

# CREATIVE EXTENSIONS

Smart ideas that bring a new dimension to contemporary living

**PROJECT** Bespoke kitchen by Higham Furniture, [higham.co.uk](http://higham.co.uk).

**BACKGROUND** The 4sq m rear extension of this Victorian home incorporates the side return and features an L-shaped glass roof and steel-framed glass windows and doors leading to the garden. The bespoke handleless Shaker kitchen, with its modern-rustic panelling, adds warmth to the otherwise minimal design.

**KEY FEATURES** The big selling point here is the L-shaped glass roof, which brings light into every part of the space. Two brick walls frame the structure and echo the original building and, thanks to the wide doorway between the living room and kitchen, there are views from the front of the house right through to the garden. The Shaker-style cabinetry and the reclaimed black steel supporting pillar bring interest to the space without compromising its contemporary good looks.

**IN DETAIL** Tim Higham, owner and head designer of Higham Furniture, tells us more.

**What was the brief?** The homeowners wanted an industrial-style feel with a good mix of traditional and modern elements. The space also had to sit harmoniously with the rest of the Victorian property.

**How did you use colour and materials to enhance the light?** The paint shades – Little Greene's French Grey Pale on the wall cabinets and Lead Colour on the island – contrast beautifully with the exposed brick and tie in with the limestone flooring. Using the paler tone in an area where there's less light helps to create a bright feel. We opted for a matt white Corian worktop, which doesn't clash with the brick walls, and polished metal appliances that bounce light around the room.

**What's the most important piece of advice you would give anyone building an extension like this?** Integrate the design with the original property and, if possible, use skylights the full length of the side extension and at the far end to draw in light and make the room feel bigger.

"USE SKYLIGHTS THE FULL LENGTH OF THE SIDE EXTENSION TO DRAW IN LIGHT AND MAKE THE ROOM FEEL BIGGER."

PHOTOGRAPH ANDREW BEASLEY @REASLEY.COM