



PARK LIFE



Benefiting from a double-height glass extension, this home now features light-filled kitchen and bathroom designs

Report: Kathy Hurst Photography: Nicholas Yarsley

Previous pages (p112-113): A sleek TV unit and contemporary radiators in charcoal grey accentuate this home's simple, unfussy style.



Left: Double-height glazing ensures a light, airy feel and affords the cook views of the garden beyond.

Bottom left: Design classics – such as the Saarinen table and chairs, and Louis Poulsen light – add a stylish feel to the scheme. Upholstered seat pads in a soft, slate grey provide continuity with the overall scheme.

Below: A breakfast cupboard, with integrated coffee machine and space for small appliances, help the morning routine run smoothly.

Opposite page, top: Understated neutral tones add elegance to the light-filled kitchen. An oak-veneer island unit, with barstools in a complementary finish, creates a striking focal point.

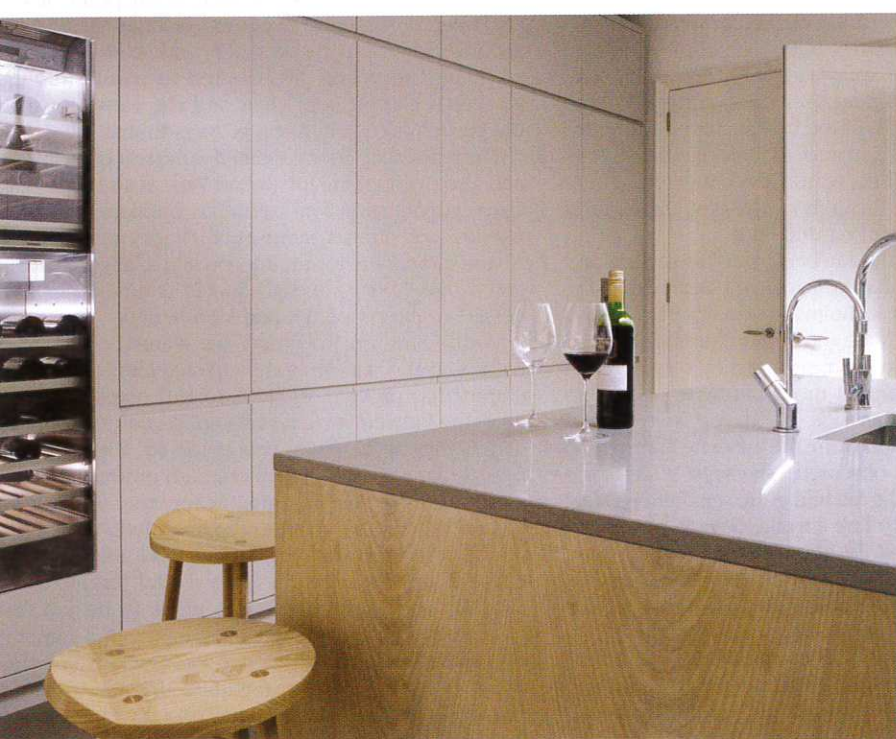


"We chose Holloways of Ludlow for the design and installation of the kitchen because its ideas were the most creative and sympathetic to the space."

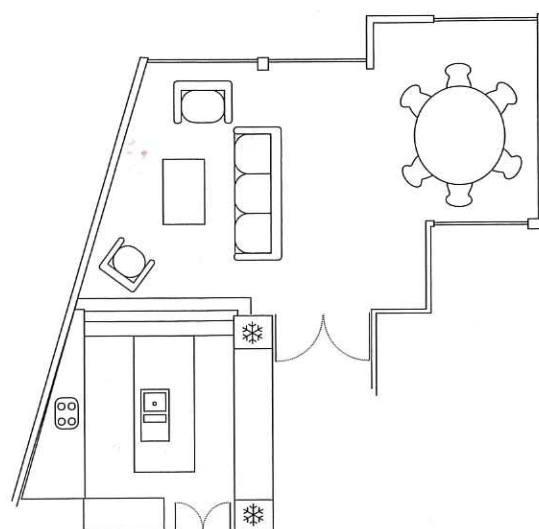
Looking out over Richmond Park, Marc and Bethan Kemp's elegant Victorian villa is an interesting blend of period charm and contemporary style. Indeed, the property, with its lofty sash windows and honeyed London stone, belies an interior that owes much to modern Scandinavian styling: light-filled open-plan spaces, clean lines, and a chalky palette offset by a smattering of bleached oak.

When the Kemps first set eyes on the property it was a far cry from the contemporary haven it is today. They bought the house part way through a large-scale reconstruction and worked alongside a developer in the final phases, demolishing a garage to create space for the new kitchen, carving out a basement and adding a full-width rear extension with double-height glazing.

Marc and Bethan, who share the property with their two young children, were keen to create a practical space that lent itself to the needs of modern family life. "We wanted a contemporary look, but one which embraced traditional workmanship and ►



Left: A bank of cabinetry conceals a larger fridge, wine storage unit and freezer, whilst ceiling-height units provide the Kemps with additional storage.





Above: A glossy composite worktop and blue-grey glass splashback complement the neutral colour scheme. Contemporary, swan-neck brassware underlines the minimalist aesthetic.

Opposite page: The bathtub's striking modern form makes a real style statement in here. Fashioned from Cian – a renewable material manufactured from a blend of acrylic polyester resin and mineral fillers – it has an exceptionally solid feel, despite its slim design.

quality materials,” explains Marc. “One of the reasons we chose Holloways of Ludlow for the design and installation of the kitchen was because its ideas were the most creative and sympathetic to the space. It also took a craftsman’s approach so that the end product was tailored to our particular needs.”

