

# 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

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

**LOVE TO COOK**  
**70** must-haves for the  
perfect pro-style kitchen

**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"*





# DRAWING BOARD

Graham Robinson at Halcyon Interiors and Rebecca Nokes at John Lewis of Hungerford design creative solutions for a family's new kitchen

Words **Rachel Ogden**

## THE CLIENT

Suzie Macauley-Young, who works in HR, and her husband Andrew, 42, a supermarket branch manager, have lived in their early Victorian five-bedroom detached family house in Buckinghamshire for two years. The couple have an 18-month-old son named Hector.

## THE SPACE

The drawing room measures a good-sized 5.5 x 5.3m, but the number of doors and windows limits the amount of available wall area – especially when the opening between this space and the dining room has been enlarged. However, its high ceiling of almost 3m could be used for taller units.



**1 Conservatory** The couple are considering insulating this room, which leads onto a patio, so it can be used all year. **2 Sitting room** This adjacent space is also an option for the kitchen's new location although it is smaller than the floor area the scheme currently occupies. **3 Original windows** Suzie would prefer not to alter any of the glazing, as it is in a good state of repair. **4 Kitchen entrance** The couple are asking to not block up the door next to the fireplace, if possible, as it's directly opposite the front entrance.

## THE WISHLIST

**1** For the cabinetry, Suzie and Andrew would like something beautiful and practical – they like luxurious, classic looks but don't want a country or farmhouse style.

**2** The couple prefer muted, relaxing colours and clean lines. They are open to new ideas and not afraid of bold designs, but do not want bright colours or white gloss cabinetry.

**3** Suzie and Andrew would like an island with seating, another area to eat in either the dining room or conservatory, and a space for their son Hector to play in while they cook.

**4** The couple prefer sleek appliances. They have a Miele dishwasher and a built-in coffee machine and want a large hob, two ovens, a microwave, boiling-water tap, and fridge-freezer. >

## THE MOODBOARD

Calacatta CRL quartz worktop, from £230 per sq m, CRL Quartz, [crlquartz.co.uk](http://crlquartz.co.uk)

English Oak parquet wood-effect luxury vinyl tile, £39.95 per sq m, Harvey Maria, [harveymaria.com](http://harveymaria.com)

Artisan 4.8l stand mixer in Frosted Pearl, £599, Kitchenaid, [kitchenaid.co.uk](http://kitchenaid.co.uk)

Gamma 20.8cm handle in raw brass, £46.99, Dowsing & Reynolds, [dowsingandreynolds.com](http://dowsingandreynolds.com)

Manor House Gray estate eggshell, £62 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, [farrow-ball.com](http://farrow-ball.com)

Liaison pendant light in antique burnished brass by Kelly Wearstler, \$550, Andrew Martin, [andrewmartin.co.uk](http://andrewmartin.co.uk)

Normann Copenhagen Form barstool in chrome and grey, £240, Hurn & Hurn, [hurnandhurn.com](http://hurnandhurn.com)

## THE BUDGET

£45,000, including installation, excluding appliances



## SOLUTION ONE



## MEET THE DESIGNER

Graham Robinson is the design manager at Halcyon Interiors' flagship store on Wigmore Street. Over the last 20 years, he has developed his passion for contemporary design, allowing him to create practical yet timeless kitchen schemes.



## INSIDER TIP

Veining on a work surface – such as on this island – can help tie your scheme's colours together

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**1 Kitchen layout** A two-in-one induction hob and extractor means all the ducting is contained in the island, which also offers seating. **2 Breakfast cupboard** The large unit hides appliances such as the microwave and also contains a second smaller fridge. **3 Sink area** Two pairs of corner shelves flank the sink run and also include task lighting. A Quooker Flex all-in-one boiling-water tap eliminates the need to have a kettle on show.



“First, I thought about the choice of location for the majority of the kitchen. I’ve opted for the part of the room that links the living area with the large conservatory beyond, making good use of the lightest part of the scheme which also has great views of the garden.

