

# HOUSE & GARDEN

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THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO STYLISH LIVING

## PRACTICALLY PERFECT

4 FANTASTIC KITCHENS  
THAT REALLY WORK

STYLISH,  
HARD-WEARING  
FLOORING

INGENIOUS  
STORAGE

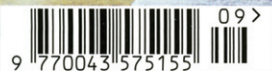
EFFORTLESS  
RECIPES  
FOR LAZY  
DAYS

## HOLIDAY RETREATS

A BEAUTIFUL ADAM HOUSE  
IN THE WYE VALLEY

A SEASIDE CABIN IN NORWAY

A NEW FAMILY HOME IN  
PROVENCE



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# CULINARY CROWNS

THE MODERN KITCHEN IS MORE THAN A PLACE FOR FOOD PREPARATION - IT IS A CENTRE OF DOMESTIC LIFE, AN ENTERTAINING SPACE AND THE HEART OF THE HOME

Everyday life can be transformed for the better by good design, and nowhere is this more true than in the kitchen - the hub of the home. These four very different kitchens have been designed by specialists to fulfil the demanding requirements of their owners. Maximizing light as well as space for storage and food preparation were important factors in each case, but great attention was also paid to creating an

environment that facilitated communication between cook and guests. Space permitting, kitchens have become the new 'living areas', with adjoining dining and sitting areas part of the design concept from the outset. As Ann King says of the extension to her Elizabethan cottage, 'My new kitchen has one drawback - it's so lovely to be in that I spend much more time there than I had ever anticipated.'

TEXT AMANDA HARLING





PHOTOGRAPHS: GRANT SCOTT



## POUND COTTAGE

In 1987, Ann King and her late husband Russell bought Pound Cottage, a Grade II-listed, sixteenth-century, timber-framed building in a pretty Hertfordshire village. Over time, Ann found the inherent characteristics of an Elizabethan cottage – poor daylight, low ceilings and the lack of a single spacious living area – increasingly trying. A couple of years ago, she commissioned her son, London-based architect Jeremy King, to build an extension which would provide her with the bright, open-plan kitchen/dining/living area that she had promised herself when time and funds allowed.

Jeremy King solved the problem of integrating the new building with the old by designing a timber-clad, barn-like structure with a clay-tile roof which extends at the back to form a covered terrace. Beautifully engineered, sliding french windows with iroko frames open on to the terrace – ball-bearing castors set into the bottom of the heavy doors run along a stainless-steel track in the concrete paving slabs. With his mother's budget in mind, Jeremy incorporated into the scheme existing appliances,

including a much-loved Belling hotplate. A Heal's dining table dating from the Seventies was freshened up with a coat of white paint and teamed with newly acquired Eames dining chairs. The effect is at the same time modern and timeless.

● Jeremy King (tel: 020-8896 1195,  
e-mail: diggie.king@btinternet.com)

Ann King's kitchen – described by its architect, her son Jeremy King, as 'pzazz on a budget' – takes the form of a clay-tiled 'barn' extension to her sixteenth-century cottage. A set of Eames dining chairs surrounds the painted Seventies Heal's table. The matchboarded kitchen cupboards are also painted. The floor is made of concrete paving slabs by Marshalls. Iroko-framed french windows open on to the garden, via a terrace partly shaded by the overhanging roof, where Ann sits with Tom the cat (below right)