

FOR AWKWARD SPACES

Unusual-shaped rooms can present a challenge but, wherever possible, try to make the best of any quirky or original features and accentuate characterful nooks and architectural details rather than covering them up. Both free-standing and fitted kitchen designs can work in these sorts of spaces but always refer to a detailed floorplan, taking into consideration any protruding fixtures such as pipework or radiators.

Also, measure the width of alcoves and tight spots at various heights to ensure units and appliances will fit - walls in old country homes are rarely straight. If the walls are crooked or uneven, then free-standing units can provide a contemporary 'floating' contrast to the otherwise rustic backdrop.

If the kitchen has low beams or a sloping roof that reduces ceiling height, use the area for storage with base units and open shelving. Exploit existing structural features to their best advantage, too - an open, unused chimney-place is ideal for housing a range cooker and will make a strong focal point.

