

Clockwise from above:  
**John Lewis of Hungerford**  
**Cool Pantry, from £4,820.**  
**Dada Tivali Larder**  
**Column, from £2,500.**  
**An Angel at my Table**  
**Grande Larder, £1,990.**



same glossy, stained oak veneer, with drawers, spice racks and soft-close doors.

Chairman Peter Sheppard and creative director Keith Day of the Sheppard Day design agency designed the Smallbone of Devizes Macassar kitchen and have the freestanding larder (pictured on opening pages, price on request) in their Venetian apartment. It is an ebony and marble-shelved temple to Italian food, made to be noticed rather than to blend into the background. The design “suits the Venetian lifestyle and cuisine”, says Sheppard: “There’s an abundance of dried and bottled foods in the markets, including wonderful pasta, beans, porcini, passata, tomatoes, oils, olives and anchovies. When friends come round for drinks, someone will often say, “Let’s eat” – and with these fantastic ingredients you can conjure up a delicious meal.” The inside of the larder is as impressive as the outside, featuring mirrors and lighting.

The majority of clients want to optimise organisation while hiding their food store from sight, says Robert Burnett, head of design at Holloways of Ludlow Kitchens (from £25,000). A Holloways project for a family in London incorporated a walk-in larder hidden behind a slender, almost “secret” door, lined with the same lacquered ash veneer as the rest of the cabinetry and the dividing wall. Inside is a floor-to-ceiling wine rack, wine cooler, food-prep area, microwave, toaster, scales,

left, £1,990). Resembling a wardrobe when closed, it melds into a hallway or dining-room corner.

The current larder trend has emphasised English firms that have reinstated a hitherto British classic, but Italian brand Dada offers a slim, glossy white lacquer larder column with stainless-steel drawers (pictured above left, from £2,500) in its Tivali kitchen range, as well as a tall, rotating walnut-finish larder cupboard (from £5,500) as part of its Hi-Line series.

Are these less-specialist larder cupboards without marble or stone shelves pushing the definition of the larder itself? For Charlotte Hill-Baldwin, sales and marketing director of John Lewis of Hungerford, whose freestanding wooden larders (example pictured far left, from £4,820) can be customised in colour and layout, the ideal larder should include “good ventilation, a cold shelf, hooks and spice

hangers”. As for a pantry, this should have “cool marble slabs, a cheese box, bottle holders and plenty of hooks for hanging game or herbs”. But Mowlem & Co design director Jane Stewart says there are no strict definitions for “what used to be a cool and contained storage space for dry and bottled goods before the advent of refrigeration. These days a larder can be whatever you want it to be, so long as it is spacious and well organised.” What defines the successful larder today, she says, is “opening a sleek set of doors to reveal your Aladdin’s cave of ingredients, all at a glance and within easy reach”. ♦

#### SHELVING THE OPTIONS

**An Angel at my Table**, 0845-200 0723; [www.angelatmytable.com](http://www.angelatmytable.com). **Dada**, 199 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (020-7631 2345; [www.moltenidada.co.uk](http://www.moltenidada.co.uk)). **Holloways of Ludlow Kitchens**, 121 Shepherd’s Bush Road, London W6 (020-7602 5757; [www.hollowayskitchens.com](http://www.hollowayskitchens.com)). **John Lewis of Hungerford**, 156-158 Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6 (020-7371 5603; [www.john-lewis.co.uk](http://www.john-lewis.co.uk)). **Marks & Spencer**, 458 Oxford Street, London W1 (020-7935 7954; [www.marksandspencer.com](http://www.marksandspencer.com)) and branches. **Mowlem & Co**, 555 King’s Road, London SW6 (020-7610 6626; [www.mowlemandco.co.uk](http://www.mowlemandco.co.uk)). **Smallbone of Devizes**, 220 Brompton Road, London SW3 (020-7581 9989; [www.smallbone.co.uk](http://www.smallbone.co.uk)). **Symm**, 01865-254 900; [www.symm.co.uk](http://www.symm.co.uk). **Taylor Howes Designs**, 020-7349 9017; [www.taylorhowes.co.uk](http://www.taylorhowes.co.uk).