

Real inspiration Monochrome painted



**Kitchen
FACT FILE**



THE FAMILY
Maria Andersson, her husband Ola, and their children Cecilia, 21, Sebastian, 19, and Tiger, eight, plus Labrador Kiera and cocker spaniel Jesse

THE HOME A new-build detached house in Surrey

THE PROJECT Replacing the cabinetry and redecorating

PRICE GUIDE
£55,000
for a similar Sola Kitchens design, cabinetry only

Swede INSPIRATION

Maria and Ola Andersson injected a little Scandi style into their new kitchen with classic cabinetry and a head-turning island

FEATURE TRACEY WILLIAMS • PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES UNDERTON

CABINETRY
Classic white-painted solid-ash cabinetry from Sola Kitchens' Newport range provides the perfect backdrop for the contrasting black statement island. The extra-long, multipurpose unit features a range cooker and prep sink at one end and breakfast bar at the other



ISLAND
Maria's wish to create a floating effect, by mounting the island on legs and fitting under-cabinet lighting, was a challenge for the kitchen company due to the sheer size and weight of the workstation. For extra stability, the cupboards and granite worktop are supported by thick steel beams hidden inside the legs

PALETTE
Although Maria and Ola didn't choose the cream porcelain tiles themselves, they're glad they kept the existing floor because it adds warmth to the monochrome scheme. The walls are covered in a soft-grey wallpaper, which helps anchor everything



Having bought and renovated numerous properties in the past, Swedish couple Maria and Ola Andersson were adamant that this time they were going to buy a house that needed very little work. However, it was only once they and their three children had moved into their detached new-build property in Surrey that they realised the kitchen they'd inherited wasn't quite up to standard. 'The previous owners had built the house, and although it was finished six months prior to us moving in, there were parts of the kitchen missing,' says Maria, 'and the layout wasn't very practical either.'

SWEDISH CONNECTION
Faced with an unfinished and impractical room, Maria began to browse magazines for inspiration for new cabinetry before spotting a design by Sola Kitchens. 'It was the only kitchen I'd seen that really appealed to me and it just happened to be made by a Swedish company,' she says. 'I guess it was meant to be.'

She adored the classically elegant style of the white hand-painted solid-ash cabinetry from Sola Kitchens' Newport range, which was in stark contrast to the existing ultramodern Italian

furniture. 'The front of the house has a very classic look and the back, where the kitchen is, has a more modern feel,' explains Maria. 'So the new cabinetry would help bridge the gap between the two different styles.'

STATEMENT ISLAND
The couple visited Sola Kitchens' showroom and discussed their requirements with one of its designers, Sofia Bune Strandh. At the top of their wish list was a multifunctional island. 'I love cooking and spending time in the kitchen so an island was important and really had to work for me,' says Maria. 'Our existing one offered little in the way of surface or storage space, and I wanted somewhere for the children and our guests to sit while I prepared meals, too.'

Maria also asked for her new Britannia range cooker to be incorporated into the island so that she could enjoy uninterrupted views of the garden through the patio doors while cooking. 'I wanted a prep sink on the island, too, for practical reasons,' adds Maria. 'Rather than transporting hot pans from the island to the main sink opposite, I felt it would be much safer to have a smaller design adjacent to the cooker to eliminate ►

OUR KITCHEN SECRETS

- DO** try to use existing features. We saved time and a lot of money by keeping the old floor tiles, which had recently been laid by the previous owners.
- DON'T** be in a rush to finish your project quickly – ours took six months to complete. Think through each detail carefully and make sure everything is ordered in good time. It's such a relief when it all goes according to plan.
- DO** have a water softener fitted if you live in a hard-water area. Our system is broken and we forgot to change it during the kitchen refit, so now I'm worried limescale will ruin our new appliances.



