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RETRO PERFECTION

After going back to the drawing board, this stunning space features a bespoke, contemporary kitchen in walnut that mirrors the architectural shapes beautifully.



This bespoke kitchen by McCarron & Co featuring an unusual, angled island is made with a walnut veneered carcass with solid walnut lippings. The doors are made from walnut veneer with an exposed ply edge, antique brass finger bar and a flat lacquer finish to give the wood a raw texture. Shelving has also been created from solid walnut with antique brass detail.



REAL HOMES

Photography by: Nick Smith

THE owners

Fashion clothing supplier and director, Chris, and senior retail merchandiser, Cheryl, live with their two British Blue cats in this 1930s, four-bedroom, semi-detached house in south-west London, which features large grounds and a garden office.





I

n spite of their London location, Chris and Cheryl were adamant they didn't want an urban look for a kitchen that was to take centre-stage in a new extension for their 1930s-style house.

The property features an original bathroom, décor and furnishings from the era, and they were keen to retain a soft feel throughout.

"We didn't want German urban styling, which we thought too harsh and cold for our house and what we wanted to achieve," explains Chris.

"We wanted a warm, inviting, contemporary kitchen that looked like furniture, blended with our retro-influenced furnishing so it became the focal point while remaining part of the room; a comfortable, social place to spend time with friends and family."

After several fruitless and frustrating months searching for a company to create a kitchen that was in tune with their interior style vision, the couple came across McCarron & Co and senior designer Richard McGee.

Richard continues, "They wanted something different from the usual Germanic kitchens that they had seen in magazines, which they described as a 'kitchen in an aircraft hangar'."

However, after several meetings it became apparent that the couple's existing plans for a square extension were restricting the design potential for the kitchen. With Richard's advice, they requested new architectural drawings and planning permission changing the shape and height of the proposed space.

"We found with Richard someone who immediately understood the kitchen we were looking for, and someone who looked at the bigger picture with suggestions to add an extra design element to our project, which greatly improved the overall result and the setting for the kitchen," says Chris. Richard set about designing a contemporary



kitchen with a furniture style, using inspiration from the couple's mid-20th century pieces featuring walnut with antique brass handles.

“It matched our brief exactly - a kitchen with the furniture look that naturally blended in as part of the room while delivering a real wow factor!” says Chris.

The bespoke kitchen was made with a walnut veneered carcass with solid walnut lippings. The doors were made from walnut veneer with an exposed ply edge, antique brass finger bar and a flat lacquer finish to give the wood a raw texture. Shelving was also created from solid walnut with antique brass detail.



“A great area just to sit, eat and chat to the point we have not fitted the planned TV as we naturally just talk and listen to music. It’s changed our way of living at home for much the better – you couldn’t wish for more than that!”







THE designer

"The shape of the island drew its inspiration from the architecture. It follows the same angled back of the extensions and the pitched roof. This also created the extra space for two people to cook at the same time without knocking into each other which is usually difficult in a galley style kitchen."

Richard McGee, senior designer, McCarron & Co



The shape of the island drew its inspiration from the architecture, following the same angled back of the extension and the pitched roof.

“This also created the extra space for two people to cook at the same time without knocking into each other,” explains Richard.

The main challenge to overcome was extraction over the island due to the pitched ceiling. A Bora induction hob with an integrated extractor provided the solution without obstructing the clean lines of the space.

The Caesarstone concrete worktop is both practical and aesthetically pleasing, co-ordinating with a hexagonal concrete floor tile. A combination of wall and ceiling-mounted task lighting, a recessed LED light strip for the shelves and hanging pendants provides the perfect balance between functionality and ambience.

“It was quite a challenge due to the glass roof above the cooking area,” observes Richard. “We had to be quite creative with location and type of lighting to ensure it created the right effect.”

And the right effect has been struck throughout. “It’s the focal point of the house; it draws people to the room and they just want to stay,” says a delighted Chris.

“A great area just to sit, eat and chat to the point we have not fitted the planned TV as we naturally just talk and listen to music. It’s changed our way of living at home for much the better – you couldn’t wish for more than that!”

THE details

Kitchen design by Richard McGee, senior designer, McCarron & Co, featuring bespoke cabinetry in walnut and antique brass. Fully fitted kitchens from £35,000. mccarronandco.com

Bora BFIA induction hob and extractor bora.com

Miele H6460BPCLST Pureline single oven, DG6200 steam oven and G463SCVi dishwasher miele.co.uk

Fisher & Paykel RF540ADUSX4 fridge-freezer fisherpaykel.com

Blanco BL467790 Andano sink blanco-germany.com

Quooker 3XRVS Flex Pro3 tap quooker.co.uk

Caesarstone 4003 Sleek Concrete worktop and mixed pattern hexagon tiles caesarstone.co.uk

Newton metal bar stools cultfurniture.com