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"The ergonomics of the design had to be exactly right in terms of cooking, family use and entertaining"

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TAKE TWO

The owners of this recently renovated seven-bedroom detached home in Lancashire weren't happy with their new kitchen, so called in a design expert to redesign the culinary space



THE OWNERS

After moving into their newly-renovated seven-bedroom detached home in Lancashire, owners Thomas and Harriett decided to completely overhaul the kitchen space



Arte 3D fabric wallpaper covers the wall, which not only adds interest and texture, but helps with the acoustics as the padding softens the bouncing noises of a family space. arte-international.com

“A BESPOKE LIGHTING TROUGH WAS ADDED TO THE CEILING TO THROW LIGHT UPWARDS AND TO HIDE THE BIG BEAMS AND DUCTING FOR THE EXTRACTOR, TOO”



The stunning marble-effect kitchen worktops are made from Dekton in Aura 15 Bookmatch. dekton.co.uk



After a whole-house renovation, Thomas and Harriett decided the kitchen space wasn't working for them. They got in touch with kitchen designer Diane Berry to come up with a new kitchen. dianeberrykitchens.co.uk

Thomas and Harriett Brown, both in their late forties, and their two children Natalie and Christian moved into their seven-bedroom detached home on the Fylde coast after a complete whole-house renovation, only to discover the layout wasn't really working for them as a family.

"I was originally invited to re-design the kitchen at the front of the house. However, after spending a few hours with them one Sunday afternoon and observing the children playing out in the back garden, I suggested they reconsider the room that the kitchen was currently in," says interior designer Diane Berry. "The kitchen had been placed at the front of the house, whereas I felt the best place to sit it was at the back of the property with views overlooking the garden and wildlife."

"It was a brave suggestion, as they already had an Aga and a walk-in pantry off their current kitchen," says Diane. "However, I recommended the current kitchen could make an amazing library – a dream of Harriett's to have a space where she could hopefully write her own book."

Diane spent the afternoon with the family walking around the house discussing various design solutions, such as knocking down a wall to create a long open-plan kitchen running the whole length of the house from the front driveway through to the back garden, which would also accommodate an L-shaped area for a relaxing family TV space.

Remarkably within two days, Thomas telephoned Diane to explain that he had already instructed a team of builders to knock down the wall. "I have never had a client do so much work so fast on a simple design suggestion meeting! There were no drawings or project costs discussed," says Diane. →

“THE KITCHEN HAD BEEN PLACED AT THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE, WHEREAS I FELT THE BEST PLACE TO SIT IT WAS AT THE BACK OF THE PROPERTY WITH VIEWS OVERLOOKING THE GARDEN AND WILDLIFE”





At one end of the long kitchen island is a relaxed seating area with high chairs from Cattelan Italia. cattelanitalia.com



→ A few days later, the couple visited Diane in her studio to see her drawings and plans for their new kitchen. They then went away with her kitchen dimensions and instructed their joiners to build the kitchen in plywood, so they could visualise what the new kitchen space would look like. "I have never seen this happen before, but Thomas quite rightly explained that, given the investment, it was worth paying his joiners for a day to build it to be sure that the whole family liked it," says Diane.

Once happy with the kitchen layout, Diane suggested they invest in an Alno kitchen with Dekton and Miele appliances as they are perfect for a family home. "They are so robust and the family could relax knowing they can use it and it will stay looking beautiful for many years," she says. Diane ordered the kitchen from Alno and, once ready for installation, instructed her own team of fitters to build the kitchen to the very highest standard.

The finished kitchen is super long with low ceilings. A breakfast bar sits at one

end of the kitchen island with a relaxed seating area with high chairs which, when you're sat at, provide a great view down the island out to the back garden. "It's also the section of the kitchen that guests see when they arrive at the house so, rather than looking in at kitchen units, they see a sociable seating space instead," says Diane. At the opposite end of the room is a large family dining table attached to the kitchen island, with a cosy L-shaped bench that has a real family dining feel to it. "It's used for casual family meals and homework, as the family still have a formal dining room elsewhere on the ground floor," says Diane.

As the house was originally built as two buildings which have been subtly linked together, there are low ceilings in this area with exposed beams. Diane redesigned the ceiling to create a lighting trough to throw light upwards and to hide the big beams and ducting for the extractor, too. A raised walkway from the main house to the kitchen was added, which in turn gave a sunken lounge and TV space which was then carpeted to create a cosy, warm vibe. "I also managed to source a floor

tile for the kitchen that was almost the same as the pool area which links to this room, so the colour and texture flowed throughout the home," says Diane.

Careful consideration was put in to the finishing interior look. Arre 3D fabric wallpaper has been used in the TV room, which not only looks great, but is practical too. "It helps with the acoustics, as the padding helps soften the bouncing noises of a family space," says Diane.

"We also fitted oak folding doors at both ends of the kitchen, ideal for alfresco dining and entertaining guests," says Diane. "And I love the bench seating with a floating design as so many L-shaped benches have clumsy solid ends, but this one just floats beautifully with a throw to help soften the texture and add to the relaxing vibe the family were after," says Diane.

It was Diane's attention to detail, alongside a committed and brave customer attitude, that has helped the family create a stylish, modern space that now suits their way of life perfectly.