

The kitchen layout was designed around the false chimney breast to create a pleasingly balanced look, while a wood-burning stove ensures the lofty space stays cosy in winter.

HEIGHT OF PERFECTION

Moving the kitchen into a vaulted extension with a wall of glass allowed its owners to finally enjoy their garden and a more sociable way of life



The underground wine cellar, where spiral steps are racked with storage for around 2,000 bottles, has a glass roof for extra drama.



Like the kitchen, the family-friendly open-plan dining and living areas overlook the garden.

INSIDE STORY

THE PROPERTY A detached six-bedroom Edwardian bungalow with large extension in London.

THE PROJECT A vaulted extension with Crittall-style windows was built to house a spacious kitchen-diner with better connections to the garden. Kitchen size 8.5x4m.

THE DESIGNER Tim Higham, Higham Furniture, 020 7381 0488, higham.co.uk.

Edwardian era bungalows are not easy to find, but Lucie and Simon Freedman live in a perfect example, with soaring ceilings and graceful proportions. The only room that let it down was the kitchen which, though large, was disconnected from the rest of the house. “The flow was all wrong and it didn’t make the most of the glorious garden,” explains designer-maker Tim Higham, who was commissioned to create a new family-friendly kitchen-diner. First the couple had a generous T-shape extension built, with a vaulted roof and Crittall-style feature glazing. “While level access and clear views of the garden were priorities, they also wanted a subterranean wine cellar,” adds Tim.

LAYOUT The new extension hosts a large dining table in the longest part of the T, with the kitchen area at the end beneath a vaulted ceiling. “The vaulted space is visible from the whole room, so Lucie wanted the island to be centred below the skylights, with a feature chimney breast framing the range cooker

behind,” says Tim. “We then used the space where the ceiling lowers, before entering the playroom, to tuck in all the tall storage and appliances. This left the rest of the room clear of cabinetry above waist level, which helps keep the kitchen bright and spacious.”

CABINETRY The design brief was “elegant industrial”. The latter was achieved with a five-metre-high Crittall window, reclaimed factory-style pendants and a wood-burning stove. “For the ‘elegant’, we designed simple Shaker-style doors with 70mm-wide rails, rather than traditional moulded doors,” says Tim, “and finished them in a sophisticated soft grey.”

SURFACES The Freedmans requested a slender solid Carrara marble worktop to complement the grey cabinetry and continue the elegant theme. “We used the same stone to create a feature splashback behind the range cooker so as not to introduce too many materials and spoil the simplicity,” says Tim.

APPLIANCES Introducing an industrial edge is the stainless-steel fridge-freezer, while the stainless-steel range has an induction hob for quick and efficient cooking. There’s also an impressive wine cellar, which provides a great talking point at parties as well as the perfect conditions for storing wine.

LIGHTING AND ACCESSORIES “We worked hard to achieve a layered design with good task and generous mood lighting for entertaining,” says Tim. There are several feature lights in the room, including a trio of vintage Holophane shades above the island.

WHERE TO BUY

FURNITURE Bespoke Shaker-style cabinetry, from £24,000, Higham Furniture, higham.co.uk. **Similar dining table**, Conisbrough dining table, £2,175, Oka, oka.com. **Eames DSW chairs**, £333 each, The Conran Shop, conranshop.co.uk.

APPLIANCES Sterling 1100Ei induction range cooker, £1,599, Stoves, stoves.co.uk. **RF540ADUSX4 fridge-freezer**, £2,100, Fisher & Paykel, fisherpaykel.com. **SMV50CO0GB dishwasher**, £399, Bosch, bosch-home.co.uk. **Elibloc HT80 extractor**, £179, Elica, elica.com. **Wi6116 wine cabinet**, £550, Caple, caple.co.uk.

SINKS AND TAPS Farmhouse 80 double bowl Belfast ceramic sink, £329, Villeroy & Boch, villeroy-boch.co.uk. **Mimas tap** in nickel, £350, Perrin & Rowe, perrinandrowe.co.uk. **Design brushed chrome boiling water tap**, £980, Quooker, quooker.co.uk.

SURFACES 3cm-thick Carrara marble worktops and splashbacks, £470m, Middlesex Marble, middlesexmarble.co.uk. **Reno Ice porcelain floor tiles**, £53.94sq m, Eurotiles & Bathrooms, eurotilesandbathrooms.com. **Island in Scree; cabinets** in French Grey Pale; both Traditional Oil Eggshell, £28 for 1 litre, Little Greene, littlegreene.com.

ACCESSORIES Weathered oak bar stools, £150 each, Cox & Cox, coxandcox.co.uk. **Contura 520t wood-burning stove**, £2,664, Just Stoves, just-stoves.co.uk. **Wine cellar**, from £25,200, The Stone Cellar Company, stonecellar.co.uk. **Similar vintage lights**, from £340, Skinflint Design, skinflintdesign.co.uk.