

25 Beautiful HOMES

APRIL 2010
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AUS \$8.50
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TOWN ■ COUNTRY ■ NEW-BUILDS ■ INTERIORS ■ ADVICE ■ INSPIRATION

Light & bright

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- Sleek city apartment
- Country style in a converted stables



WIN
£6,000
of bedroom
furniture

REAL-LIFE IDEAS

- 13 Hallways
- 25 Kitchens
- 39 Bedrooms

Simple decorating

INSPIRING IDEAS TO MAKE YOUR OWN



LIVING IN THE SOUTH

FAVOURITE SHOP

KIT STONE



89/91 Wandsworth Bridge
Road, London SW6 2TD
(020 7371 9997, kitstone.co.uk)



WHY SHOULD I GO?

If your dreams of a handmade country kitchen are thwarted by bespoke price tags, you're a candidate for Kit Stone. With costs averaging under £10,000, this bespoke solid-wood cabinetry is a savvy buy, and teams rural homeliness with modern practicality. Traditional cupboard doors conceal clever storage, and the handsome units are built to withstand modern family life.

Kit Stone is probably best known for its range of garden and dining furniture, and a selection of teak and wicker pieces can be found at the new Fulham showroom. But it's the kitchen cabinetry that takes centre stage here.

MUST-HAVE BUYS

Kit Stone's Dorchester is a classic design with a bygone feel, all Shaker panelling

and open shelving. The fitted furniture can be finished in one of 20 paint colours – the company's muted creams, greys and blues are proving especially popular – and it is possible to put your own contemporary spin on the range thanks to an extensive choice of worksurfaces, handles and appliances.

If you prefer a freestanding look, there are plenty of dressers and islands to tempt you. We loved the full-height wine rack, which boasts storage for 25 bottles of your favourite vino and shelves for glasses, and the matching butcher's block, which comes with a choice of marble or granite top to sit over the chunky wood surface.

As we've mentioned, kitchens aren't the only thing on sale here. You can also get a taste of Kit Stone's outdoor and dining furniture collections and

pick out a finishing touch for your new scheme – the paintings by local artists that line the walls are all for sale.

HOW'S THE SERVICE?

It's recommended that you book an appointment with one of Kit Stone's designers, who will talk through your needs. There's no pressure to buy, and you can order furniture without their input. Either way, each customer is given his or her own dedicated point of contact in the company – a real bonus if you're likely to change your mind about door handles several times a day.

Most deliveries are carried out by the in-house team, and nothing arrives flat-packed. You're welcome to take samples away for a small deposit, and there is a no-quibble five-day returns policy for freestanding furniture.

(Shown, from left) Dunraven chairs, £185 each, paired with the Clermont table, £995; Dorchester fitted kitchen in Limestone finish, around £10,000

5 BEST BUYS

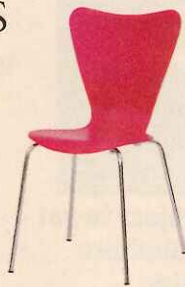
KITCHEN BRIGHTS



Nest 8 preparation bowl set, £35, Joseph Joseph (020 7261 1800, josephjoseph.com)



Sand egg timer, £11.50, David Mellor (01433 650220, davidmellordesign.com)



Trend chair in pink, £40, Next (0844 844 8939, next.co.uk)



Flip storage jars, from £2.50 each, Jamie Oliver (0845 279 7227, jamieoliver.com)



LSA 1.5-litre Basis jug, £22, Oliver Bonas (020 8974 0110, oliverbonas.com)