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Sir Terence Conran chooses a Neil Lerner Kitchen

TERENCE CONRAN



Terence Conran is one of the world's best-known designers, restaurateurs and retailers. His latest project, Terence Conran by Royal Doulton, is a collection of kitchenware pieces made from natural materials such as stone and oak. It's available at The Conran Shop from March.

Which is your favourite kitchen?

I like Neil Lerner's Diamond oak design. It's sympathetic to the existing architecture and looks functional – an essential ingredient of any modern kitchen. There is plenty of space to move around in and a generous amount of surface to prepare and cook on.

Can you describe your own kitchen?

It is a huge family room where the pleasures of cooking, eating and socialising happily exist side-by-side. It's an airy, country kitchen with all our pots, pans and utensils on display – many of them hang from a central aluminium hood that also acts as excellent extraction. We have a wonderful 33-year-old Aga and an open fire at each end. There's also a dining area, a scullery for dishwashing and storage plus a handy larder.

What does good kitchen design mean?

Its role extends far beyond its original function as the place where food is stored, prepared and cooked. It's the hardest working area of the home and also the most complex, so it requires precision planning and to be created from materials that can withstand the demands required by constant usage. It must be tailor-made to allow you to work comfortably and efficiently. It needs to be a place for hosting many activities – it will only be successful if you enjoy being there.

What do you mainly use your kitchen for?

Having written my book, *Kitchens: The Hub of the Home*, I know a thing or two about the subject! The kitchen is at the heart of our home and I simply love to spend as much time there as possible. I must thank my wife, Vicki, who has cooked many wonderful meals for our friends and family.

Tel: 020 7723 2223. www.conran.com

below This bespoke design at Neil Lerner features a large island unit in pale Diamond oak with a walnut worktop and a series of cupboards that house appliances. A wall of terracotta tiles completes the warm, sophisticated look. Expect to pay £15,000.

Tel: 020 7433 0705. www.neillerner.com



Feature by Hayley Gilbert

a few of our
favourite things

Experts from the fields of interiors, food and fashion share what kitchen designs they like the most, and why.