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KITCHEN BATHROOM BEDROOM

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THE *Swedish* WAY

This light and airy kitchen radiates homeowner Anna Lewis' simple and welcoming Scandinavian style

PICTURES DARREN CHUNG | WORDS AMELIA THORPE

After buying a late Victorian house in Surrey in 2001, Anna Lewis and husband Michael have spent the last 10 years gradually renovating it to its former glory. 'Probably our biggest challenge in the whole house was the kitchen,' says Anna. 'It wasn't nice... in fact, it was horrible.'

So out came the falling-apart wooden units and down came a faux brick chimney breast as the couple set about re-designing the room. To maximise its space, Anna and Michael also had builders demolish an internal wall that separated the kitchen from the old utility room and replace a back door with a large window. 'This instantly made the room feel larger and more open, and created a blank canvas that was much more practical to work with,' explains Anna.

Swedish-born Anna had a clear idea of the clean and light look she wanted to achieve in her kitchen and living space, teaming the traditional Scandinavian palette of chalky whites and soft greys with warm, white-oiled wood and classic cabinetry. But, while Anna wanted one thing, English-born Michael was less convinced. 'We're probably not the easiest customers,' admits Anna. 'I wanted classic and Michael wanted modern.'

Fortunately, the couple discovered Swedish bespoke kitchen company Sola before arguments got too heated. 'We both liked the designs, because they blend old and new styles to create something unique, with individual elements and clever use of materials,' says Anna. Simple Shaker-style painted furniture features Swedish-inspired elements, such as the built-in dresser with its crossed glazing bars. Combined with walls papered in a delicate trellis patterned design from Swedish company Sandberg, the room feels light and fresh, with the white oiled timber elements adding homely warmth.

Anna and Michael regularly welcome friends and family from Scandinavia, and the room functions just as well when they are cooking for a crowd as when it's just the two of them together for a kitchen supper. 'The room is so different to the way it was before,' says Anna. 'Now it feels clean, light and open, and it's a beautiful space that reminds me of the things I love about Sweden.' *CKM*

SCANDI-INSPIRED

Blonde wood adds warmth to the white and grey scheme, while the beautiful fitted dresser has a crossed bar design to match the Scandinavian-inspired double entrance doors

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Kitchen profile

The in-frame furniture in this Frillen kitchen by Sola Kitchens is made of solid ash and hand-painted in Old White by Eicó Paints. The Swedish influence behind its classic look is enhanced by this cool white-grey painted finish, a fitted dresser with crossed glazing bars and white oiled oak breakfast bar. Teamed with work surfaces in stainless steel and Nero Assoluto brushed granite, glass knob and chrome cup handles, matt lacquered blonde oak floor and a Slate-coloured range cooker from Falcon, the look is a modern take on elegant Swedish design.

SOLA KITCHENS
121 Munster Road, London, SW6 6DH,
Tel 020 3004 0898. solakitchens.com
Kitchen prices from £30,000.



HIDDEN DEPTH

Folding 'dresser' doors open to reveal small appliances and a microwave, ready for use. The cabinetry is finished with a simple cornice and falls short of the ceiling, which makes the room appear wider.



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CABINETRY PANELLING

The original chimney breast is concealed behind the tongue and groove panelling here, which makes a feature of the seating area with its open shelves.

SIMPLE DETAILS

Glass knobs create a pretty, feminine finish on the cabinetry doors.

TIME FOR TEA

The seating bar softens the linear look of the design and is an ideal spot for breakfast.



RHIANNON PHENIS
DESIGNER,
SOLA KITCHENS

How did you create the layout?

The room is long and slender, so it made sense to run the cabinetry along the length of the two walls, with space to work in between. The base cabinets run along underneath the windows, with the range cooker forming the focal point, while the tall cabinets maximise the use of the available space opposite. To add interest to the tall run, we introduced a seating area with a curved timber bar, which softens the linear look of the design.

Can you tell us about the style of the cabinetry?

Our Frilan furniture is an in-frame design with a simple, pared-back Shaker-style. It is unfussy and perfectly suits the clean-lined look that Anna and Michael wanted to achieve. The dresser-style cabinet adds interest and it also adds a very practical

feature to the room because it conceals all the small appliances ready for use. The original chimney breast is concealed behind the tongue and groove panelling, which also makes a feature of the seating area with its open shelves.

And the materials? In Sweden, sink area worktops are often made of stainless steel, because it is such a practical, durable and hygienic material. So we used it here, complete with integrated sink. On the other side of the range cooker, we used a beautiful Neis Assoluto granite with a brushed finish to provide some subtle contrast, and white oiled timber for the bar area. The different materials accentuate the 'unhitched' feel and add interest - often it is these details that make the difference between an ordinary design and something special.



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'The disparate materials accentuate the 'unfitted' feel and are details that make all the difference between ordinary design and something special'



HOME ON THE RANGE

The Falcon range cooker has a stainless steel hotplate, heavy duty pan supports and a 5kW central burner, ideal for a wok or large casserole pot. It also features a multifunction oven, roll-out grill and tall fan oven



ON TAP

The Franke Doric FilterFlow tap delivers water in separate channels, dispensing hot, cold, mixed or filtered water

Stockists

APPLIANCES AND FIXTURES

1000 Deluxe dual fuel **range cooker** in Slate, £3,608; Super Extract 1000 **cooker hood** in Slate, £1,118, both Falcon. G6160 SCVi integrated **dishwasher**, £1,200, Miele. ECBN 6156 built-in **fridge-freezer**, £4,176; Similar **wine cabinet**, WKr 4211 Vinothek, £1,319; Liebherr.

FIXTURES AND FITTINGS

Doric FilterFlow **tap**, £632, Franke. DecoSteel stainless **steel worktop** with integrated **sink and upstands**, £2,844; Nero Assoluto brushed **granite worktop and upstands**, £2,290; White oiled **oak worktop**, £2,856; Opticolour Linen back-painted glass **splashback** (behind range cooker); Clear glass **splashback** (over wallpaper), £1,018, all Sola Kitchens. Edith 468-21 **wallpaper**, from £58 per 10m roll, Sandberg. Oak Brighton wood **flooring**, £70m², Kährs. Ingolf **bar stools**, £45 each, IKEA. Similar **pendant**, Cosmo prismatic, from £191, Holloways of Ludlow.

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 118

WALLFLOWERS

The Edith wallpaper, featuring a little leaf pattern on a trellis, is available from Swedish company Sandberg

