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Who lives here? Karen, Rodney and their two year old daughter, Molly.

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aving built their family home just a year ago, Karen and Rodney have achieved a homely feel, full of character. Knowing they wanted a traditionally styled home, the couple had their own ideas about what they'd like for their knew kitchen before they began browsing showrooms. 'As soon as we chatted to Fintan at McGovern Kitchen Design, we knew he would be the one to design our kitchen,' says Karen.

Although wanting a light colour scheme, Karen preferred the idea of something different from the norm. While browsing the showroom, she admired a display which had a sage coloured island and walnut units. 'I loved the sage and instantly thought I'd like our kitchen in this colour scheme, but in reverse, with sage units and a walnut island.' This pale green tone contrasts beautifully with the dark walnut, creating a fresh look that's a striking alternative to cream.

An unusually shaped room, the chimney for the Aga dictated the layout. A cream Aga adds character, with a curved unit finishing the corner, softening the look. 'We wanted plenty of curves in the room – I wanted a large kitchen but didn't like the idea of too many straight lines, so this unit and the curved detail on the island create a nice flow.' Having always wanted a larder and plenty of room for books, Karen is delighted with her larder and freestanding dresser. 'I always remember my auntie having





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these fabulous larders in her homes; I always said, if I got the chance to build, this would be a must-have. I've also always wanted lots of space for books so the dresser was also top of the list.'

With a dining table at one end of the room — and a chaise longue which was Rodney's grandmother's — as well as a sunroom just off the kitchen, this is where the couple spend most of their time. 'We have a separate living room but we barely use it; the kitchen is our favourite place to be. I love this room and it's thanks to Fintan that we've been able to create a look that has met and exceeded our expectations. He really took the time to listen to what we wanted and worked with us on every aspect. He was brilliant — I'd definitely recommend him to anyone looking for a new kitchen.'

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