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Inside
Helen Skelton's
gorgeous new
kitchen




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Your guide to a *perfectly organised* bathroom

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The island's depth matches the adjacent wall, creating symmetry. **Hob**, Gaggenau; **sink and tap**, Blanco.

right Light is bounced around the room thanks to the brushed brass finish on the island, which is matched to the **pendants**, from Twentytwentyone, above. **Barstools**, Cult Furniture; **ovens**, Gaggenau.

The FACTS

Who? Rebecca and Luke Wheelhouse with their baby son
What? The renovation of a ground-floor flat in a converted Victorian townhouse
Where? Battersea
Cost? Matrix Kitchens start from £35,000
Time? Around six weeks

SYMMETRY *in motion*

Rebecca and Luke Wheelhouse embarked on a major renovation when they took on this period ground-floor flat, creating a large open-plan space that epitomises a balanced and harmonious design

Words: Georgina Townshend

The place was an absolute wreck when we bought it," remembers Luke Wheelhouse as he reminisces about purchasing his ground-floor garden flat in Battersea. "Formerly a Victorian townhouse, the property had a huge side return that was being used as a dumping ground – but its structure and location had potential, so we decided to strip the whole place back to brick to start afresh."

Luke and his wife Rebecca, who live with their baby son, wanted to create a characterful and sociable home. They worked with John-Paul Armstrong at Armstrong Simmonds Architects to create their vision. "We decided on a side-return extension and knocked down the back bedroom, kitchen, bathroom and lounge to make one large kitchen-living-diner," explains Rebecca.

At the same time, the couple called upon Matrix Kitchens after they saw and fell in love with one of the company's completed designs. Following an initial planning meeting, Rebecca and Luke pinpointed key materials they wanted to include, such as dark stained oak doors, brass, and light porcelain marble worktops. As the space needed to work for entertaining, part of the brief was also to include a small bar and wine space plus an island with seating.

As the room is quite large, definitive zones for cooking, dining and relaxing were created. "The kitchen layout was influenced by our mission to get the island width to mirror that of the adjacent wall, and the lights to drop perfectly in the centre of the island," says Rebecca. "By doing this, we managed to form a sense of balance and harmony in the room." Thanks to the generous extension and the ample natural light now in the space, the couple felt the space could handle the dramatic dark finish of the units balanced out further by the bold, polished concrete floor. As for the appliances, with a young family the large Miele larder fridge was key, as was integrating it within the furniture for a sleek look. A Gaggenau oven and microwave were selected for their renowned quality, but also because the appliances are side opening, which the couple thought would be easier to access at eye level than a drop-down door.

"We're very pleased with the results," says Rebecca. "Especially with the bar section at the end of the run of units. It's a real showpiece of the kitchen when open and hides everything neatly away when closed. The brushed brass finish in the island, that matches the brass of the pendants above, work really well to bounce light around the room too, creating a look that is very simple but equally impressive." >





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An existing window was made bigger to run to the floor so it creates a beautiful view as you enter the kitchen. **Glazing:** Sunvista.

left "The bar section is beautiful enough to be left open and become an extension of the kitchen when needed. We love hosting and planned this as a space to entertain," says Rebecca. **Design:** Matrix Kitchens. >







The sense of balance is continued by the joinery in the office area.

below right It was the couple's mission to match the island's width to the adjacent wall.



The bare brick wall and industrial-style table, for similar, try Hemming & Wills, add warmth to the polished concrete floor, from Lazenby >





The PLANS

Rebecca and Luke built a side-return extension and knocked down the back bedroom, kitchen, bathroom and lounge to make one large kitchen-living-diner as part of a total renovation of the ground-floor flat.

1 Balanced design The shallow island was created to match the width of the wall.

2 Cabinetry Units run the length of the kitchen, creating both storage, a TV stand and a seating area.

3 Zones The kitchen has been split into three areas, thanks to the positioning of the island, sofa, and dining table.



SOURCEBOOK

Kitchen design Matrix Kitchens 020 8004 2266 matrixkitchens.co.uk

Architects Armstrong Simmonds Architects 020 7228 1324 as-architects.co.uk

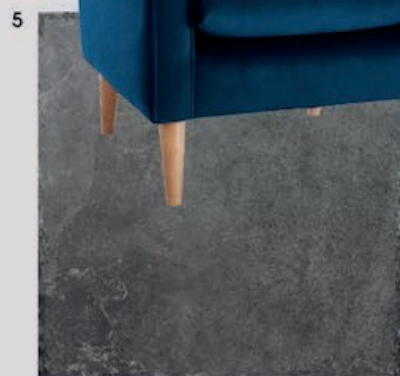
Appliances Fridge, freezer, extractor, dishwasher, Miele 0330 1606640 miele.co.uk; Oven, hob, Gaggenau, 0844 892 8988 gaggenau.com

Flooring Lazenby 01 935 700306 lazenby.co.uk

Glazing Sunvista 020 8946 8080 sunvista.co.uk

Sink and tap Blanco 01923 635200, blanco.co.uk

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design edit

1 Upton double headboard in Baltic velvet, £900, Anboise, anboise.com **2** Lea cushion, £97.50, Sweetpea & Willow, sweetpeaandwillow.com

3 Kepler knurled T-Bar handles in black, from £16.95, Plank Hardware, plankhardware.com

4 Orbit velvet accent chair in Peacock, £649.99, Oak Furnitureland, oakfurnitureland.co.uk

5 Witton Noir stone-effect floor tiles, £19.95 per sq m, Walls & Floors, wallsandfloors.co.uk



Dark tiles, brassware and basins reflect the colours of the bedroom, creating a sense of flow in this bathroom. **Basins**, for similar, try Lusso Stone.

right The large walk-in shower adds luxury, while the black-framed **screen**, for similar, try CP Hart. Is a nod to industrial style.



Dark walls and floor-to-ceiling cabinetry create a cosy feeling. **Bed**, for similar, try Feather and Black.