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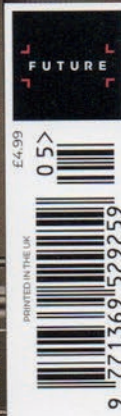
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KITCHEN FOCUS

COOL, CALM AND COLLECTED

Achieving this beautiful, peaceful kitchen involved building work and more, but owner Susannah Hemmings says it was worth all the upheaval

FEATURE MELANIE WHITEHOUSE | PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS SNOOK

SOCIABLE SPACE

The kitchen is in a new extension that has a high ceiling, so the wall units go from the ceiling all the way down to the worktop to enhance the feeling of space.

Bespoke kitchen cabinets, Sheraton Interiors; a similar kitchen costs from £68,000

PROJECT DETAILS

OWNERS Susannah and Victor Hemmings

HOUSE A detached Victorian house, built in 1870, on the outskirts of a small Surrey town next to a farm

WORK To create a kitchen in a new extension that was fit for 21st-century family life

Susannah Hemmings loved the big arched doorways and tall ceilings in her Victorian home. But she did not like the dark and cold north-facing kitchen or the leaking conservatory on the side. 'We knocked through from the existing kitchen to create a side extension, demolishing the conservatory,' says Susannah, an interior designer. 'We then moved the kitchen to the new, light space.'

She employed Mark Hassett, senior designer at Sheraton Interiors in Twickenham, to create the new kitchen. 'We understood her brief and brought the vision of her dream kitchen to life,' says Mark.

THE BRIEF

Mark was asked to create an open-plan kitchen incorporating a dining and living space, a pantry to house breakfast equipment, and an island seating five. 'Being an interior designer, Susannah had a clear vision of how she imagined the kitchen,' says Mark. 'She wanted a clean, in-frame kitchen in a warm tone and an accent colour for the island, a cupboard for coats and wellies, a range cooker, a bar area and an American-style fridge freezer, plus two dishwashers, an extra-large sink and a hot tap with a spray function.'

'Having high ceilings, she wanted the doors to have an elongated look, coming all the way down to the worktop. She was very specific with her colour palette and wanted to replicate the antique stained wood effect on the island that she has on other furniture in the home.'

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

'The oiled wood finish for the island was the greatest challenge to overcome,' says Mark. 'Our manufacturer produced a stained sample that exceeded the client's expectations and was more hard-wearing than oil.'

MATERIALS USED

The tulipwood doors are painted in Portland Stone Light by Little Greene. The solid oak doors for the island and veneered cabinets with dovetail oak drawers were stained by the manufacturer. We chose worktops in Caesarstone London Grey 5000 and the flooring is Avorio Italian porcelain tiles.

FINISHING TOUCHES

The same paint shade was used throughout for a seamless finish. 'We created a stone shelf behind the cooker at the top of the splashback as an end point, which is aesthetically pleasing,' says Mark.

LESSONS LEARNT

'When choosing stone, it's important clients view a full slab rather than just a small piece, because with natural stone a small sample can be deceiving,' says Mark. 'Initially our client chose a stone based on a small sample but when she viewed the full slab realised it wasn't what she wanted.' 25





PERFECT BLEND

The beautiful wood units that make up the island bring a delightful warmth to the bright kitchen, which includes a clever breakfast cupboard with toaster and coffee maker.

Bespoke kitchen cabinets, Sheraton Interiors; a similar kitchen costs from £68,000. Units in Portland Stone Light absolute emulsion, £52 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Worktops in London Grey 5000, price on request, Caesarstone. Under counter wine cabinet, £1,519, Caple. French Door fridge freezer, £2,415, Fisher Paykel. Roma 110 gas stove, £4,495, ILVE. Dune Avorio porcelain floor tiles, price on request, Surrey Tiles. Similar Whistler bar stools, £108 each, John Lewis & Partners





SOCIAL TIME

Susannah was delighted with the result of all the work. 'The whole space works so well now as a convivial family kitchen,' she adds.