

BESPOKE CABINETRY

The **flat-fronted units** from Sola Swedish Kitchens have been **spray-painted in Camouflage Grey** from Ray Munn. As one cupboard had to house the boiler, all the wall units have been made deeper than usual

WORKTOPS

Blanco Norte Silestone surfaces create the clean feel Rebecca wanted

FLOORING

Martinique porcelain tiles supplied by Sola Swedish Kitchens were chosen to complement the space. 'Marble was too expensive,' says Rebecca, 'but these are shiny and easy to clean'

SHADES OF GREY

Muted matt cabinetry has been teamed with a stunning blue glass splashback to create a sleek scheme for the Boyce family



FEATURE SARAH WARWICK
PHOTOGRAPHY NARCISUS PEEK

REBECCA AND DOMINIC BOYCE LIVE IN A FOUR-BEDROOM VICTORIAN TERRACED HOUSE IN SOUTH LONDON WITH THEIR DOG, JEREMY BEAGLE, AND CAT, CHAIRMAN, AND ARE EXPECTING THEIR FIRST CHILD

Before Rebecca and Dominic Boyce were married, Rebecca had lived in her house for six years with housemates. The kitchen had been given a budget revamp but with dark units and a grey slate floor, the room was so dingy that even in the morning, the lights had to be switched on. Sorting out the kitchen was a priority for the newly married couple.

'We were spending most of our time in a depressing room, even when friends came round,' says Rebecca, who runs her own PR agency.

Curing it of its gloomy atmosphere was the first task. 'We wanted the new kitchen to be light, airy and warm,' explains Rebecca. 'I love cooking, but there wasn't enough room for preparing food. A big table for friends to sit round was a must, too.'

Wanting more space, Rebecca and Dominic, a management consultant, extended the back of the house. 'We lost the pathway to the garden but it made a huge difference, even though the extension added just a few metres,' says Rebecca. The couple asked three companies to create designs for the kitchen based on the extension plans. 'Sola Swedish Kitchens was recommended to us by a builder,' recalls

Rebecca. 'We chose it because designer Sofia Bune was so thoughtful about where she put everything.'

The building work itself threw up some challenges as a chimneybreast in the room was found to be unsafe. 'We could have put an RSJ (rolled steel joist) on the splashback side but it would have encroached on the units,' says Rebecca. 'They'd already been ordered, so we had no choice but to rip the chimneybreast out.' A new boiler also caused complications because of its size. However, Sofia was quick to find a solution. 'The boiler's cabinet had to be 30mm deeper than usual, so we made all the wall units to that depth,' she recalls.

Rebecca was painstaking about the choice of units. 'We wanted gloss initially but Sofia recommended that we have a flat matt finish as it would

be harder-wearing and look good for longer,' she says. 'Plus, our glass splashback and glossy floor go with the minimal units.' After painting samples onto boards, the couple chose a smokey grey shade for the cabinetry with long bar handles and a deep blue glass splashback for a dash of colour. Cool white composite worktops finish the design.

An island in the centre gives Rebecca the food preparation space she wanted, while a dining table and chairs make the scheme ideal for entertaining. 'Our kitchen's really social – I can talk to my friends while I clean up,' smiles Rebecca.

The scheme is a real hit with the couple, but there is one downside. 'Our dining room's completely redundant now,' reveals Rebecca. 'Although I suspect in a few years it'll become a playroom.' **BK**

'MY FAVOURITE DESIGN ELEMENT IS THE BLUE

GLASS SPLASHBACK. I JUST USE WINDOW CLEANER TO KEEP IT LOOKING GOOD'

SECTIONED DRAWER

Differently sized compartments in the **utensils drawer** keep tools tidy and to hand when the couple are cooking. The **matt bar handles** were chosen to complement the sleek cabinetry

BUILT-IN MICROWAVE

An additional cooking option to the range, a **microwave** by Bosch has been built in to a cupboard to prevent it from taking up worktop space

GLASSWARE STORAGE

Glass-fronted units break up the run of wall cabinets and provide display space. The **glass shelves** are illuminated by LEDs for a touch of glamour

GREAT IDEA

Use LEDs to highlight parts of your design. Here, they've been added to glass shelving



DINING AREA

A **table and chairs** from Pine Solutions create dining space for friends in the kitchen and were Rebecca's best buy

SPLASHBACK

An **Azure glass splashback** from Deco Glazé was used to bring colour to the neutral kitchen scheme



BK loves
...this smart
tambour unit that
hides any mess

TAMBOUR-FRONTED UNIT

The breadbin, toaster and kettle are housed behind a roll-up **tambour door** to keep the surfaces uncluttered

COOKING AREA

Rebecca chose a **dual-fuel range cooker** and matching **chimney extractor hood** from Belling

PRICE GUIDE
Starting price
£14,000
for a Sola Swedish
Kitchens design

THE KITCHEN AT A GLANCE

DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Sofia Bune at **Sola Swedish Kitchens**, 36 South Park Road, London SW19 8SZ (0845 862 0297) www.solakitchens.com
- Bespoke, spray-painted MDF furniture with glass doors from the Mona range

WORKTOPS

- Blanco Norte Silestone, UK Stone. Price per linear m **£390**

FLOORING

- Martinique porcelain tiles, Sola Swedish Kitchens. Price per sq m **£59**

SINK & TAP



- KBXI60-45-20 Kubus undermounted one-and-a-half-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke **£454**
- Olympus C-spout monobloc mixer tap in chrome with separate spray, Franke **£303**

- ISE45 waste disposal unit, In-Sink-Erator **£92**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- DB490DFT Professional dual-fuel range cooker in stainless steel, Belling **£899**
- HMT84M651B built-in microwave, Bosch **£340**
- CHIM90 chimney extractor hood in stainless steel, Belling **£255**



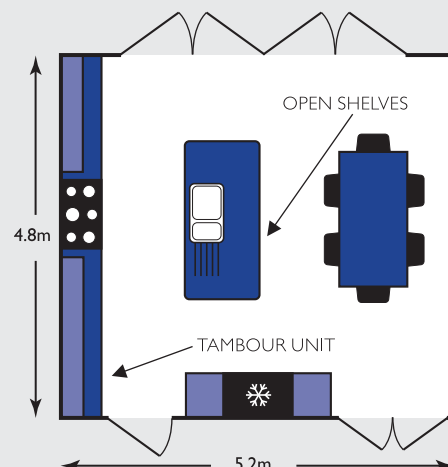
- Integrated American fridge freezer, for similar try MSS20FSS13, Maytag **£1,250**
- KTWI8V80GB integrated wine cooler, Bosch **£404**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated dishwasher, Bosch **£445**
- Fully integrated washing machine, AEG-Electrolux **£679**
- Fully integrated tumble dryer, White Knight at B&Q **£299**

☎ For stockists, see page 144

PLAN SCALE 1cm:1m



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