

Key info

- American walnut kitchen with raised oak top on island from JJ Byrne Cabinet Making
- Granite worktop from Portlaoise Stone
- 5 ring induction Rangemaster range cooker
- Fisher & Paykel fridge freezer
- Siemens dishwasher

TALL ORDER



Laura and Patrick completely renovated their period house before moving in. 'The house had been lived in when we purchased it but it needed substantial renovation so we carried out all the work in one go,' explains Laura.

The previous kitchen Laura estimates would have been fitted in the late '80s and had cabinetry in a light toned wood so, as you can see, she's gone for a completely different look with rich American walnut. Extending this part of the house, the new kitchen is now twice the size of the original room, which creates lots of space to accommodate dining furniture.

'We really did our research and spoke to lots of people for advice. Jack Byrne came highly recommended and when we visited his showroom and met with Jack, we could see why. He really listened and accommodated everything we wanted. I knew I didn't want a plain rectangular island so Jack was able to design me this curved island with two levels, one for food prep, and the other for casual dining. He also suggested incorporating storage on both sides of the island which really appealed to me. Most islands are panelled on one side but we have additional storage where the bar stools are, which is an excellent feature. As all the cabinetry is totally bespoke, Jack can make any shape or size of island.'

As the ceilings are high in this room, Jack also suggested designing taller than standard wall cupboards and overmantel for the range cooker, giving the room a good sense of balance. 'I always knew I wanted walnut but did have a slight concern that the room could look very dark. Again, Jack came up with the solution of incorporating glass to reflect light. Bevelled glass features can be seen in the wall cabinets



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and you can also see a plain glass feature above the fridge freezer, where a wine rack would normally be positioned. 'I love this feature, it just adds another dimension to the kitchen.'

Flanking the fridge freezer are two pullout larders, tailor made to surround this appliance, while achieving symmetry. 'My favourite appliance is my Fisher & Paykel fridge freezer. I'd recommend this to anyone, it's absolutely fantastic! Where most American style fridge freezers provide ice and water, you usually find that this compromises on space on the reverse side of the door. Not with this model though as the water is piped into the door; it's brilliant and provides so much fridge and freezer space.'

To help Laura visualise how the kitchen would fit in the room, Jack made templates to give her a clearer picture. 'I'm not very spatially aware and found it really difficult to envisage how the island and the rest of the design would look, so Jack was a great help on that front as well! The island is indeed a very large piece of furniture. There's a huge amount of prep. space. We had a party a while back and at one stage, there were three of us all preparing food at the island at one time and there was still plenty of room.' The island and breakfast bar are such a hit that Laura and Patrick haven't been in any rush to buy dining furniture. 'We don't have young children so the breakfast bar is ideal for us!'

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