



Enduring **STYLE**

**ANGELA AND JAMES TEARLE EXTENDED
THE BACK OF THEIR EDWARDIAN HOME TO
MAKE WAY FOR A SMART, UNDERSTATED
KITCHEN WITH LONG-LASTING APPEAL**

Feature **LUCY SEARLE** *Photography* **JAMES KERR**

A touch of gloss

The Corian worktops, statement pendant lights and stainless steel fittings add contrast and shine to the matt-grey cabinetry



Convenience store

All wet and dry food is kept in one area inside a run of larder units, just a few steps away from the island workstation

‘As I’m quite fickle, I made sure the kitchen’s colour scheme and style was very versatile so I can easily refresh the look with new accessories and furniture’

Angela and James Tearle had definite ideas about how their new kitchen should look from the outset. ‘We had the opportunity to completely redesign our kitchen and dining room space, as we were adding an extension at the back of the house,’ says Angela. ‘And even though we were updating the look, we still wanted to maintain the sense of period character. So my plan was to create a modern take on a traditional style.’

Early in the planning process, Tim Higham of Higham Furniture came to the couple’s house. ‘We were able to discuss how the kitchen would look right from inception,’ says Angela. The Tearles opted for bespoke cabinetry with maple doors and oak interiors, hand-painted in light and dark grey, paired with chunky white worktops to keep the room feeling

fresh and modern. ‘We opted for a classic, understated look, as it was important that we chose a style that wouldn’t date quickly,’ explains Angela. ‘And, as fashions change or we get bored of it, we can quickly update the cabinetry simply by painting it.’ A large workstation was a real must-have for the couple, too. ‘We enjoy cooking and entertaining, so we wanted to make sure the space worked well for all aspects of our life,’ says Angela. ‘As well as being a useful workspace, islands are great gathering spots, and provide a strong focal point.’

Unlike the rest of the house renovation, the kitchen refit went remarkably smoothly. ‘Tim is a real perfectionist, and at the same time was very patient and accommodating, managing the installation around our building works when we hit delays,’ concludes Angela.



Project profile

THE OWNERS Angela and James Tearle, who both work in finance

THEIR HOME An early Edwardian mid-terrace house in south London

THE PROJECT Creating a timeless kitchen scheme with a large, sociable central island as its main focus

ROOM SIZE 8 x 5m

DESIGNER Tim Higham of Higham Furniture

CABINETRY Bespoke handleless Shaker-style units, £16,700, Higham Furniture

BUDGET Around £27,000

Matching pair

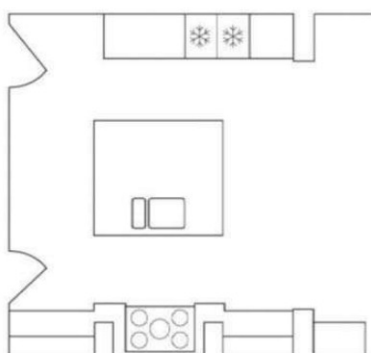
Instead of wall cupboards, the couple opted for Corian shelving either side of the cooker to display favourite finds and complement the worktops



Hidden assets

Oak interiors provide a warm contrast to the cool grey finish of the door fronts

The layout



Bowled over

The integrated island sink looks super sleek and is easy to clean due to its seamless finish

DESIGN SOLUTION

Designer Tim Higham explains...

How did you settle on the layout?

We recommended that the kitchen be placed in the dark area of the new extension, with the dining and relaxing areas benefiting from natural light. The room was wide enough to be able to have a substantial island, which was a key element as Angela and James enjoy entertaining and wanted the dual workspace/ breakfast bar facility. They can prep food there, and due to the depth of the worktop, the seating is a comfortable distance from the sink. There wasn't enough room along the cooker run for a sink and to keep the symmetry, so the island was the best place for it to be.

And what about the overall style?

Although there are lots of traditional elements, such as the chimney breast, overmantel and range cooker, Angela didn't want an overly fussy look. Our handleless Shaker cabinetry has a simple, clean and classic look, while the paint colours the couple picked work well with the white Corian worktops and shelving, which add a light, contemporary touch to the whole ensemble.

Were there any significant challenges you had to overcome?

Yes. The entrance from the hallway is in the back corner of the kitchen, and as the cooker was to go in the chimney breast, the only place we could fit the run of tall units was next to the door. This wasn't ideal because we didn't want to enter the room and be faced by masses of cabinetry, so we had to keep expanding and shrinking this section until it was just right.

What storage solutions are included in the floor-to-ceiling units?

There are two larders either side of the fridge: a single one with a pull-out rack for packets, jars and tins; and the double larder features wine storage, open shelves and a door-hung spice rack, and also houses the microwave. These units were introduced to reduce the need for wall cupboards on the cooker run.

What do you think has worked particularly well with this design?

Including a substantial amount of storage without the kitchen looking overbearing was a great achievement. The combination of dark units, light flooring and white worktops was successful, too, bringing much-needed light into the dark end of the room.



The perfect fit

Going bespoke means you can tailor your larder's interior to your specific culinary needs

The details

CABINETRY Bespoke handleless Shaker-style units, with lacquered oak-veneer carcasses, maple doors/frames and oak interiors, £16,700, Higham Furniture. **Cabinetry paint**, Mid Lead and French Grey Pale intelligent eggshell, both £51 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene

SURFACES 50mm Glacier White Corian worktops and shelving, £3,400, Higham Furniture. **Wall paint**, French Grey Pale intelligent matt emulsion, £41.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. **Splashback tiles**, I Listelli tiles in Panna, £34.95sq m; Oriental Stone floor tiles, £55sq m, all Criterion Tiles

APPLIANCES Symphony 110 range cooker in stainless steel, £1,550; fully integrated dishwasher, £240, both Smeg. Freestanding microwave, £180, Panasonic. American-style fridge freezer, £2,100, Siemens

SINK AND TAP Corian 873 Glacier White integrated one-and-a-half-bowl sink, £256, Higham Furniture. Single-lever spray tap in brushed nickel, £199, Butler of London

FINISHING TOUCHES Drop One by Peter Bowles pendant lights, £129 each, The Conran Shop. White-and-blue vitrified porcelain jug, £15, Amazon, is comparable to this one