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SINK AREA

Bianco Crystal granite continues up the wall providing a stylish splashback behind the undermounted BlancoClaron stainless-steel sink and single-lever Gessi Oxygen mixer tap



BESPOKE FURNITURE

Maria's collection of cookbooks are stowed away inside this tall cabinet designed by Sofia at Sola Kitchens. For balance, there's an identical unit on the other side of the door opening



STORAGE

For easy access, oils and condiments are located in a drawer beside the Britannia range. Built-in compartments ensure that bottles stay upright when it's opened



LARDER DRAWERS

Bread and vegetables are kept in drawers inside the larder. All the cabinetry interiors are unpainted so that the beautiful timber can be enjoyed in its natural state



DINING AREA

Although there's a separate dining room leading off the kitchen, the family have most of their meals together in this informal, light-filled space. It's also the perfect place for Maria to help Tiger with his homework

SHOP THE LOOK

CABINETRY

■ Hand-painted solid-ash furniture from the Newport range at Sola Kitchens. A similar kitchen, cabinetry only, costs £55,000

WORKSURFACES AND SPLASHBACK

■ Bianco Crystal granite. Price per linear m £515

FLOORING

■ Porcelain tiles, for similar, try Moon Polished Nano, The Tile Depot. Price per sq m £39

APPLIANCES

- 120cm Sigma dual-fuel range cooker, Britannia £5,400
- Freestanding microwave, Miele £480
- Stratus ceiling extractor hood, Westin £1,350
- Fully integrated larder fridge, Gaggenau £4,710
- Fully integrated freezer, Gaggenau £4,150
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Gaggenau £912

SINKS AND TAPS

- BlancoClaron 500-U undermounted single-bowl sink in stainless steel, Blanco £475
- BlancoRonis-U undermounted round-bowl sink in stainless steel, Blanco £538
- 2 x Oxygen single-lever monobloc mixer taps in chrome with pull-out rinse, Gessi, each £258
- Design boiling-water tap in chrome, Quooker £834

FINISHING TOUCHES

- Super-Elliptical dining table, Skandium, from £1,435
- Series 7 dining chairs, Skandium, each from £316
- Bar stools, for similar, try Julian Bowen Stratos, Ascendi, each £69
- White pendant lights, Town House Interiors, each £90
- Villaverde Murano Perla glass chandelier, Town House Interiors £2,295
- Alma Rose Indien cushion fabric, Manuel Canovas. Price per m £150
- Kasimir Piet in Zinc seat-pad fabric, Designers Guild. Price per m £51
- Arte Flamant Suite V in Lin Smoke wallpaper, Brian Yates. Price per roll £112
- Cabinetry paint, for similar, try Antique White and Black Pearl eggshell, Eicó. Price per 2.5 litres £43.30

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 133

OWNER'S TIP 'If you want glazed cabinets with interior lighting but not too many items on display, opt for double-panel doors with the top section made of glass'

any possibility of me tripping over the dogs – or even Tiger, our eight-year-old!'

Choosing the room's colour scheme took considerable time and involved Maria and Sofia looking at a range of fabric, wallpaper and granite samples, then mixing and matching them until they found the right combination. Black-and-white painted cabinetry offset with Bianco Crystal granite worktops, pale-grey wallpaper and cream porcelain flooring create a subtle monochrome look. 'We decided to keep the existing floor tiles as they were in such good condition,' says Maria. 'Ideally we would have laid new flooring, as it's not really to our taste, but it would have been too expensive and time-consuming.'

INTEGRATED SCHEME

Maria and Ola had a list of appliances they wanted to include in their new kitchen, but instead of having them on show, the couple preferred their equipment to be hidden away for fear of ruining the classic lines of the beautiful cabinetry. 'I just didn't want to see lots of squares everywhere,' insists Maria. So, other

than the traditional-style range cooker, the appliances are either fully integrated or discreetly concealed inside a cupboard.

HEART OF THE HOUSE

The installation of the kitchen took place while the Andersson family was on holiday. 'We were going away for two and a half weeks so Sofia arranged for the work to be done then, which was perfect timing,' says Maria. Half-expecting to return to a building site, the couple were pleasantly surprised when they walked into the kitchen and found the room complete. 'It looked amazing,' recalls Maria. 'We couldn't believe they had done it all in such a short space of time – they must have worked all day and night.'

The end result is a smart Scandi-influenced scheme, which looks impressive and functions efficiently. 'We all love the new kitchen,' says Maria. 'It has changed the whole dynamic of the house, which feels much more homely. It was very important to me and Ola that everything was right so that the kitchen would become the centre of our home.'