

SEE GREEN

A clever mix of materials gives this Hackney kitchen a fresh feel, from the Mint green painted cabinets to the mirror-clad island

INTERIOR DESIGNER Kitchen

Roisín Lafferty transforms a modern space into a kitchen filled with flair and excitement in this Hackney apartment

PICTURES BARBARA CORSICO AND LIND & CUMINGS DESIGN PHOTOGRAPHY | WORDS AMELIA THORPE

Imagine a new-build apartment, its kitchen a bland, uninspiring white box. Try to marry that with the style of a dynamic young couple, Brona and Tom Karlsson, and their love of socialising, and it's not difficult to see why they desired a new room design. 'Brona and Tom wanted to add some fun and design flair to the kitchen,' explains Roisín Lafferty, managing director of Kingston Lafferty Design, who was called in to undertake the interior design of the three-bedroom apartment in East London. 'Brona is from Ireland, Tom from Finland, and they both have busy jobs in finance, so my brief was to create a cooking-dining area that felt like a buzzing restaurant, with colour and energy to reflect their personalities, lifestyle and some of the vibrant style of Hackney,' she says.

Roisín's starting point was to create the most spacious feel. Three distinct zones ensure that the design is functional, as well as attractive: one wall is used for tall cabinets and the sink area, with a central island bar and cooking zone overlooking a dining area with banquette seating. 'I wanted to provide as much storage, with hidden appliances, as possible to create a clean, sleek feel,' explains Roisín, 'but at the same time, we needed to add warmth and texture, which is why we designed the copper pipe feature over the island.' This also includes in-built lighting to illuminate the island.

An inspired mix of cement and metro tiles, chevron flooring and marble add to the copper detailing and create lots of interest, as do mirrors which reflect light and boost the sense of space. Handleless cabinetry painted in minty green creates an unfussy backdrop. 'We chose a playful colour which works well with the copper elements in the room,' says Roisín. And the finishing touches? Copper pendant lights and a neon-framed mirror. 'They make a small room really stand out,' she says. **EKBB**



ROISÍN LAFFERTY

MANAGING DIRECTOR, KINGSTON LAFFERTY DESIGN
Award-winning interior architect and designer Roisín specialises in both residential and commercial projects, primarily in Dublin and London. Her artistic flair and natural vibrancy are coupled with a passion for space planning, to improve the experience of every interior, all the way through to the finest details of decoration.



PROJECT DETAILS

CABINETRY Sletten handleless spray painted in specially mixed Mint green, with bespoke panels of mirror, kitchen prices from £35,000 **WORKTOPS** Unistone Bianco Carrara quartz, priced to order **SPLASHBACK** Carrara marble, priced to order, all from Sola Kitchens. **APPLIANCES** H6267 BP oven, £1,699; KDN 37232 iD integrated fridge-freezer; W 2819i Re integrated washing machine, £1,395, all Miele. T51D86X2 induction hob, £879, Neff. Downdraft extractor, £2,148, Falmec. SMV87TD00G fully integrated dishwasher, £839, Bosch. **TAP** Venician SilkSteel, £374 **SINK** Ariane ARX 160 undermounted stainless steel, £337, both Franke. **WALL AND FLOOR TILES** Moroccan encaustic cement pattern 27c, £57.50 per sq. m; Black, £48 per sq. m; Metro Subway White, from £21 per sq. m, all Best Tile. **WOOD FLOORING** Similar chevron parquet, priced to order, Cheville Parquet. **BAR STOOLS** similar, House Doctor Define, £140 each, Nunido. **PENDANT LIGHTS** Tom Dixon Copper Round, from £255 each, The Lollipop Shoppe. **WALL LIGHTS** House Doctor Game, £130 each. **BANQUETTE, LADDER** Custom made, Kingston Lafferty Design. **DINING CHAIRS** Vintage, try Two Columbia Road for similar.



SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

Banquette seating creates a dining nook, flanked by custom-built cupboards to provide extra storage. Mirror cladding at the top helps bounce light around the space. The wall mirror was bought on eBay, and its frame and box was painted in neon by Kingston Lafferty Design





ON THE RACK

Left Birch-lined cupboards include racks for tea, coffee, condiments and spices

ZONE IT

Below left The sleek Miele oven is built into the island, just below the hob, so that cooking appliances are designed in one area

‘We chose a playful colour which works well with the copper elements in the room. The punch of pattern is uplifting and fun’



Q&A

Can you tell us about the design of the island?

Cooking is designed to

be a social activity in this kitchen so here we made the hob the centre of the island, with oven below, so it is easy to chat to friends at the table while preparing dinner. We also chose a downdraft extractor which pops up from the countertop, so as not to disrupt the sight line from the hob. The island is clad in a marble-effect quartz which is smooth and hardwearing, and as you enter the kitchen, you see a beautiful waterfall panel of quartz rather than an edge of furniture.

And the design of the wall run?

One of my pet hates is a gap at the top of kitchen cabinets, because it's simply a place for dust to gather. To avoid this, and to make the most of the tall ceiling height in the room, we framed the cabinetry in metro tiles. A mirror-backed niche makes a place to store bottles, with a copper bar and custom-made ladder so that they are easily accessible.

How did you create the decorative tile design?

They are designed to create a ribbon effect, running across the floor and up the wall, to surround an inset bevelled mirror, which makes the space feel bigger. The punch of pattern from the tiles is uplifting and fun.

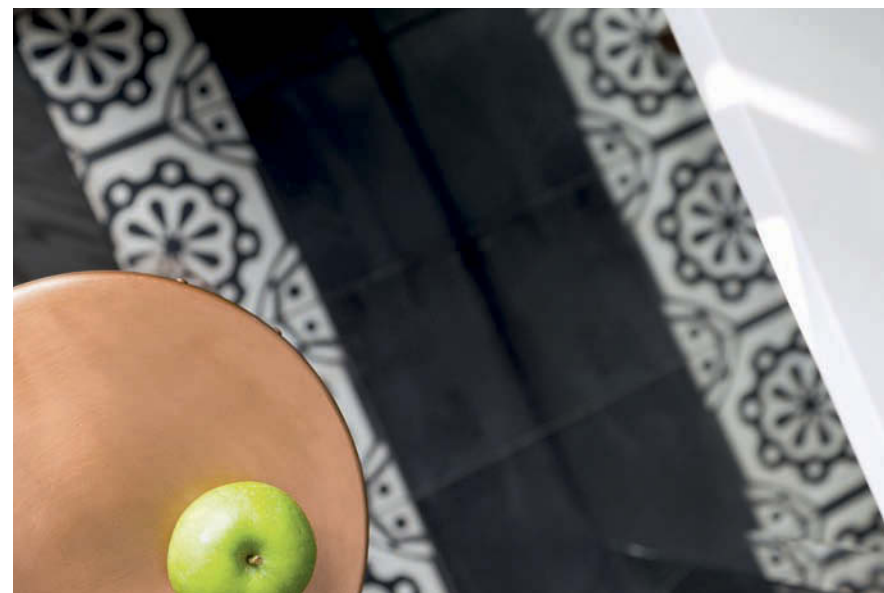


FEATURE FLOOR

Black patterned and plain tiles create a ribbon effect as they run along the floor and up the wall, offset by wide chevron wood planks, on the right

STEPS TO STORAGE

A custom-made ladder has copper detailing, and runs along a copper bar to make accessing tall storage easy



ESSENTIAL *designer*

'I wanted to create a kitchen space that felt buzzing like a restaurant, with colour and energy to reflect the owners' personalities and style'



MATERIAL MATTERS

A splashback of natural Carrara marble adds classic beauty



FRENCH FEEL

An industrial take on a traditional batterie de cuisine: specially made welded copper pipes make a stylish place to hang pans and plants, complete with built-in lighting