



Bespoke Pine n Oak and a masterclass in quality

A former blacksmiths, a unique restoration project and a stunning handcrafted kitchen by King's Lynn based Bespoke Pine n Oak...

When Kevin Andrews and Marianne Brown found the ideal site for the perfect family home just outside King's Lynn, they found it in a barn that had been home to four generations of Magdalen blacksmiths. Indeed, when the couple first viewed the property it was still a working blacksmiths.

"In those early days it was very hard to imagine it as a home," says Kevin. "It was so dirty and black it was difficult to see the walls, it was packed with industrial equipment, and you had to climb a ladder to get upstairs! But we loved the way it felt and we knew it had a great deal of potential."

The couple purchased the property around three years ago and embarked on what they realised would be a long-

term project to lovingly and carefully transform it into a home.

From the start, the couple had plenty of ideas for the property and already had a vision for the kitchen.

"We'd earmarked a central area for the kitchen and were always going to retain the original partition wall as a main feature as it had some fascinating variations in brick size," says Kevin. "However, to make the most of the space, we wanted something bespoke and unique, with Cathedral flagstone floors completing the oak and granite source material. The property was unique and the kitchen had to reflect that. It had to be something very special."

Armed with some admittedly loose designs and sketches, the couple started looking for suitable kitchen

suppliers and made a fortuitous visit to King's Lynn one Saturday afternoon, finding themselves outside the store and workshop of Bespoke Pine n Oak in the town's Tower Street.

"Throughout the conversion we were determined to use local companies and we liked what we saw in the window, so we walked in and introduced ourselves," says Kevin.

Bespoke Pine n Oak has been established for over 20 years (operating from the very same shop) and combines the long timber trade experience of Kevin Berry with the remarkable craftsmanship of his fellow director Carl Ingram.

It was exactly the combination Kevin and Marianne were looking for.

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KEVIN ANDREWS
Magdalen, Norfolk



were interested in and they were genuinely enthusiastic about our project," says Kevin Andrews. "I think what impressed us more than anything else was that Bespoke Pine n Oak were interested in creating a unique kitchen that would work for us and the building itself – rather than forcing more standard shapes and sizes on us."

Working from Kevin and Marianne's initial sketches and drafts, Bespoke Pine n Oak visited the site several times over the following months, creating outline schematics, designing individual units for equally individual spaces, and suggesting ideas for a number of innovative features.

"We did challenge them by changing the layout a number of times," says Kevin. "We didn't make life easy for them, but they always rose to the occasion and the whole process was a very positive collaboration. The result is a fantastic bespoke kitchen that does justice to their skills and is the perfect solution for the barn."

That commitment to handcrafting unique furniture for unique spaces is at the very heart of Bespoke Pine and Oak.

"People should never settle for second best when it comes to their homes," says Director Kevin Berry. "Fortunately, Carl has an amazing talent for taking the vaguest of ideas and turning them into beautiful and

functional pieces of furniture. The possibilities really are only limited by your imagination."

Indeed, this is craftsmanship of the highest order. Everything – from a single bookshelf to a complete kitchen – is carefully crafted by hand in Bespoke Pine n Oak's own workshops using traditional cabinet-making and carpentry skills.

They still use elements such as dovetail joints, mortice and tenon frames, and lap joints – and though they mostly work in solid pine and oak, there are several other choices available to customers looking for something exceptional.

"The effort Bespoke Pine n Oak put into the detailing of the kitchen was extraordinary," says Kevin Andrews. "They double checked all the measurements, and they even had a 'dry run' with the empty carcasses to ensure the design translated into the real world successfully."

Now installed, Kevin and Marianne's kitchen – with its beautifully waxed finish and contrasting painted drawer fronts – is largely complete apart from some final finishing touches and the couple are already looking forward to enjoying it when they finally move into the property next year.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the work they've done," says Kevin. "If

you're creating something and need to have complete trust in the workmanship and standards of the tradesmen willing to collaborate on your project, then Bespoke Pine n Oak are the very best people to work with. Every member of the team is extremely polite, extremely professional and extremely talented."

If you're looking for top quality, individually made and solid timber furniture of any shape, any size for any room, look no further than Bespoke Pine n Oak. As they say – if you can draw it, they can make it!



— information —

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