

Unleashing Potential

ATTENTION TO DETAIL IN THIS KITCHEN RE-WORK TRANSFORMED THE ROOM INTO A PRACTICAL AND LIGHT-FILLED MULTI-USE SPACE



The rear addition to the house allowed the kitchen to be connected to the dining and living areas whilst creating a social space and seating area for enjoying the views over the garden



As any kitchen design studio will tell you, repeat business is always the most satisfying. Not only does it demonstrate that the designer must have done something right first time around, but it is a ringing endorsement of the vital designer-client relationship that needs to exist for any project to be truly successful.

When the homeowner of this five-bedroom Victorian terraced house in North London needed a solution for the newly-extended kitchen space, she turned to Higham Furniture who had designed the kitchen in her previous home south of the river a few years earlier. Founded in 2004, the company specialises in designing and manufacturing bespoke furniture. From its London studio it works with customers to put together designs before these ideas are realised in its Hampshire workshop.

This time, as part of a whole house refurbishment, the kitchen was extended further into the garden to create a T-shaped space measuring 8m x 6m.

At the heart of the design brief was the need to fix the lack of flexibility that the existing layout had, particularly in the context of a home with a young family. The rear addition to the house was the basis for solving the problem, since it allowed the kitchen to be connected to the dining and living areas whilst creating a seating area purely for enjoying the views over the garden at the same time as interacting with family members in the kitchen.

Designer Tim Higham said: "The kitchen was isolated but the extension improved the openness and flow, allowing the family to move through the ground floor more easily."

Clever use of frameless glazing and projecting glass box skylights created a calming and ethereal

light-filled space by bringing natural daylight into the depth of the existing home. It was decided to position the cooking area closer to the entertaining space so the cook could be a part of the family action.

Visually, the client wanted a combination of classy traditional with a luxurious feel, so Higham opted for a bold blue colour scheme to move away from the more typical greys, but with lighter floors and worktops.

The cabinetry is an in-frame shaker style kitchen door with lacquered oak veneered ply carcasses, painted maple doors with painted tulipwood frames and oak drawer boxes. The exterior is painted in Little Greene's Intelligent Eggshell in Basalt (221) with white plastered walls.

Appliances featured include Miele ovens, induction hob, extractor and dishwasher, along with a

THE KITCHEN “ ” WAS ISOLATED BUT THE EXTENSION IMPROVED THE OPENNESS AND FLOW, ALLOWING THE FAMILY TO MOVE THROUGH THE GROUND FLOOR MORE EASILY

The sink is set away from the main entertaining and social space, keeping dirty dishes out of sight

Light-coloured worktops help bounce light around the room, while the brass splashback matches the handles to bring a luxurious feel to the kitchen

Fisher & Paykel fridge, and CDA wine fridge. The Kohler Smart Divide sink is accompanied by a Lefroy Brooks kitchen mixer in natural brass.

The worktop is 30mm Bianca Massa quartz with custom made brass splashback from Modum Worktops. Higham added: “As the colour of the kitchen cabinets is so bold, the light-coloured worktops help bounce light around the room. The brass splashback, matching the handles, brings a luxurious feel to the kitchen.”

Storage has not been overlooked in this highly practical kitchen. The design features lots of drawers, and a good-sized larder. The sink is somewhat hidden and set away from the main entertaining/social space, so those dirty dishes can be tucked away out of sight. Lighting was also carefully considered, with undercounter lights under the wall cabinets and a strip light under the shelf above the sink. There are also motion-sensor LED spotlights inside the larder and pendant lights from Buster + Punch over the island and seating areas.

Higham said: “Having a range of overhead and counter top lighting allows a range of moods,” said Higham. “Good task lighting for when preparing food and then with the main lights off, a softer more intimate lighting once the frenzy of cooking has finished.”

Underneath it all, further texture and warmth is added with a wooden floor which is engineered oak from Jordan Andrews’ Istorla Premium Bespoke Wide Board range in an ‘Athens’ finish. The resulting kitchen is a free-flowing space that eschews the often default grey colour scheme in favour of a bold blue which contrasts well with the white shell of the space. and gold brassware that adds the touch of luxury the client wanted. **d**

Contacts

Higham Furniture / higham.co.uk