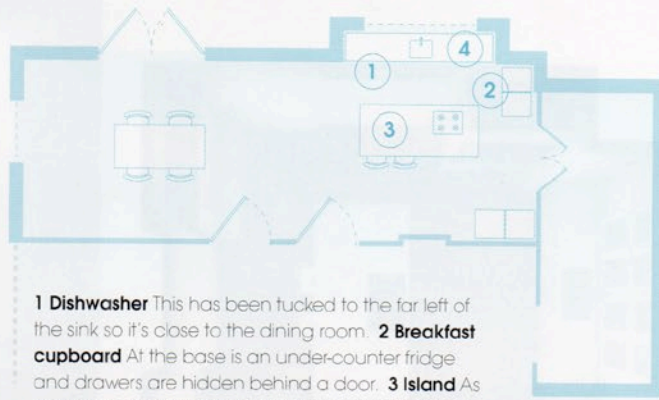
“Due to the amount of windows and access needed to other rooms, space for tall units is relatively limited. I felt it was important to site the ovens at waist height and eye level for practicality, which will also be safer in a home with a toddler, and placed a tall fridge-freezer next to them. While I have taken out the existing fitted cupboard, I retained the fireplace. The chimneybreast could be removed to gain more tall storage, but I thought it would take away from the feeling of the room so kept it. Next to this, I placed a breakfast unit – which includes a hidden work surface – to conceal smaller appliances, a built-in microwave, and an additional fridge to store everyday essentials.

“For the overall look of the kitchen, I’ve blended contemporary style with some slightly more traditional elements. I feel the modern units work as a contrast to the traditional period features of the room. As Suzie and Andrew wanted muted tones, I have selected matt lacquered doors. One is flat fronted, which is an Alno Fine in bespoke NCS darker warm grey. I paired it with the Alno Shape in bespoke NCS colour light warm grey, a framed door, to create interest. These ranges can be supplied in an infinite number of colours, so allow for huge flexibility. The colours I’ve chosen are easy to live with as they are calm and stand the test of time. Warm metallic handles from Armac Martin give greater individuality, a more luxurious feel, and a subtle nod to the traditional styles.

“To make the room feel less like a kitchen, I have hidden most of the appliances – this creates the effect of furniture rather than of a conventional scheme. I have used Miele appliances throughout, which I chose for both their quality and ease of use. In addition, the dishwasher is a very quiet model – an important factor in an open-plan space. My design is finished with composite stone work surfaces in Statuario Maximus by Caesarstone, as they are very realistic looking and add to the overall, stylish look. Cladding the sides of the island with this material creates a contemporary, sleek scheme and is also extremely practical for a heavy-use area. I feel the design works in the space without detracting from the room itself or overwhelming the large living area.”

“To make the room feel less like a kitchen, I have hidden most of the appliances.”





**1 Dishwasher** This has been tucked to the far left of the sink so it's close to the dining room. **2 Breakfast cupboard** At the base is an under-counter fridge and drawers are hidden behind a door. **3 Island** As well as containing plenty of storage, the island helps to direct traffic flow around the room, keeping guests out of the working area. **4 Surface space** Worktop either side of the sink and on the island gives the couple plenty of room for preparing meals.



3

## NEED TO KNOW

### SOURCEBOOK

**Design** Halcyon Interiors 020 7486 3080  
halcyoninteriors.com

**Cabinetry** Alno alno.co.uk

**Appliances** Miele 0330 160 6600  
miele.co.uk; Quooker 0345 8333 555  
quooker.co.uk

**Worktops** Caesarstone 0800 158 8088  
caesarstone.co.uk

### THE COSTS

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Furniture    | £17,870        |
| Appliances   | £9254          |
| Worktops     | £9500          |
| Sink and tap | £1800          |
| Installation | £3500          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>£41,924</b> |

### SUZIE'S VERDICT

“Placing units in front of the low window makes sense as it makes the most of the light and lovely garden views, but I’d be interested to know how they would be finished to ensure the void behind looks intentional and neat. I really like the contemporary style, particularly the neutral colour of the cabinets, the handles, and the marble-look worktop wrapped around the island. It all creates a luxurious and sleek feel – exactly what we were looking for. I’m glad seating has been incorporated into the island and like the idea of being able to look out to the garden. If space allows, we’d like to increase both the size of the island, to accommodate more seating – we love entertaining, so often have guests – as well as the larder unit to provide additional storage.” >