

essential

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KITCHEN

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Let it BREATHE

A soft grey palette with shots of definition enhance the spacious feel of this new kitchen, creating an elegantly simple backdrop for relaxed family dining and living

PICTURES LIND & CUMINGS DESIGN PHOTOGRAPHY | WORDS AMELIA THORPE



DOUBLE DUTY

The Nexus 110cm wide dual fuel range cooker is set into the island. It features sturdy cast iron pan supports, five gas burners in four different sizes including a high powered multi-ring burner, and a multizone hot plate, as well as two fan ovens, a glide-out grill, and a bread proving drawer



After living in a Victorian terraced house in London, Monique and Eoin O'Grady decided on a move out to a less urban area to raise their young daughters, Amelia, five, and Eva, three. 'Basically we wanted more space,' says New Zealand-born Monique,

'so we started looking for a house with a light and open feel and a garden for the girls to play in, similar to the environment in which I grew up.'

Full-time mum Monique and banker Eoin quickly settled on a 1950s-built, four-bedroom house in Surrey, thanks to its substantial garden. They were less impressed with the interior, however, particularly the cramped kitchen. 'We bought the house as a project,' says Monique, adding that they had a clear idea from the outset to extend the kitchen to create a larger room with open-plan dining and living areas, designed for relaxed family living and their love of cooking for and entertaining family and friends.

Monique had an equally clear vision for the look she wanted to achieve, focused on maximising the welcoming feel of the new space. 'But I needed help in bringing it all together, and in creating a scheme that would work throughout the house,'

she explains of the reason she followed up a recommendation and contacted interior designer Natalie Bourne. It was a good move. 'Natalie was very good at interpreting my thoughts for a contemporary-classic mix – and in making it all become a reality,' she explains.

Natalie says: 'We worked with a soft, muted palette to enhance the light and open feel, giving it some confident lift with injections of pattern, such as the herringbone marble splashback, and deep colour, including shots of inky blue and black in trims to the rug and upholstery.'

Together, they chose Frillen cabinetry by Sola Kitchens, for its Scandi-inspired simplicity and clean-lined take on traditional Shaker style.

'It can be tempting to go for a little bit of this and a little bit of that, but it is better to do only a few things and do them really well,' explains Natalie of the mix. 'Here, we feel that an edited selection of colours and materials creates an overall feeling of clean and uncluttered elegance.'

Concludes Monique: 'I cook so much more now, because it is so much easier, and I can keep an eye on the girls when I am preparing meals in the evening time. It is a lovely space for entertaining – and wonderful for family life.' *EKBB*

LIGHT ME UP

Above left A shutter rolls up to reveal a 'gadget garage', which stores small appliances ready for use, complete with lighting which is activated as the shutter lifts

DESIGN DETAIL

Above Geometric joy: a herringbone-patterned splashback of marble mosaics from Fired Earth catches the eye

PERFECTLY PRACTICAL

Durable and scratch-resistant, the Unistone quartz worktop is a practical choice for a busy family kitchen, and its Bianco Assoluto colourway offers a clean finish



SEAMLESS INDUCTION

Left Providing powerful extraction above the range cooker, the Stratus unit conceals ducting and motor in a specially designed ceiling feature, which also offers additional task lighting

HIDDEN DEPTH

Right The pantry cupboard opens to reveal door racks for jars, with shelves, drawers and a countertop with plugs for small appliances

‘The island looks out over the room and into the garden, so that was an important starting point’



RHIANNON PHENIS
SENIOR DESIGNER,
SOLA KITCHENS

How did you begin the kitchen design? The new room is designed to be a more sociable space, with room for dining, entertaining and relaxing, so the kitchen needed to work well in that environment. The island looks out over the room and into the garden, so that was an important starting point. It is backed by a wall run with sink and more storage and appliances, and the rear wall offers just enough room for two high pantry cupboards - with one disguising the back of the main staircase which juts into the space just behind.

