

# OPEN HOUSE

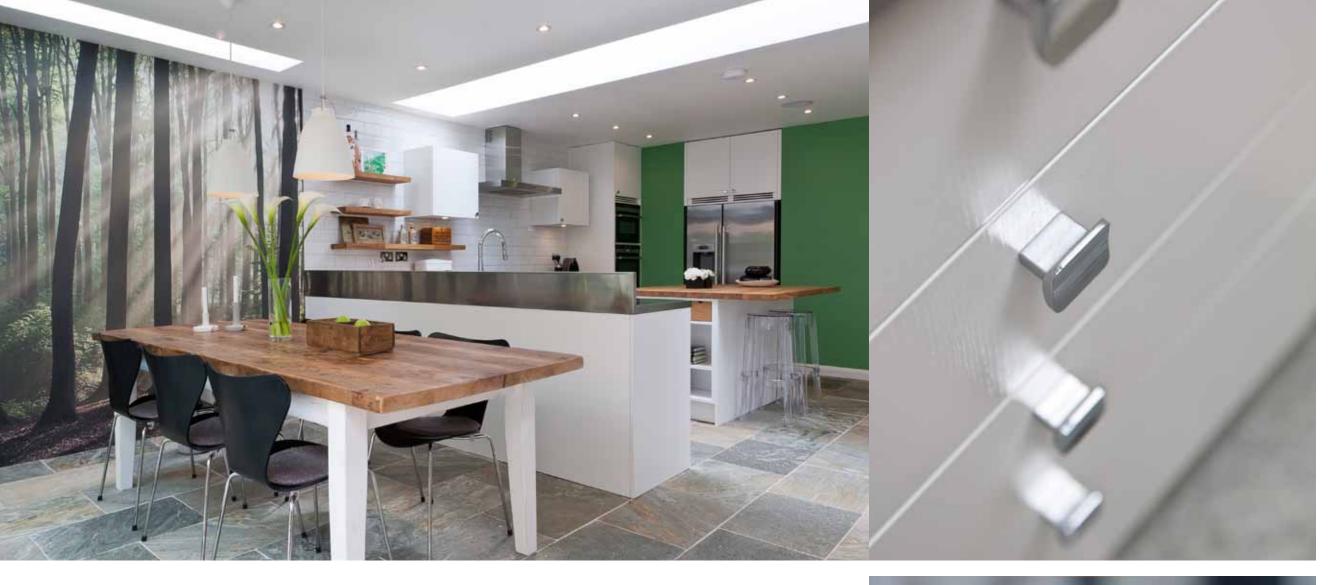
A fresh, Scandinavian theme and an open-plan design that moves seamlessly from inside to outside, helps this growing family to connect with nature and have room to breathe

hen Jonathan and Anniken Max extended their home to create a large, open-plan Scandinavianstyle kitchen, they approached Swedish designer Sofia Bune Strandh, managing director of Sola Kitchens. They asked her to work with them on a quality design that would withstand the bumps and bangs from two growing boys and that the style would stand the test of time.

# Why choose Scandinavian style?

Anniken: "We were quite decisive when choosing the style; we wanted a Scandi look, as I am Norwegian; something rustic, but with some design pieces thrown in. We aren't planning to move house, so we chose a good quality wooden Scandinavian style kitchen that will last. Sofia from Sola Kitchens was professional from the start and came up with good solutions and ullet ullet







"This kitchen is bright, spacious and blends seamlessly with the outside.
I love the bespoke drawers, one for each of us, and the large dining table means we can entertain family and friends."

understood what we wanted to achieve. As the kitchens are bespoke and Scandinavian, it was the perfect match."

# How did you link the inside and outside?

Anniken: "We wanted a large sliding door, rather than bi-folding doors, as this really opens the room up and makes the indoors blend in with the outdoors – especially since we have the same flooring inside and out. Large glass windows in the ceiling were also a must-have feature."

**Sofia:** "The space needed to be light and airy without any heavy features. In order to help link the interior and exterior spaces, the shed in the garden was painted in the same green colour as the wall in the kitchen which was coated in a green magnetic paint so it could also be used as a notice board."

# Why the forest themed wallpaper?

**Anniken:** "I got the idea of the wallpaper mural from looking at similar ideas but on a smaller scale in magazines. I wanted  $\bullet \bullet \bullet$ 















a forest theme to link with the garden outside as well as picking up on the green wall at the back of the kitchen."

### What about the choice of wood?

Sofia: "They wanted a white and bright kitchen with wood details, but since the wall colour and wallpaper are very distinct, the actual cabinets needed to be kept relatively simple. The units are made with spray-painted veneered doors, with the veneer in coarse grained ash so that you can really see that it is wood. The client wanted the feeling of wood, so the veneered units in combination with the solid oak worktops worked very well. We also did some floating shelves in oak, as well as a wine rack, to add a bit more warmth to the kitchen."

## What's the verdict?

Anniken: "This kitchen is bright, spacious and blends seamlessly with the outside. It's a room we now spend hours in, and it's perfect for entertaining, as it has several 'zones' - a large dining table, sofa, bar area, large patio and garden. Our boys like to play here, so it also keeps toys away from our lounge, which is a great thing!" •

# **DETAILS**

Bespoke kitchen design with units from the Sletten range, featuring drawers in birch and doors in spray-painted ash veneer, designed by Sofia Bune Strandh, Sola Kitchens **020 3004 0898 www.solakitchens.com** 

Westin Serna wall-mounted extractor 01484 421 585 www.westin.co.uk

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