

Essential

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KITCHEN

BATHROOM BEDROOM

THE ESSENTIAL KITCHEN BATHROOM BEDROOM MAGAZINE THE UK'S NO.1 £3.75

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‘Set on a stylish mirrored plinth, the cabinets look like they are floating.’

Having five children and a cramped cooking space, can be a recipe for disaster. So when it came to the kitchen in Helen Simons’ recently purchased Victorian house in south London, it wasn’t long before she began to realise that something simply had to be done. ‘It just wasn’t designed with needs of a large family in mind,’ explains Helen. ‘Not nearly enough storage, nor enough work surface, plus the room had a sloping glass roof with no ventilation, so it was always boiling hot in summer.’

Helen, a part-time literacy tutor, and husband Richard, a lawyer, agreed that a new kitchen to share with their five children, aged ten to teens, plus Murphy, the Labradoodle, was a priority. While they reconfigured the entire ground floor to open it up as much as possible, architect Martin Evans also suggested replacing the sloping glass roof of the kitchen with a flat roof with circular skylight. ‘That instantly meant that the light in the room was less glaring and the room less hot,’ explains Helen. Floor-to-ceiling doors along one wall, made of coated glass which is specially designed to keep the room cool in summer and warm in winter, replaced shorter doors and provided beautiful views of the garden. A strip of high level windows around two more walls mean that even the far corner of the kitchen is flooded with natural light. The couple wanted their new kitchen to be simple light, airy and easy to use so the windows ➔

Above The all-important ‘working triangle’ of the kitchen is well appointed, so everything is well within reach.

Right Dovetailed joints complete the solid Walnut bread drawer, finished in stainless steel.

Opposite Set on stylish mirrored plinths, the well-constructed furniture appears to float above the floor.

KITCHEN PROFILE

The luxurious Walnut and Silver furniture combines a contemporary design scheme with expertly crafted cabinetry. Solid frames have attractive slatted door fronts and beaten silver handles, teamed here with polished Nero Assoluto granite surfaces and touches of steel. A well designed island creates a focal point, while a spacious design ensures the room is ideally suited to this busy family.

Smallbone of Devizes, 220 Brompton Road, London, SW3 2BB.

Tel: 020 7589 5998. smallbone.co.uk.

Kitchen prices from £35,000.

Architect: Martin Evans Architects.

Tel: 020 7729 2474.

martinevansarchitects.com.





more like freestanding, rather than fitted furniture, which lends itself well to an open plan room. Helen and Richard didn't want it to look too 'kitcheny', explains Maria.

There was one other aspect of the furniture which particularly appealed to Helen and Richard – plenty of well thought out storage options. 'Because we have a large family, the kitchen has to be a working space, not just something nice to look at,' says Helen, who meticulously worked out exactly the amount of storage required, down to the very last

drawer. As well as maximum cupboard and drawer space, the design incorporates plenty of family-size appliances, including a large American-style fridge freezer and range cooker – and even the handy warming drawer has been super-sized.

The result? 'It makes a huge difference to have a well designed space,' says Helen. 'Even living with a temporary kitchen in the playroom for months whilst we waited for the glass doors to be finished was worth it – now the room really works for our family.' ■

STOCKISTS INFORMATION

APPLIANCES

Classic 1200 range cooker, £5,500; similar extractor hood, Arioso, £816, both at Britannia; ESW5080-29ss warming drawer, £740; G1282SCVi integrated dishwasher, £949, at Miele; Trilogy SOV028TB fridge freezer in stainless steel, priced from £2,200, at Maytag; Quooker Design boiling water tap in chrome, from £830, at Quooker.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

MGS T45 tap in matt stainless steel, £405, at Brass and Traditional Sinks; Perrin & Rowe Oberon 4861CP tap in chrome, £295, at Triflow Concepts; Icerock 3350W double bowl undermounted sink in stainless steel, £592, available at Kohler; Kubus KBX 110-34 undermounted sink in stainless steel, £258, available at Franke; Nero Assoluto polished granite with scoop edge detail, prices start from around £485 per sq. m, available at Smallbone of Devizes. See kitchen profile for details. Similar bar stools, prices start from around £165 each, at Atlantic Shopping; Walnut dining table, from a selection, £POA, at Mrs Robinson; Mariposa Delight dining chairs, from £249 each, at BoConcept; Window seat and curtains, made to order, price dependent on requirements, Home Design Service at John Lewis; Similar pendant lights, Baileys Industrial Light, from around £175 each, at Baileys; Porcelain floor tiles, from a selection, at World's End Tiles.

**All prices are approximate.
For stockists, see page 168.*



Above A picture window frames the garden view from the dining area and provides extra seating for the busy family.

Left The 'hook' spout and clean lines of the T45 mixer add to the modern feel of the room.



'I wanted the walnut finish, even before it became fashionable'

areas next to both the hob and the sink. 'If both were on the same run, the largest working area would be disjointed from the hob and sink,' explains designer Gary. 'When you have an 'L' shape with an island and eye level ovens, either the sink or hob has to live on the island.'

Opposite the island, the tall units act as cladding for the wall behind, which would have otherwise been a huge and empty space. A walnut panel cladding was used on the opposite side facing the walkway. The tall units also create ample storage space, neatly housing the ergonomically positioned ovens, fridge freezer and full-height larder with stone shelf and door rack. The dishwasher and bin are either side of the sink on the wet island, so both can be open at the same time whilst working in between them.

The colours and finish were thought out carefully too. 'I knew I had always wanted the walnut finish, even before it became fashionable,' says Helen. 'But what I loved about the Chamber kitchen was its simplicity and contemporary lacquer treatment, which has a more matt appearance.'

With such a welcoming and practical space that's ideal for entertaining, Helen is looking forward to making use of her new kitchen over the festive season. 'We normally celebrate Christmas with my family,' she explains. 'I have two sisters and a brother and along with my two children and husband, my mum and her husband and several nieces and a nephew, Christmas lunch is quite something. This year lunch is on us!'

The island unit features two undermounted bowls with a Quooker boiling water tap. Below Helen chose lift-up wall units as it creates a sleeker feel.

STOCKISTS INFORMATION

APPLIANCES

Miele G1282 SCVi dishwasher, £867; 2 x Miele H5240BP 60cm pyrolytic single ovens, £2,062; Miele KF 9757 iD fridge freezer, £1,050; Miele KM 391GG gas hob; £939; Quooker Basic pro3-vaq boiling water tap, £830; W S Westin 70cm built in extractor, £404; all supplied by Chamber Furniture

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Base units made from a horizontal grain American black walnut, £100 per sq m; tall units with 60% high-gloss spray paint; £80 per sq m; Porcelain Sardinia floor, £50 per sq m; all supplied by Chamber Furniture; 30mm thick composite quartz

Luceminima polished worktops, £240 per sq m, supplied by Diespeker; Claris limescale reducing filter, £337; ISE 78 Batch feed waste disposal, £327; Kohler 3325W Icerock single undermounted bowl 540x405x241mm, £266; 3333W Icerock single undermounted bowl 230x400x140mm, £194; 2 x KSC155 90mm basket strainer waste and overflow stainless steel, £42; Perrin & Rowe Rubiq 4210 mixer tap, £238; all supplied by Chamber Furniture; Pendant light fixtures from John Lewis, try the Anton, £70 for similar; Iris bar chair, £99 each, John Lewis. *All prices are approximate. For stockists, see page 168.

