



Key info

- Solid wood cream handpainted design with brown ash island from Abbeywood Furniture
- Angola black granite worktop with walnut worktop on breakfast bar
- Neff double oven
- Elica Menhir extractor hood
- Fisher & Paykel dishdrawer
- Belling hob
- Liebherr Biofresh fridge freezer
- Olympus tap and undermounted sink from Franke on main work surface
- Kohler Ice Rock sink and Blanco Atos-S tap on island
- Tiles from Tile King

BRANCHING OUT

Photography by Jörg Köster.

The home: An extended family home in Carrigrohane, just outside Cork city.

Who lives here? Diarmuid and Maire and their three children Kate, Christie and Patrick.

After visiting upwards of ten kitchen showrooms, Diarmuid and Maire decided that Abbeywood Furniture were the kitchen company for the job. The couple loved their home and its location but felt that the layout could be improved to accommodate a more spacious kitchen, open plan to include a dining and sitting area. 'The original kitchen was at the front of the house but it just wasn't spacious enough for the whole family. We decided to extend to the rear and now we practically live in here. It incorporates the kitchen, a dining area and a little nook for relaxing and watching TV,' says Maire.

The difference between this kitchen and their previous one is day and night. 'The original kitchen was quite small and narrow. The new layout is a breath of fresh air and a welcome change. The back of the house gets lots of natural light so it's a great place to dine and relax too.' Much more than just a kitchen, this is exactly what the couple wanted – a spacious, sociable area, integrating cooking, dining and living space to accommodate their growing family.





From their first meeting with Donal at Abbeywood Furniture, Diarmuid and Maire knew they were going to get the kitchen they wanted. Donal took all their ideas on board and offered other suggestions, that he felt would best suit the couple and the layout of the room. 'Donal convinced us to choose the four metre island. We weren't sure this would work but we trusted his opinion and now it's my favourite feature.' The layout is so practical for the whole family. At first, I wanted to base the kitchen around the idea of having a range cooker.

Donal drew up two plans; one with a range cooker and one with a split level oven option with separate hob. In the end, Donal was right and we decided against the range cooker idea. The split level oven is great and we have the hob in the

island, as well as the sink. The positioning of the appliances makes the kitchen a pleasure to cook in. It's a large room yet everything is convenient – it's so easy to clear up after cooking.' Another of Maire's favourite features is the additional sink in the island – now she can prepare dinner while chatting to friends or family at the dining table.

As a more casual dining option, the breakfast bar on the end of the island is an interesting addition. A chunky walnut top, contrasts with the ash and painted wood, softening the lines of the island and complementing the curved cupboard by the larder storage. A truly practical design, no detail has been overlooked.

Phone Abbeywood Furniture, Mallow, Co Cork 022 29400.