

The new kitchen is now open to the dining room and living room behind, creating easy flow between living spaces



## PROJECT PROFILE

**Owners** Milda Jardine, a policy advisor, and her husband Ross, a consultant, live here with their two young children.

**House** A four-bed detached 1950s house in Surrey.

**Project** The kitchen was relocated to a new rear extension to create a more sociable, family-friendly space.

**Kitchen size** 4.8x7.5m

**Designer** Tim Higham, Higham Furniture

**Cabinetry** Bespoke, painted in Skimming Stone by Farrow & Ball

# Room with A VIEW

A COSY WINDOW SEAT AND PRETTY TRADITIONAL GLAZING ENSURES THE JARDINES' NEW KITCHEN CONNECTS WITH THEIR GARDEN ALL YEAR ROUND



The island hosts three bar stools with curved backs for extra comfort

“WE LOVE MIXING OLD AND NEW, CONTEMPORARY AND VINTAGE – THE EXTENSION IS NEW BUT THE SHAKER CABINETRY AND TRADITIONAL WOOD-FRAMED GLAZING CREATE A TIMELESS LOOK”

The new windows and French doors were matched to the property's existing wooden frame glazing to continue the traditional elegance



The search for somewhere 'quieter, greener and more family friendly' led Milda and Ross Jardine out of London to a quiet, leafy close in Godalming, Surrey. 'We have beautiful countryside right on our doorstep and often spend weekends exploring nearby National Trust properties - Winkworth Arboretum is our favourite,' says Milda.

The Jardines' home was less idyllic on the inside when they bought it in 2013, but they fell for the property's traditional red pan tile facade and period windows. 'The interiors hadn't been touched since the 1950s and the kitchen was in a dark room at the front of the house,' Milda recalls. The couple spent six months remodelling the house, including moving the kitchen into a new extension at the rear. 'We wanted to enjoy the views of our south-west facing garden from the kitchen,' explains Milda. 'It's now flooded with light, even on a dull day, thanks to the large roof lantern.'

After weeks spent searching for the right kitchen company, the chance discovery of Higham Furniture's workshops near the Hampshire village where Ross

grew up felt like fate. 'We didn't think twice - we could see the quality, craftsmanship and attention to detail. The connection to the village, which is also where we got married, sealed the deal,' says Milda. 'The Shaker style appealed to us for its timeless elegance. We wanted a contrast between the main cabinets and island, so chose soft shades that would work well with the warmth of our wooden floors.'

The couple's main aim for the layout was to create a striking focal point that would really anchor the kitchen as the heart of the home. 'We wanted that classic range cooker and chimney breast feature, and the window seat was also important. With the kitchen much closer to the garden, we wanted to enjoy the views in comfort,' says Milda. Thanks to a walk-in pantry in the corner, there is plenty of storage, which meant Milda could afford to tread lightly when it came to wall units. She uses the open shelves to create colourful displays that add interest to her kitchen's neutral scheme. 'Our kitchen is now by far the most complimented area of the house and we truly love it,' she enthuses.



#### THE LAYOUT

The main units are on one elevation, with a range cooker and chimney-style hood creating a focal point in the middle and a 2.1x1m island running parallel. The fridge-freezer is freestanding at one end of the island for easy access. Behind the blackboard door is a walk-in pantry for tinned foods and oversized pans, and there's also a narrow dresser next to the window seat for glassware.



The easy-to-clean glass splashback is hand-gilded on the reverse with real silver leaf to create an elegant antiqued pattern



The comfortable foam cushion was made to measure with smart piped edging that helps retain its shape.

## ROOM WITH A VIEW

# 3 CLEVER DESIGN SOLUTIONS

### 1 WINDOW SEAT

Milda and Ross resisted the popular trend to install a stretch of bi-folding doors in their new extension. Instead, they opted for classic wood-framed glazing, with pretty French doors. This allowed room for the comfortable window seat that topped Milda's wish list. 'We use the seat all the time,' says Milda. 'The children even use it as a play table!' Higham suggested storage underneath, which consists of four generous drawers. 'It's my favourite feature in the room,' adds Milda.

### 2 CHALKBOARD DOOR

'This door leads to our walk-in pantry, which is even better than having a walk-in wardrobe - the space is incredible and everything is so easy to access,' says Milda. Simple blackboard paint makes the pantry useful on the outside, too. 'The blackboard is fantastic. Practical for making shopping lists or leaving notes to family members, it's also a great canvas for the children's artwork,' explains Milda. Add magnetic primer - at least three coats are recommended - under chalkboard paint to use it as a noticeboard, too.

### 3 BESPOKE SPLASHBACK

After researching many different options for achieving an antique mirror-effect splashback, Milda decided it was worth investing in bespoke glass by artisans Saligo Design. The glass tiles were made to Milda's specification and hand-silvered and sealed to get the desired vintage effect she was after. Each tile has a unique distressed finish, which makes them look really authentic but, being toughened, the glass is far safer than real antique mirror. 'The splashback provides a true focal point in the kitchen and I love how beautifully the light bounces from it,' says Milda.



A box of chalks is all that's required to keep the children busy while Milda cooks.



FEATURE LINDA CLAYTON PHOTOGRAPHS ROWLAND RODRIGUEZ © NIEL

## THE DETAILS

### CABINERY

Bespoke Shaker cabinetry painted in Skimming Stone (estate eggshell) by Farrow & Ball (main units), and Mercury eggshell by Fired Earth, from £19,000 (cabinetry only), Higham Furniture

### SURFACES

Honed 3cm thick black granite, £240/sq m; Misty Carrara quartz by Caesarstone, from £326/sq m, both Sabre Stone; Pure Nature engineered oak flooring, from £79/sq m, Luxury Wood Flooring; Original antique mirror glass splashback, from £690/sq m, Saligo Design

### APPLIANCES

Excel 110 dual fuel range cooker, £1,799; Rangemaster Cache 900 extractor, £800; Westin IQ 300 SN66D000GB integrated dishwasher, £549; IQ 300 KA93NVFP American fridge-freezer (not shown), £1,655; Siemens

### SINKS & TAPS

4866 Oberon C-spout mixer taps with rinse in Chrome, £543; Perrin & Rowe Subway 60 SU single undermount sink, £369; Villeroy & Boch

### ACCESSORIES

Smoke Gabriella pendant light (above dining table) is discontinued but the Aurora crystal bar chandelier, £269, is similar; BHS Alicia walnut bar stools in Black, £89.99 each; Atlantic Shopping Morbylango dining table, £499; Ikea Key Largo dining chair with arms, £485; Eichholtz Kartell Masters dining chairs in Grey, £354 for two, Barker and Stonehouse

Saligo Design's antique mirror tiles are made to measure, and the company offers a full installation service