

essential

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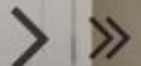
KITCHEN

BATHROOM BEDROOM

ESSENTIAL
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FREE FLOWING

The kitchen sits in an extension covering the width of this lofty Victorian property. The space has a fluid feel, with multiple entry points through a hallway, playroom and out through sliding glass doors into the garden.



A Classic MASTERPIECE

A narrow Victorian kitchen is opened up into a light and airy new space, perfect for busy family life in this period London home

PICTURES: DARREN CHUNG | WORDS: MOLLY FORBES



ALL THE BLUES

Soft greys accented with bright pops of rich blue give this space a contemporary yet classic feel, mirroring the colours throughout the rest of the house. 'I wanted to steer away from whites and creams because I felt they were becoming a little dated,' explains Jenny

When Jenny and James Esdaile first moved into their period property in South West London they knew they would need to make some changes to the kitchen. 'The rear of the house always looked a bit of a mess to be honest with you,' says Jenny. 'It was the original Victorian kitchen which was quite narrow compared to the proportions of the rest of the house, which are wide and lofty.'

With three young children and a love of entertaining, the couple started researching an extension at the back of the house to create a space large enough to suit their family lifestyle. 'We wanted to bring the kitchen up to 21st century living,' explains Jenny. 'I think today people like to have a sense of free flow in their homes, with rooms connecting to the house not just one by one but through multiple options.'

That was one big challenge to this idea though, and that was the era of the house itself. Jenny and James didn't want to lose the very thing that had originally attracted them to their home; its period charm and character. 'We were keen to avoid the new space looking like it was something very modern just bolted onto the back of the house. It had to feel sympathetic and natural.'

After researching various options Jenny and James decided to entrust the project to a designer they'd worked with before, who really knew the house. 'Chloe Cook already knew our style and the house very well, so we knew she'd understand our vision but she also made us think about different ways to achieve it, because her knowledge is so very broad,' explains Jenny.

When it came to sourcing the cabinetry there was one clear contender for the job. 'We're drawn to a more traditional style which is why we love the house so much,' says Jenny. 'Chloe had worked with Higham Furniture before, and they were just so flexible with how we could do things.'

The result of this collaboration is a light and airy space that functions as far more than just a kitchen, explains Jenny. 'It's a real family space now. I love sitting the children up to the island unit for breakfast and tea and chatting to them as I prepare food. It's a really sociable space for when we have people over. We just do everything in there - homework, work, eating, drinking, playing, parties. It really is the hub of the house.' *EBB*



BUILDING BRIDGES

Black and white tiles in the inner hallway mirror the original tiles at the front of the property, seamlessly integrating the old and new sections of the house. The new space features underfloor heating covered with a gorgeous, soft grey Romanian limestone.



'When the children are in bed we refer to the island area as 'the bar' and quite often have a lovely supper here under the beautiful light – it makes a wonderful date night space'



SOCIABLE ZONE
The island area features a prep sink looking into the room, so Jerry can interact with the family while preparing meals.



Kitchen profile

Classic cabinetry by Higham Furniture sits perfectly alongside the original features of this period property, bridging the old and the new. Despite the traditional lines of the elevated units the space has a contemporary feel, achieved through the soft grey base palette and rich blue accents of the island seating and bespoke drinks cabinet.

HIGHAM FURNITURE
21E Heathmans Road, Fulham, London, SW6 4TJ. Tel 020 7381 0488. higham.co.uk
Kitchen prices start from £24,000.





ENJOY THE VIEW

The main sink overlooks the garden, a feature Jenny was keen to include. Having previously lived with a sink looking out onto a brick wall, I knew I wanted something different in the new space!

BLACK AND WHITE

Black and white countertops sit alongside the pale black enamel of the Aga hob, creating a striking juxtaposition with the pale Carrera marble on the island.



