 156

"I wanted the kitchen to feel cosy and inviting because I love entertaining," says Caroline. "I'm a very relaxed cook – my favourite dishes are things I can stick in the oven and forget about, such as casseroles and tagines. We stretched the budget to purchase the Lacanche **range cooker**, but it was our best buy and I absolutely love it. It complements the décor and cooks to perfection – my garlic roast potatoes are legendary." The vintage lever lamps and brass latch locks on the wall cupboards also are in keeping with the overall Scandi-industrial look the couple were striving for. **Kettle**, De'Longhi; **extractor**, Faber.



Caroline was keen to use a dark paint within the scheme. Alex suggested Little Greene's Lamp Black, as he felt charcoal best suited the raw natural wood on the lower cabinets. "Both Stewart and I were keen to use natural-looking materials were possible and include lots of raw wood, so we opted for rough-sawn reclaimed timber units. These are complemented by the Westminster White **quartz worktops**, from The Main Company. **Tap**, Adobe; **sink**, Shaws of Darwen. **KBB**