Can you tell us about the range cooker and extractor? Monique had been told that she couldn't have a range cooker on an island, which is nonsense. This Nexus

model slots into a specially made cut-out, and offers a good variety of cooking functions. Good extraction is important, however, so we chose a powerful Stratus model, housed in a specially made ceiling feature designed to conceal the motor and ducting. It offers a sleek finish, and doesn't obstruct the view, in the way that a hanging chimney model can do.

And the choice of cabinetry? Our Frillen range takes its inspiration from Shaker style, blending classic design with contemporary clean lines. It is painted in a soft grey, in keeping with the subtle colour tones of the room, but with enough depth to provide warm contrast against the crisp white of the quartz worktops.





‘Monique had been told that she couldn’t have a range cooker on an island, which is nonsense. This model slots into a specially made cut-out’

CALM AND BALANCED

Above The balance: the arrangement of wall and base cabinets is symmetrical, while a single display shelf, in place of more wall units, tightens the look



Kitchen profile

Frillen solid ash doors are spray painted in a specially mixed grey and finished with cup and knob handles in satin nickel. The clean lines of the traditionally made furniture are echoed in Unistone Bianco Assoluto quartz worktops and sleek steel appliances, while the herringbone marble mosaic splashback lifts the completed design with a flourish of subtle geometric pattern.

SOLA KITCHENS
121 Munster Road, London, SW6 6DH.
Tel 020 3004 0898. Also in Hampstead. solakitchens.com
Kitchen prices from £35,000.



WINE AND DINE

Positioned close to the dining table, it is easy to reach into the wine fridge for a chilled bottle, without getting in the way of the cook

DESIGN DETAIL

A liquorice-coloured border to the rug, black paper cord seats on the Wishbone chairs and a midnight-blue coloured trim to the upholstered bench all add a confident flourish to the dining area

'It is better to do only a few things and do them really well'



'We worked with a soft, muted palette to enhance the open feel, giving it a lift with injections of pattern'



COSY ADDITIONS

Above A large rug defines the dining area and adds warmth to the timber flooring

CHAIR LOVE

Left The classic Wishbone chair was designed by Hans Wegner in 1949 as one of the first models created for Carl Hansen & Son, and is said to take its inspiration from an antique Chinese armchair



Stockists

APPLIANCES

Nexus NEX110DFSS/C dual fuel **range cooker** in stainless steel, £2,109, Rangemaster. DishDrawer Double DD60DDFHx7 **dishwasher**, £1,249; RF540ADUSX4 **fridge-freezer**, £2,099, both Fisher & Paykel. Similar built-under **wine fridge**, KWT 6321 UG, £2,165, Miele. Stratus ceiling **extractor** with internal motor, £1,416, Westin.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Fusion Round Pro 3 chrome combination **boiling water and mixer tap**, £1,150, Quooker. Kubus KBX 110-55 single bowl undermounted stainless steel **sink**, £392, Franke. Unistone Bianco Assoluto quartz **worktops**, priced to order, Sola Kitchens. Shelter Island Harbour View polished marble **splashback tiles**, £130 per sq. m, Fired Earth. Similar wide oak **flooring** with lime wash finish, from a selection, The Natural Wood Floor Company. Marble Light **pendants**, from £169 each, Twentytwentyone. Hay About A Stool **bar stools**, from £169 each; Carl Hansen CH24 Wishbone **chairs**, from £574 each, all Atomic Interiors. **Dining table**, for similar try Neptune. Bespoke **bench seating**, priced to order, Natalie Bourne Design. Bespoke **rug**, priced to order, Alternative Flooring. **Wall lights**, for similar, try Fritz Fryer. Iggy **armchairs**, from £560 each; Aissa **sofa**, from £1,110, Sofa.com. **INTERIOR DESIGN** Natalie Bourne Design 07909 536319 nataliebournedesign.com **CONSTRUCTION** J. Paterson Builders 07841 418647

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 182