



This Crown Imperial kitchen is from Oakwood Bespoke Kitchens, Camberley. The black granite worktops are from Stone Circle. The solid limestone floor is from Topps Tiles.

Paula Depledge has turned an Eighties-built house, complete with brown tiles, pink walls and friezes, into an uncluttered 21st century home. Here she lets Tessa Harris into her style secrets

IMAGES: Russ Witherington

What a difference two decades make in terms of style and designs. Although the six-bedroom house on the Berkshire/Surrey border that Paula Depledge and her husband Peter bought in 2005 was just 20 years old at the time, it appeared incredibly dated.

Explains Paula: “We fell in love with the look of the house but it just needed bringing up to date. It was very ’80s; dark brown tiling, rose pink carpet throughout and floral friezes. The whole house felt very pink. All the wardrobes were white with pink detail and crystal door knobs. It needed de-cluttering and brightening up.” And this is where Paula could put her design flair into play.

“I’d always had an eye for colour and detail and recently I decided to move it from a hobby to a career,” says Paula, who has a qualification in interior design and her own business, House to Home. She continues: “The key is to understand the main function or purpose of any room. You need to keep it de-cluttered to achieve an open and spacious feeling.”

Paula has certainly achieved this sense of spaciousness throughout by painting most of the walls in a neutral colour. “For a feeling of space, even in the smallest of houses, always keep the whole house painted in a similar hue”, says Paula. So, for example, she recommends not painting each room a different colour like red or blue, this will create individual small rooms. “Always paint the whole house in a similar colour but vary the