

Café society

Inspired by a visit to a café in Belgium, the Haynes' family kitchen combines a palette of grey, limestone and ebony-stained oak to create a room where friends love to 'hang out'

PICTURES DARREN CHUNG | WORDS AMELIA THORPE

Stepping into a pretty café in Bruges, Kate Haynes was instantly inspired. 'I fell in love with the classic Belgian grey palette of colours, mixed with natural oak and limestone,' she recalls. 'I took a quick picture on my phone and started to think about how I could interpret the look in my kitchen at home.' As a property developer and designer, Kate is experienced at responding to all sorts of home-related challenges, but she admits that the renovation of her recently acquired Victorian house in Hammersmith represented an even more daunting task than normal. 'It was an absolutely huge project,' she says, with feeling. 'It wasn't quite derelict, but almost. Someone had been living there before we bought it, but I honestly don't know how.'

Determined to create an inviting and spacious family home to share with husband, Ed, and baby son Jake, Kate set to work. At some time in the dim and distant past, the house had been divided into four flats, so all the partitions had to come out to 'put back' the property, and she and Ed decided to add a three storey extension to boost the size of the interior in the process. At the heart of the home was to be a large kitchen family room with space to relax, as well as to entertain friends.

With phone and picture in hand, Kate set off to meet Tim Higham, Director and owner of bespoke British-made kitchen company, Higham Furniture, with whom she had worked on previous projects. 'I knew that if anyone could make sense of my Belgian idea, Tim could,' laughs Kate. 'Together they began to develop plans for clean-lined cabinetry with elegant detailing, including glazed wall cabinets, all painted in Kate's favourite grey-white seen in the pretty café.'

A three and a half metre-long island forms the focal point of the room, its scale designed to complement the expansive size of the room. Topped with limestone to match the tones of the grey stone floor, the look is classic but not cold. An ebony-stained oak breakfast bar adds warmth. 'I like the way Tim blended the best of traditional ideas with modern, clean lines,' says Kate. 'It has a light, welcoming feel – and I guess its success can be measured by the fact that everyone always wants to hang out in here.' **EKBB**



BELGIAN INSPIRATION

The juxtaposition of simple painted cabinetry with beautifully grained natural oak, worn limestone floor and grey accents is quietly effective. The soft grey colour of the pendant lights is accentuated by the upholstery of the bespoke bar chairs which were designed by Kate and made by her company EHG Design & Build



**EUROPEAN
STYLE**

The beautiful vintage pendant lights were purchased from The French House in Parsons Green, London. Drawer units have been used along the back wall to create almost the look of an apothecary shop dresser, rather than traditional cupboards. The custom made doors leading out on to the garden are available through EHG Design & Build and let in an abundance of light into this sociable space

MATERIALS

A mix of materials including glass, oak, walnut, brass, stone, and polished metal floor, adds interest and warmth



SINK

An undermounted Shaws Edgworth sink is highly practical at almost a metre wide. It has a traditional appeal teamed with the Perrin and Rowe chrome mixer taps

PANTRY

Opposite the range cooker, a pantry cupboard with chalkboard door sits next to a built-in Electrolux microwave and Miele coffee machine

DRAWERS

The scooped feature pulls for the oak drawers are a delightful addition that give depth to the overall room design and somehow contribute to the wonderful café feel



'I fell in love with the classic Belgian grey palette of colours, mixed with natural oak and limestone'



TIM HIGHAM,
DIRECTOR AND
OWNER, HIGHAM
FURNITURE



How did you plan the layout?

The furniture needed to be in proportion to the large size of the room. Anything too small would look lost. So the large island anchors the design in the space, and is balanced by a sweep of units along one wall, with the range cooker framed by a smart overmantel.

How did you create the cabinetry design? I knew that Kate wanted something traditional, so I proposed classic, framed doors, with clean lines that prevent the look becoming in any way twee. The details, such as scooped feature pulls for the

drawers and top mouldings across the base units, are elegant and add interest, but again, they aren't fussy. And the glazed wall cabinets are inspired by the dresser in the Belgian café.

Tell us about your choice of materials

Jura Grey limestone worktops echo the shades of grey in the stone floor and painted cabinets. The oak provides contrast, zoning the breakfast bar. We used an ebony stain to accentuate the beautiful graining in the wood. The combination is soft and natural, with richness added by the timber.

CONCEALED UTILITY

A stud wall conceals the laundry room and boiler, and provides space to flush-fit the Maytag American-style fridge-freezer, pantry cupboard, microwave and coffee machine, creating a streamlined finish. Additional cupboards create an almost magical quality





Kitchen profile

Bespoke tulipwood cabinetry painted in Farrow & Ball Cornforth White with carved scalloped handles in the drawers and satin chrome knobs on doors and pull-out units. The breakfast bar, butcher's block and detailing in ebony stained oak. All Higham Furniture.

HIGHAM FURNITURE

Flint Barn, New Barns Farm, Drove Road, Southwick, Hampshire, PO17 6EW. Tel 0800 047 0235. higham.co.uk. Kitchen prices from £15,000.



ADDING CURVES

Shades of grey link the kitchen to the family living area, while painted cabinetry and the same wallpaper also help create a cohesive feel to the space. The curved end to the island mirrors the bar chairs and softens the otherwise linear design, adding interest and creating a pretty display area



RANGE COOKER

The Falcon **range cooker** catches the eye, framed by a smart overmantel and flanked by glass fronted wall cabinets. The glass cooker **splashback** is back painted in Farrow & Ball Vert de Terre, introducing more colour to the scheme, yet with a soft reflective quality

Stockists APPLIANCES

1092 Deluxe dual fuel **range cooker**, £3,799, Falcon. Similar **microwave**, EMS262540X, £310, Electrolux. Similar **fridge-freezer**, M3 IW 20 CSS 8, £2,230, Maytag. G5400 SCI semi-integrated **dishwasher**, £750; KWT4154 UG-1 **wine cooler**, £1,459; CVA5060 **coffee machine**, £1,799, all Miele. Elibloc 9 80 2M built-in **extractor**, £149, Elica. GN1100 **hot water tap** in chrome, £348; Evolution 100 **waste disposal unit**, £279, both InSinkErator.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Ionian 4193 deck mounted **mixer** in chrome with lever handles, £279, Perrin & Rowe. Shaws Edgworth 1.5 **bowl sink**, £609, Shaws of Darwen. Jura Grey limestone **worktops**, priced to order; Tundra honed limestone **floor tiles**, from £58.80 per sq. m, both Mandarin Stone. Farrow & Ball Vert de Terre **back painted glass**, priced to order, Higham Furniture. Similar **wallpaper**, Windsor Marl, £39.90 per 10 m roll, Andrew Martin. **Bar chairs**, bespoke from EHG Design & Build. Vintage **pendant lights**, from around £100, The French House.

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GLASS DOORS

Glazing bars on the glass fronted wall cupboards add another traditional touch and aside from the success of the colour scheme are one of the most distinctive elements in creating the scheme