TIM HIGHAM
FOUNDER AND
HEAD DESIGNER,
HIGHAM FURNITURE

How did you design the layout of the space?

As the design evolved we chose a layout that consisted of different work zones to make the kitchen look more freestanding. The cabinets have an inset pinth painted in black to add to the look. The couple have a young family so storage space was important, as well as zones for seating for family entertainment.

What are some of the clever solutions seen in this kitchen?

The main sink overlooks the garden and we placed an integrated dishwasher and bins in this section along with a slim unit for towels. The cooking section has an Aga with wide drawers either side, ideal for storing utensils and pots and pans. Due to the bespoke nature of the cabinetry we were able to utilise the high ceilings by making cabinets extra tall, giving additional space for a food larder and

crockery. The large bi-fold dresser creates more storage space and also functions as a bar cabinet.

How did you manage to maintain the balance between classic and contemporary?

The overall style of the kitchen is traditional which is created by the Shaker-style cabinets with cockbead on the frames and large Belfast sink as well as the chunky legs on the island. The dark blue of the cabinets add contrast to the lighter colours of the kitchen.

What features make this a great kitchen for a keen cook?

The island functions as a preparation spot, along with seating for four. We made the false chimney wide enough for worktop space either side of the Aga too. The slim dresser either side of the chimney also have power inside and hide smaller appliances.

Q&A

ESSENTIAL *kitchens*

LAID-BACK LIFESTYLE

The kitchen boasts a relaxed living space, with an upholstered chair and the L-shaped sofa cushions mirroring the accent blue of the dresser and island chairs. 'This area is lovely for lazy Sunday mornings and movie nights,' says Jenny.



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PRECIOUS PIECES

Right As well as the clock above the Aga, given to James by Jenny on their wedding day, the family kept their antique dining table which was sourced on a whim from a market in Lostwithiel, Cornwall. It was given a new lease of life and painted in the same French Grey, by Little Greene, as the kitchen walls

BEAUTIFUL LIGHT

Far right 'It's wonderful being able to open the doors out onto the terrace and it's very easy to entertain in the garden,' says Jenny. 'When the season starts to change we close these doors, but the natural light floods in, making the space feel warm'



'When the season starts to change we close these doors, but the warm, natural light still floods in'



Stockists

APPLIANCES

RFS40ADUSKA **fridge**, with ice and water, £2,000. Fisher & Paykel. 1600 dual fuel 3 oven **Aga** with module in Pearl Ashes, £2,000. Rangemaster Integrated **extractor**, £450. 667605CV1 **dishwasher**, £1,000. Miele.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Farmhouse 900 double **Belfast sink**, £450, sourced by Holloways of Ludlow. Kohler Modultop prep **sink**, £350. Athenian **tap**, £400. Parthian prep **tap**, £300, both Perrin & Rowe. PRO3 VAQ Quooker Classic **tap**, £700. Kitchen painted in French Grey (103) and utility in French Dark Grey (163), from £9.25 per litre, all by Little Greene Paint Company. **Dresser** painted in Hague Blue, from £39.50 for 2.5L. Farrow & Ball. **Dining table**, antique from a market in Lostwithiel in Cornwall. Lagoon **worktop** in black granite, prices on request. Silestone. Spotlight **lighting box** by Davey Lighting, with nickel frame and filament bulbs, from around £800 (This one is a bespoke adaption of original design). Churchill **armchair**, £480, and Izzy **sofa**, from £1,100, both sofa.com.

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 120



ORGANISED LIVING

Far left: A separate utility room keeps the rest of the family space tidy and clutter-free. 'This is where we begin and end our day,' explains Jenny. 'It's also where I sort laundry, where the children brush their teeth and where James keeps his motorbike gear'

AN INTEGRATED SPACE

Left: The cabinets in the utility area reflect those in the main kitchen, creating a seamless integration between the two spaces. Textured black granite countertops provide a more forgiving and tough surface for the hardwearing nature of the room