



Ask the experts

Wondering which neutral colours to use as darker accent shades or need help revamping your kitchen? You ask – we find the answers.

Compiled by Desiree Hartney

Kitchen dilemmas

In the October 2017 issue of *Home*, a Milestone Kitchen worth R50 000 was up for grabs – ultimately the winner was Jenna Schoeman of KwaZulu-Natal! One of the other entries also caught our eye, so we asked Silvia Miles, owner of Milestone Kitchens, to design a solution for her too.

#1

THE CHALLENGE

Jenna Schoeman of KwaZulu-Natal writes We live in an old stone farmhouse, but it needs a new kitchen to suit its beautiful exterior. The space is long and narrow, and the floors are dark. I'd love to update the look and make the most of the available space with a view to undertaking structural renovations at a later stage; right now, we're not in a position to knock down walls or replace the floors.

THE SOLUTION



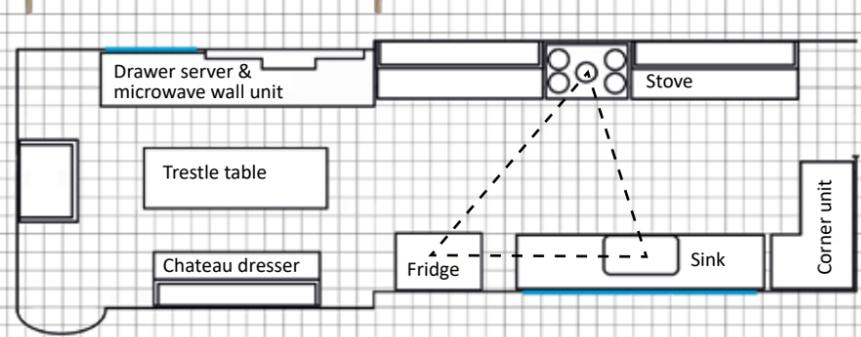
→ Silvia replies While the width of your kitchen is limited, the space is still big enough to accommodate cosy areas where the family can gather. Create a communal zone with a central table and benches.

To counteract the narrowness of the space, make the most of the walls with tall wall units and open shelving; Milestone Kitchens offers a microwave wall unit, a utensils unit and a recipe book unit to accommodate books and other kitchen items such as serving platters and jugs. Our freestanding units are equipped with castors so you can easily relocate your kitchen furniture when the time comes to redo the floors or renovate.

Our solid wood units are durable and will last a lifetime. Whether you opt for the more budget-friendly pine option or more expensive ash wood, you can sand and seal the tops to keep them in pristine condition.



African Allure microwave wall unit 1800mm W x 400mm D x 900mm H from R10 913



Remember the triangle theory when planning your kitchen: stove, fridge and sink must be in close proximity, as indicated above with the dotted line.



Deluxe grocery cupboard (900mm W x 700mm D x 2400mm H from R22 735.



#2

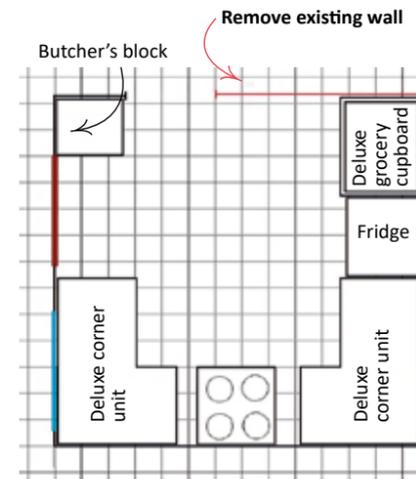
THE CHALLENGE

Maura Hardman of xxxxxxxxx writes My mother is retired but she loves to keep busy and runs her entire household from her kitchen. The space is very small and can feel cluttered. Any advice?

THE SOLUTION

→ Silvia replies The most obvious challenge is a shortage of space. I suggest removing the wall between the kitchen and dining room to open up the space. I'd also brick up the open pantry cupboard to make space for a corner unit – these units work beautifully in small spaces, making use of areas that other furniture can't.

Clever storage solutions are also important when you don't have the luxury of space. With Milestone's deluxe grocery cupboard (pictured above) and corner unit, you can fit so much more into the kitchen. This helps to keep the space uncluttered and organised and creates the illusion of more space.



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Karien van den Berg
March 29 at 9:40am

How can I use colour to create balance in this space, with lots of texture? The room is 3.5 x 3.5m and is being converted into a playroom. Our colour scheme is blue, grey and taupe.



Jani Augustyn-Goussard
Would you be open to also painting the brick wall or giving it a new look? If not, I would use

it as my starting point and paint the other walls in a tranquil taupe or light-grey that complements the brick's cement wash. I recommend you add colour by painting the inner section of the entrance arch a deep grey-blue (such as Starry Night or Sail Away). If you do decide to give the brick wall a new look, go for a light teal or grey and colour-wash the bricks. You can also paint the wall where the arch is located in a different blue such as Sail Away – this will suit the playroom space. Hope this helps.



Karien van den Berg
Thank you very much! We are thinking about painting the brick wall but we're unsure how and with what. Your advice is invaluable. We also intend removing the mirrors one day and using them elsewhere.



Jani Augustyn-Goussard
I would tackle the project step by step and definitely soften the contrast between the bricks and mortar by colour-washing them in the same shade as the other walls. A darker blue on the entrance arch or just next to it will look amazing. >>