

## ENHANCEMENT WITH COLOUR & FORM

It's all well and good discussing the advantages or disadvantages, beauty or acceptability of kitchen styles: built-in versus freestanding, or a combination of the two. But what if you have the most delightful kitchen, fully functioning and easy to use, which for some reason or other, doesn't pull at your heart strings or stir the soul enough to get you thinking creatively? It may be that the layout and design are just too prescriptive for your tastes. Let me make some suggestions.

Consider bringing in a vibrant colour in the form of wall paint or tiles, fabric accents or, more fundamentally, a key piece or two of delightful furniture - useful to a degree, but more to do with beauty and desire.

It's great to have sensible storage, but look at alternatives. That aged pine linen press which is gathering dust in the spare bedroom could be freshened up with a coat of wax or paint, and brought into play in your kitchen or dining area.

And if you don't have such a piece what do you do? Well, have a look at a few pieces from the fabulous range of heirloom furniture produced by the well-respected French company, Grange. Grange is a sister company to Fired Earth, where you'll find many pieces on display and new ranges being introduced in a few months' time.

The Bastide range of solid oak freestanding kitchen pieces can be enhanced and lightened by a few wrought iron items, such as chairs, shelves, racks. Or how about a beautifully painted and lightly distressed hall cabinet slotted into a corner of your kitchen to add a zing of colour?

Changing the table and chairs in the casual dining area of your home can vastly alter the entire



room. Think delicate yet serious, with pieces from the Provence range, beautifully antiqued and polished, and featuring the simple fluid lines associated with this region of France.

Go for an exuberant and elegant (yet very modern) look with the use of Parisian-styled pieces from the Rochambeau collection.

Alternatively, opt for a warm and cosy feel of the Chandelle range. Simple lines, a modern touch of fluting and light-toned paintwork with a charming heart motif are all features of the range.

These vastly varied collections are just an example of what can be done to change the look of a functional room.

Grange started life in 1904 in Lyon and is one of the oldest and most respected cabinetmakers in France. It engenders the concept of *meubles de famille* which is the age-old tradition of passing on valuable furnishings to future generations - heirlooms, as we know them. Finally, look out for the exciting new Shaker ranges from Grange being launched this spring, on display within Fired Earth at Darts Farm, Topsham.

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*The interior design service costs from £150 per room and includes a home visit with supporting presentation at the showroom (fee is fully refundable, subject to terms & conditions). Ewa specialises in bathroom and kitchen redesigns.*