Indeed, the kitchen – with its pebble-coloured porcelain floor tiles, spray lacquered cabinetry, oak veneer island and worktop in a composite grey stone – has become the hub of the house. Sunlight streams through a roof lantern into the preparation space and the floor-to-ceiling windows at the rear of the property mean that, throughout the day, the room is filled with a wonderful natural light.

Steps delineating the kitchen from the seating and dining areas below had a significant bearing on the design of the kitchen, as Emma Jordan from Holloways of Ludlow explains. “Marc and Bethan wanted an island in the centre of the kitchen, so that they could chat to guests as they prepared a meal, but there needed to be enough space either side – both for safety and to ensure that sight lines from the hallway through to the garden were not obscured,” she says. “One of the defining features of the kitchen is the semi-alfresco feel and it was essential to link it to the outside space.”

High on the Kemps’ list of priorities was an elegant, uncluttered kitchen that could withstand the demands of busy family life. A bank of tall cabinets across one wall conceals a larder fridge and freezer, while a breakfast cupboard houses an integrated coffee machine, power supply for the toaster and shelving for cereals. Children’s crayons and colouring books are tucked away in specially designed drawers, and

a bespoke unit – half pull-out larder, half shelved storage – was created in an awkward space around a steel beam.

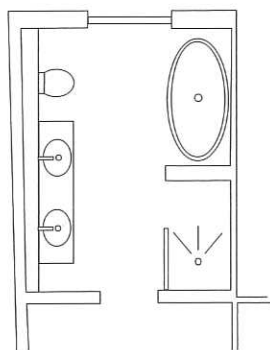
Indeed the island, with its contemporary inset sink, not only creates a striking focal point, it has also been designed to maximise storage. “The island accommodates a dishwasher and bins for food waste and recycling. We worked to ensure that the worktops can be kept clear and the views towards the garden take centre stage,” says Emma.

The master bathroom, situated at the rear of the house and also overlooking Richmond Park, is a similarly airy space. An arresting oval bathtub is positioned near the window and affords glimpses of the greenery beyond. A vast shower enclosure, meanwhile, clad in obsidian green mosaic tiles, and a blind in natural tones also gesture to the property’s parkland setting.

“From early on, we knew we wanted a sun-filled bathroom and decided to fit a frosted glass door at the entrance to provide additional light,” explains Marc. As in the kitchen, a clutter-free space was also crucial. “The vanity unit, which was made by a local joiner, means that we can keep all our bath products hidden away, and the shelving area at the rear of the bath conceals a laundry chute to the basement,” he adds.

The extension and renovation have undoubtedly been a huge success. “I have a real fondness for Saturday lunchtime now, as it tends to be the first time in the week that we congregate as a family,” says Marc. “Our new kitchen is a particularly sociable space where we can entertain friends or host children’s birthday parties; it has totally transformed the way we live our lives.”

KBB



Above left: The Kemps wanted to create a light, airy room. Bold, natural shades in the decorative blind and mosaic wall provide the perfect contrast to the soft grey walls and off-white porcelain tiles.

Above: Mirror cabinetry provides essential storage space, leaving the units free from clutter. An oval countertop basin echoes the shape and styling of the bathtub.

SourceBook

DESIGN

Kitchen design Holloways of Ludlow (020 8487 9422 or www.hollowayskitchens.com)

KITCHEN

Cabinetry Spray lacquered cabinetry and oak veneer island unit from Holloways of Ludlow, as before

Worktop Caesarstone (0800 0421 6144 or www.caesarstone.co.uk)

Splashback Glass, Polkadot & Stripe (01892 571020 or www.polkadotandstripe.co.uk)

Appliances Hob, oven and wine storage unit, Gaggenau (0844 892 8988 or www.gaggenau.com); Combi-microwave oven, Miele (0845 365 6600 or www.miele.co.uk); Dishwasher, Bosch (0844 892 9023 or www.bosch-home.co.uk)

Sink Blanco (0844 912 0100 or www.blanco.co.uk)

Taps Blanco, as before and Quooker boiling-water tap (020 7923 3355 or www.quooker.co.uk)

Bar stools SCP (020 7739 1869 or www.scp.co.uk)

Pendant lights Heal's (0870 024 0780 or www.heals.co.uk)

LIVING-DINING ROOM

Sofa and swivel chair Heal's, as before

Flooring Oak, Turgon Flooring (020 8343 3463 or www.turgonflooring.co.uk)

Lamp Utility Design (0151 708 4192 or www.utilitydesign.co.uk)

Rugs SCP and Utility Design, as before

Pendant light Louis Poulsen PH50, Designer Lights (0131 557 9120 or www.designer-lights.com)

Table and chairs Tulip table and chairs by Saarinen, Design Icons (0845 241 3500 or www.designicons.co.uk)

BATHROOM

Bath and basins Kurv Thinn bath and basin, BC Designs (01206 827100 or www.bcdesigns.co.uk)

WC Villeroy & Boch (020 8875 6006 or www.villeroy-boch.com)

Floor Tiles from Stone & Ceramic Warehouse (020 8993 5545 or www.stoneandceramicwarehouse.co.uk)

Shower wall Mosaic tiles from World's End Tiles (020 7819 2100 or www.worldsendtiles.co.uk)

Brassware Hansgrohe (01372 472001 or www.hansgrohe.co.uk)

Mirror units For similar try B&Q (0845 609 6688 or www.diy.com)

Shower screen For similar try Majestic (01279 443644 or www.majesticshowers.com)

Vanity unit For similar try Carpenter & Carpenter (01702 568520 or www.carpenterandcarpenter.co.uk)

Blind For similar fabric try Mayflower in Fennel, John Lewis (0845 604 9049 or www.johnlewis.com)

COST

A similar kitchen would cost from £25,000 and a similar bathroom from £15,000