

The complete lifestyle magazine

October 2009 | £3.60

COUNTRY LIVING

HOUSES • GARDENS • FOOD • CRAFTS • HEALTH • TRAVEL • RURAL ISSUES

AUTUMN *inspiration*

FORAGING FOR NATURAL FINDS
CELEBRATING BRITISH APPLES & WINE
LIVING OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

MIND & BODY
THE BEST WORKOUTS
TO LIFT YOUR SPIRITS

**PLANTING
IDEAS**
SEASON OF
MISTS IN A
SOMERSET
GARDEN



DECORATING *SPECIAL*

**DREAM KITCHEN
SCHEMES**

**SPECIAL EFFECTS
WITH COLOUR**

**A WATERMILL
RESTORED**

SAVE UP TO 30% on tickets to our Christmas Fair

Streamlined **STYLE**

Creating a contemporary look that could still incorporate traditional rustic elements required a thoughtful approach to the kitchen of an old Gloucestershire cottage

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALISON HAMMOND | STYLING BY BEN KENDRICK | WORDS BY NATALIE FLAUM

MOVING INTO A SMALL hillside cottage in Gloucestershire two years ago, with her children, Ava, nine, and Freddie, 12, Roberta Moore Hobbs felt the kitchen looked tired and cramped. "I was keen to replace it and open up the space with simple furniture and clean lines," she explains. "Although I envisaged a contemporary style, I wanted to include traditional rustic elements, such as a double butler sink with an old-fashioned pewter tap, and an Aga under the beam of the inglenook fireplace."

She commissioned Cotswold-based

bespoke designer and maker Dominic Ash to create a streamlined kitchen that would also take into consideration the age and character of the cottage. "He suggested combining natural materials, including oak, maple and slate, with soft, chalky-coloured paints for a country feel," Roberta says. Dominic devised a sleek, stylish, single galley of fitted units and tongue-and-groove walls containing completely 'hidden' cupboards that wouldn't protrude into the room. One provides vital storage for china and

cookware while the other is a larder.

Other clever details designed to take up the minimum of space include spotlights that are flush with the low ceiling and shelves built into an alcove painted the same light-reflecting white as the walls. All appliances are kept out of sight, while the family dining area appears airy and uncluttered. "It's in keeping with the cottage without looking too minimal," she says. "Dominic also made the oak table where the children and I spend a lot of time enjoying the views across the valley." ▸

BELOW Natural materials, including oak, maple and slate, have been combined with soft, chalky-coloured paints to give a country feel to this streamlined, single galley of bespoke fitted units with a tongue-and-groove backdrop designed by Dominic Ash





Classic oak chairs by Danish designer Hans J Wegner and a sleek, brushed-steel fridge bring a contemporary edge to the room, working well with the exposed beams and stonework and black Aga



Sourcebook

- Cabinets, table, slate worktops: all **Dominic Ash** (01242 890184; www.dominicash.co.uk).
- Range: **Aga Rayburn** (0845 712 5207; www.aga-rayburn.co.uk).
- Tap: **Perrin & Rowe** (01708 526361; www.perrinandrowe.co.uk).
- Ceramic sink: **Franke** (0161 436 6280; www.franke.co.uk).
- Tongue-and-groove splashback painted in Slipper Satin oil eggshell: **Farrow & Ball** (01202 876141; www.farrow-ball.com).
- Limestone floor tiles: **Stanleys Quarry** (01386 841236).
- Oak chairs: **Hans J Wegner at Viaduct** (020 7278 8456; www.viaduct.co.uk).

