

## REAL HOMES

### THE owners

John and Victoria Skitt live in this six-bedroom, detached Edwardian house in Hertfordshire with their two children, Sophia, eight, and Henry, six.



The cabinetry features painted tulipwood and maple in Little Greene French Grey-Pale and Scree. Using the same Carrara quartz stone for the worktops and splashback creates a seamless look.

# PERFECT HARMONY

This light and airy kitchen combines modern and classic design with eclectic accents beautifully.



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ith the obvious benefit of a skylight-enhanced space, John and Victoria Skitt were keen to replace their existing kitchen with something that celebrated the abundance of natural light.

“We wanted to change the colour scheme and to create a lighter, more modern feel,” reflects Victoria. “Our old kitchen, chosen by the previous owners, was quite dark with lots of dark wooden cabinets and had a peninsular rather than an island.”

Higham Furniture was briefed to create a sleek design that combined modern with classic and ideally featured an island with French and industrial accents. “We met a number of designers at the beginning of our project but Higham was our preference from the start. We loved the Higham designs that we had seen online and we found the design team to be down-to-earth, engaged and flexible in approach from the beginning.”

Veronika Lovasova, designer for Higham Furniture, says, “The existing space was looking a little bit tired and the layout also did not work well.” The cabinetry chosen was a classic Shaker style, featuring painted tulipwood and maple in Little Greene French Grey-Pale and Scree. Using the same Carrara quartz stone for the worktops and splashback created a seamless look.

A couple of compromises had to be made along the way – all for the good of the design; for instance, the couple were keen to incorporate a range cooker, which presented a challenge as they had also wanted to keep a sofa area.

## THE designer

“Be open to new ideas - quite often we have clients who are set on a certain layout because this is how they used the space for years prior. A designer sees the existing space through fresh eyes and might help you see it in a completely new light.”  
Veronika Lovasova, designer, Higham Furniture



The design is a classic Shaker style, with glass units incorporated above the fridge and larder cabinetry to further accentuate the feeling of natural light, complemented by the transparent, industrial pendant lights over the island.

“The light and airy design has given us such a beautiful, social space that we are rarely out of the kitchen these days.” **Victoria Skitt, homeowner**



“Once we decided to compromise by losing the original sofa area, the range became a possibility, and we then had the idea of adding the false chimney which generated character out of what was quite a large, boxy room,” explains Victoria. “A double fridge and decent wine cooler were must-haves, as were plenty of bar stools to create a social space.”

A separate utility room did away with the need for wall units on the main elevation, which enabled the room to celebrate the natural light coming in and a focal feature was made out of the new chimney, which houses an extractor. The couple decided on adding an urban touch into the mix of old and new.

“Our kitchen is a perfect combination of modern and classic design with sleek, clean lines. We have complemented the classic design with industrial touches such as the pendant lights and metal dining chairs,” says Victoria.

“The light and airy design has given us such a beautiful, social space that we are rarely out of the kitchen these days and hardly ever use our formal dining room.”

“We love that the client went with clear, see-through pendants above the island, as this lets all the focus be on the cabinetry, and it also complements the top glazed units,” adds Veronika.

## THE details

Kitchen design by Veronika Lovasova, designer at Higham Furniture, featuring bespoke Shaker cabinetry with painted tulipwood and maple in Little Greene French Grey-Pale (161) and Scree (227), and SG Carrara Quartz worktops in a polished finish. [higham.co.uk](http://higham.co.uk)

Westin Cache 1100mm integrated extractor [westin.co.uk](http://westin.co.uk)

Rangemaster Excel 110cm dual fuel cooker [rangemaster.co.uk](http://rangemaster.co.uk)

Fisher & Paykel RF540ADUSX4 American freestanding fridge-freezer [fisherpaykel.com](http://fisherpaykel.com)

Caple W6120 wine cabinet in stainless steel [caple.co.uk](http://caple.co.uk)

Bosch SMV46MX00G dishwasher [bosch.co.uk](http://bosch.co.uk)

Kohler Deerfield Smart Divide 5838-0 cast iron sink in white ceramic [kohler.co.uk](http://kohler.co.uk)

Quooker Fusion Round boiling water tap in polished chrome [quooker.co.uk](http://quooker.co.uk)