

Real inspiration Wood and lacquer

Vanessa and Donald Walters had lived in their west London home for eight years before they decided they couldn't suffer the kitchen any longer. 'It was falling apart and the unit doors were hanging off,' recalls Vanessa. 'It had been well built but had obviously seen better days.'

Situated at the back of the house, adjacent to a period-style conservatory, the room was dark and cramped. As a first step, the couple turned to interior designer and friend Chrysoula Sofitsi to work out how to make the space lighter and more welcoming. Chrysoula suggested replacing a small window opening onto the patio with a sliding glass door to match one on the opposite side. The transformation was instant, flooding the kitchen space with daylight and providing convenient access to the garden.

CHOOSING THE CABINETRY

Chrysoula also recommended a company that could collaborate with her on revamping the kitchen, Holloways of Ludlow. Vanessa and Donald were keen to replicate some features of the previous scheme, such as an island and an Aga, but wanted a more contemporary look. They instantly clicked with designer Robert Burnett and shared his vision for the room. 'We had a few consultation sessions where Robert showed us what sort of materials were available,' says Vanessa. 'He mentioned that there was a wood he was excited about and gave us a sample of the olive ash. We thought it was absolutely fantastic, so we went for it.'

The timber cabinetry, with its strong grain and bookmatched veneers, then dictated the rest of the theme. 'We worked through a lot of different palettes in search of colours to go with the wood,' says Vanessa. 'The look we were aiming for was uncluttered and ▶



COOKING ZONE

Vanessa and Donald replaced their old Aga with this new gas-fired model. Its Pewter finish contrasts with the muted shades of the cabinetry and burgundy glass splashback. Next to it, an induction hob comes into its own when the Aga is switched off during the summer



SINK AREA

A chrome Dornbracht tap and double-bowl Suter sink form a flexible place that is ideal for rinsing dishes



LARDER

A sliding door conceals a walk-in storage area that boasts a wine cooler, freezer and recycling bins