

DREAM *scheme*

Homeowners Sarah and Nick Coombs transformed two flats into the bright, airy space that they had always wanted

PICTURES MIA LIND AND LINDY CUMINGS | WORDS EMMA FOALE

REIMAGINED SPACE

Where two flats have been converted into a house, owners Sarah and Nick can enjoy plenty of space. Sarah explains how they 'took out a wall where the island currently sits' to open up the kitchen and living areas



LET'S EAT!

Cooking and catching up with friends at the same time is made easy with clever placing of the Siemens induction hob on the island facing the living and dining areas. The ceiling-mounted extractor keeps the area feeling clean and free of cooking odours



T

ake a couple who work in the property industry and a maisonette with lots of potential and you have the perfect combination for a new and exciting project. Sarah and Nick Coombs bought an upper maisonette in South West London five years ago with a view of converting it back to a house. Sarah explains, 'We loved the location and the property so much that we didn't want to move away. Also, being able to go ahead with the conversion gave us the opportunity to create the house that we've always wanted.'

Sarah and Nick needed a multipurpose space that would accommodate their love of entertaining and their two dogs. Having the professional experience that they've both gained working in interiors, along with ideas they've taken from friends' houses, they had a clear vision of what they wanted. With help and advice from designer Rhiannon Phenis from Sola Kitchens, it wasn't long before the new kitchen was shaping up nicely.

Where there was once a wall there's now a large island with a hob on top so Sarah and Nick can cook while socialising with guests. 'We were sympathetic to the property features and didn't go too ultra-modern, which often happens with extensions. We worked with the glazed sloped roof along the length of the room, not 'blocking' light flow by fitting cabinetry in that area' explains Rhiannon of the design challenges.

Sarah wanted a solid wood kitchen hence her choice of Frillen cabinetry which has a Shaker-style but with a contemporary touch as it has been hand-painted in grey. When it came to choosing the appliances Rhiannon's experience was well valued and she made sure that by including a bank of appliances along the back wall, a hob on the island and a boiling water tap, that everything served a purpose. Also, with the addition of a larder and an island with large, wide drawers and hidden storage at the back under the seating area Sarah no longer has to worry about where she's going to keep her pots and pans.

'We now spend a lot of time in here and it's fantastic in the summer with the bi-fold doors wide open. We've been enjoying relaxing with friends and our dogs in this great space,' enthuses Sarah about her new home. **EKBB**

IN A ROW

Top right The Belgravia nickel pendants make an impact in a row of three and also provide focal lighting over the hob and breakfast bar

ON THE WALL

Right A blackboard is a place to jot down reminders or shopping lists and the large, wide drawers allow ample space for pots, pans and crockery





RHIANNON PHENIS
DESIGNER,
SOLA KITCHENS



How did the architecture of the building influence your design? We wanted to be sympathetic to the property features which we achieved by not going ultra-modern, which often happens with extensions and modifications to these types of properties.

Tell us about the style of cabinetry and the built-in larder? The cabinetry style is called Frillen and is an in-frame style shaker door in solid ash. The beautiful grain is

visible behind the hand-painted finish. The carcasses and drawers are solid birch wood, which is another Scandi-style light wood. The larder was kitted out to make it as practical as possible. The hanging door racks mean that more frequently used oils and spices can be easily reached. This also means that the shelves above are shallower which makes this visible and accessible. We also created different height drawers so that tall, large packets can be placed in the

bottom and smaller ones in others (not restrictive).

How much storage have you incorporated?

Lots! Everything that needed to be accommodated has been, plus more. By losing a worktop-mounted coffee machine and kettle we have more work surface to use. Also, by creating plenty of larder storage and deep pan drawers, owners Sarah and Nick have no problem finding space for everything, including cleaning products.

PRACTICAL FEATURES

A bank of built-in Siemens appliances are sleek, easily accessible and positioned at eye level. The layout has allowed for a generous width between the sink and prep area and the island. This allows two people to work at the same time with no hassle



Kitchen profile

A traditional painted kitchen with a modern feel features Frillen cabinetry with an in-frame style Shaker door in solid ash. Painted in two tones of grey, the cabinetry adds contrast to the white composite stone worktops. A bank of built-in Siemens appliances and larder are all within easy reach from the prep area.

SOLA KITCHENS
121 Munster Road, Fulham,
London, SW6 6DH. Tel 0203 004 0898.
solakitchens.com
Kitchens start from £25,000.



COOLING & STORAGE

The American-style Bosch fridge-freezer has a large capacity and there's also a useful larder where Sarah and Nick can store any dry foods and dog treats. The door hanging racks hold oils and spices and there are drawers of different heights so that tall or large packets all have a place

LIVING ELEMENTS

Rhiannon says that she 'lightened the sink wall with open shelving directly above.' This creates room for the couple's recipe books and means that it's a more comfortable working space around the washing-up area

'We wanted to be sympathetic to the property which we achieved by not going ultra-modern'





Stockists

APPLIANCES

HF35M562B built-in microwave **oven**, from £599; HB75GB550B built-in single **oven**, from £800; TK76K573GB built-in bean-to-cup **coffee machine**, £1,100; HB24D552B built-in **steam oven**, from around £700; HW1405P2B built-in **warming drawer**, from £400; EH975MV17E **induction hob**, from £1,200; LF959RB50B ceiling-mounted **extractor**, from £1,200; SN66M031GB integrated **dishwasher**, £590, all Siemens. KAN58A45G American-style **fridge-freezer**, £999, Bosch. JLWF606 **wine cabinet**, £799, John Lewis.

FIXTURES & FITTINGS

KBX 160 55-20 Kubus **sink**, from £250, Franke. PR03-VAQ Fusion round **tap** in chrome, from around £1,000, Quooker. Sky White **worktops**, price on application, Granite & Marble UK Limited. East Hampton tiles (**splashback**), from around £100 per sq. m, from Fired Earth. 235mm wide smoked,

white limed and oiled **floorboards**, price on application, Pietra Wood & Stone. Sovereign cast iron **radiators** (various sizes), price on request, Cast Iron Radiators. **Woodburner**, from Stonewoods and Marlborough **gas effect wood burner** from Gazco. SF55 aluminium folding **sliding doors**, price on application, IDSsystems. **Art work**, bought from an art gallery on Bang Tao beach, Phuket, Thailand.

FURNISHINGS AND EXTRAS

Versaille **dining table**, £779; Jeni **bar stools** in white, £129 each, Barker & Stonehouse. Flynn scoop back **dining chairs**, £99 each, Made.com. **Sofas** in Ash colour from the Salute range, from £1,130, Sofa.com. Kingal **rug**, price on application, Joss & Main. Belgravia nickel **pendant**, £265, Neptune. Sink area and tall cabinets in a light grey colour-matched **paint** and the island in Graphite Grey, from £15 per 1 litre of alterior matt, both Eicó Paints.

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