

KITCHENS BEDROOMS & BATHROOMS

BRITAIN'S
BEST-SELLING
KITCHEN,
BEDROOM AND
BATHROOM
MAGAZINE

THE LOWDOWN ON KITCHEN LAYOUTS

HOW TO GET THE DESIGN RIGHT AND MAKE THE MOST OF *your* SPACE



70
ways to
REFRESH
YOUR
BEDROOM
DÉCOR

LOVE TO COOK

70 must-haves for the
perfect pro-style kitchen

**BATHROOM
LIGHTING
EXPLAINED**
Easy steps to ensure
your space is safe
and stylish

COVER STORY

"We wanted a look that makes you go 'ahhh' when you see it. Even at 6am, or if it's raining, it cheers me up"



The FACTS

Who? A family
What? Kitchen and snug remodel in a Georgian townhouse
Where? Belgravia, central London
Cost? Matrix Kitchens designs start from £35,000
Time? 11 months

ALL IN THE detail

Faced with a kitchen design that was starting to look dated, the owners of this Georgian townhouse decided it was time for a remodel, choosing luxurious finishes, hard-wearing materials and professional-style appliances to transform the space

Words: Georgina Townshend Photography: Nick Smith Photography



The owners wanted a kitchen that used luxurious finishes and pro-style appliances. **Kitchen**, Matrix Design; **worktops**, Ceralcio; **ovens**, Gaggenau.



Details such as the stainless-steel border on the cabinets tie the space together. **Barstools**, for similar, try Cult Furniture.

TAKING DÉCOR *inspiration* FROM *luxurious London* HOTELS and picking PRO-STYLE APPLIANCES similar to what you'd find in commercial spaces, THE COUPLE WHO OWN THIS *Georgian townhouse* IN THE AFFLUENT LONDON AREA OF BELGRAVIA decided it was time to **UPDATE THEIR KITCHEN.**

Although they were happy with how their existing set-up functioned, even after 20 years, visually it had dated. They turned to Jaimee Warda, designer at Matrix Kitchens, to help make their vision a reality. Here, she explains how the project came together...

The design brief

The family wanted an elegant kitchen which complemented the rest of their home. I mainly worked with the wife, who imagined a space where they could all spend time together and entertain guests. One of the main requests was to use luxurious materials with a strong attention to detail. She took inspiration from a few of her favourite hotels in London, including the Berkeley, which we visited together during the design phase to see how certain aspects could be integrated into this scheme. Because the room is on the lower ground floor it doesn't get as much daylight as the rest of the house, so she wanted to use bright and reflective surfaces. The snug, which leads off the kitchen, would then have a softer and more intimate feel, almost like a cinema, so we went for darker, non-reflective solutions. It was important that the two areas had a relationship but still felt distinctly different. Finally, as it's a busy household, the worktop and cabinets needed to be tough and suitable for their lifestyle.

Creating the space

The idea for the layout was born from having the big mirror-finish stainless-steel extractor as the central focus. It is the first thing you see when you enter the kitchen and the rest of the scheme folds out from it. However, while having lots of storage was important, the decision to place units on all walls was more driven by the shape of the room and creating the best possible design. The large central island, placed directly in line with the extractor, was designed with plenty of seating as this is where the family planned to spend most of their time. The homeowners didn't want typical white handleless cabinetry, but they were after >



1 The scheme's layout was based on the idea of having the statement mirror-finished stainless-steel **extractor hood** from Matrix Kitchens, as the room's central focus. The **splashback** is also made bespoke by Matrix Kitchens. **Sink**, Kohler. 2 Glass doors were added to some of the cabinetry to bring in a layer of drama which also helps the room feel bigger. **Fridge-freezer**, Sub Zero. 3 To maintain a luxurious and uncluttered look, a home office has been cleverly integrated into the scheme. 4 The homeowners wanted powerful appliances that were still design led. **Hob**, Barazza. 5 Part of the brief was to make a snug area feel connected to the kitchen, while at the same time keeping it as a separate entity. **Flooring**, for similar, try Porcelain Tiles; **chair**, for similar, try John Lewis & Partners. 6 The double **taps** – a standard model from Blanco alongside the boiling-water design from Quooker – are ideal for food preparation.



BE INSPIRED
Pocket doors which tuck away when open are a great way to save space

the functionality and contemporary look this style provides – so I approached the design in a different way. Only 50% of the kitchen is truly handleless and the colour is a gentle taupe which I feel blends better with the walnut and polished elements in the snug area and on the island. Then, some of the doors are fronted with glass to create depth and interest. They also reflect the light while adding an element of drama, which makes the kitchen feel larger because you see through the doors to the back of the cupboard.

The next stage

One of the main parts of the brief was to have powerful yet elegant appliances. The existing 20-year-old ones were impressive but had a slight industrial and commercial feel to them. For the new scheme, the homeowners wanted to achieve the same result but with more elegantly designed solutions. We went for the Barazza flush fitting hob and then chose Gaggenau 400 series ovens. The wife is also very health conscious, so steam cooking was important to her. For the cooling appliances we used the Sub Zero 91.4cm integrated fridge and 45.7cm integrated freezer clad in mirror-finished stainless steel – which I think looks fantastic, as it both complements and emphasises the striking extractor. I added one standard and one boiling-water tap, ideal for entertaining and food preparation.

Finishing touches

A porcelain worktop was chosen, as it's durable and can take the wear and tear of a busy kitchen. I spent a lot of time with the clients looking for the right finish, as she wanted a marble effect but it couldn't be too busy. In terms of other textures, we used a lot of mirror-finished, polished stainless steel. It's a lovely way of using a material that is often considered industrial; I think we've included it in a very elegant way. Finishing touches also include the stainless-steel glass doors, which were made from one sheet. They are hand crafted and the steel is carefully rolled and folded so it can hold the glass. Additionally, the mirror on the walls either side of the sink has a slight bevel in the corners to soften it. My favourite bit, however, is the relationship between the kitchen and the snug and the way the design naturally flows. All areas feel distinctly different but link nicely, sitting perfectly next to each other. The family now enjoys most of their time in between these two spaces as well.

The PLANS

The kitchen layout was created around the big extractor – the main focus of the room – and includes a large central island as well as cabinetry on all four walls.



- 1 Snug** The cosy area had to feel like its own space while also connecting with the kitchen design.
- 2 Kitchen layout** A large central island is surrounded by cabinetry on all four walls.
- 3 Fridge-freezer** Large appliances are perfect for storing ingredients to feed the busy household.

SOURCEBOOK

- Kitchen design** Matrix Kitchens 020 7808 0340 matrixkitchens.co.uk
 - Worktops** Ceralsio 01 706 836600 ceralsio.co.uk
 - Sink** Kohler 0844 571 0048 kohler.co.uk
 - Boiling water tap** Quooker 0345 833 3555, quooker.co.uk
 - Appliances** Hob, Barazza 0845 338 1761 barazza.co.uk; Microwave and ovens, Gaggenau 0844 892 8988 gaggenau.com/gb
- For full stockist information, see page 156*



design edit

- 1** Cook dual-control kitchen mixer with Flexi Spray, £205, Crosswater. crosswater.co.uk
- 2** Large indoor/outdoor wall clock, £70, Garden Trading. gardentrading.co.uk
- 3** Richmond Kettle in Heritage No2 Chrome, £225, Sir Gordon Benneett. sirgordonbenneett.com
- 4** Quick-Step Variano Espresso Blend oak wood flooring, £54.99 per sq m, Carpetright. carpetright.co.uk
- 5** Fondi brushed steel gas lift barstool in Putty Grey, £139, Danetti. danetti.com