

REAL HOMES

THE owners

Mr and Mrs Feltham, both busy city workers, wanted a modern, open plan kitchen to replace their old one, as part of a major house renovation of their 19th Century five bedroom, five-storey, terrace house in trendy Notting Hill, London. They had their hearts set on a large but stylish stainless steel island which became even bigger thanks to a clever suggestion by their experienced designer.

The couple found Sola Kitchens in a magazine and saw the pictures of a kitchen with a stainless steel island that they fell in love with. They worked with Sola Kitchen's Design Director, Pia Rosling, who came up with the idea of creating a bespoke, statement island.

CITY LIVING

This seamless ground floor kitchen was created when the homeowners dug up their basement to create more space. The old and tired kitchen was completely ripped out and in its place, this tranquil, minimalist and well thought out design was made.

A wooden floor helps to make this space look super clean and polished, with large windows creating an airy, light and spacious feel.

This enormous stainless steel island is hard not to notice thanks to it's sheer size! But it's also a beautiful and practical piece of kitchen furniture that not only ties the entire scheme together, but provides ample storage space and a spacious social/eating area. "The Stainless-steel island in its entirety is a bespoke item built to incorporate the client's exact requirements, while still being the main feature of the kitchen." Says Pia Rosling, Designer at Sola Kitchens.



The couple worked with experienced interior designer, Stefa Hart, to create the perfect lighting scheme for them. Flush fitted ceiling spotlights help to create a calming and relaxed ambiance while gorgeous pendant lights over the island provide a stylish aesthetic.



Using the combination of metal and white has lent to the space being more open and relaxing. The coinciding feature of the dining table running along the island gives the room more length. The contrasting colour of the seating softens the feel of the room making it feel incredibly cosy and inviting, which is what the client wanted for entertaining when there's family around.

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he look we were hoping to achieve was sophisticated, yet simple and sleek,” says Pia Rosling, Designer at Sola Kitchens. “Mrs Feltham loved the idea of a stainless-steel island with a stone waterfall on either sides, combined with a back wall of white units. She wanted neither the main sink nor the cooking on the island.”

“We had seen pictures from another of Sola Kitchens’ projects with a stainless steel island which we fell in love with,” explains Mrs Feltham. “We loved the combination of the stainless steel island together with the units to the back in white. We wanted to have a very modern feel to the space.”



The kitchen consists of a statement Stainless steel island in Sola Kitchen’s Form 2 range. The fronts are wrapped in solid steel and have a brushed texture which creates its gorgeous satin look. The drawers are each a meter long providing ample storage with long bar handles that provide an aesthetic value while being extremely practical.

“We always wanted a modern kitchen with stainless steel. The style did not change, however Pia suggested to do the island larger than we had originally planned which turned out to be a great idea – it’s stunning!”

Mrs Feltham, homeowner

The stainless steel island was quite a brave choice to make, considering the space was such an amazing space already. Designing a feature that both looks amazing and works well for the client is always a challenge, and this island integrates both.



The front of the bespoke island consists of an integrated microwave that sits at a comfortable height, with a drawer to the bottom, which is balanced off on the other side with a pull-out bin and a prep sink above it. The drawers in between are a clever use of space – with internal drawers placed inside it with cutlery inserts and rubber matting.



THE designer

“Another prominent feature of the kitchen is the symmetry we achieved – whether it is the island or the tall units to the back. Making sure every aspect of the kitchen was tied into the stainless-steel look, including the appliances and kitchen accessories.”
Pia Rosling, Designer, Sola Kitchens

“It is very important to think about how you use the space. Using the area efficiently, instead of trying to cram various areas into one space, and instead preserving the functionality of the room, is key.”

Pia Rosling, Designer, Sola Kitchens



The run at the back consists of the cooking area as well as a washing up area, and is balanced by matt painted soft-touch opening tall units on either side – two consisting of integrated ovens and the other being an integrated fridge and a larder unit with internal drawers.

Although the homeowners have said the design process was relatively stress free for them, it was not without its complications for Pia and her team.

“Half way through the project, we were told we needed to design a space for the boiler pipe flue to run. During the whole process, we were so mindful of the placement of the island to the back run – we eventually had to move everything over 100mm to make sure we had enough of a service void to accommodate the pipes!” she says. “We also went back and forth with the client about the various different options we could have on the sides of the island. Stone waterfalls all the way down to the floor or just the stainless-steel running to the plinth. After many iterations, we finally decided to go steel all around.”

The island is the real wow factor of the design with its aesthetically pleasing double drawers which provide a look of symmetry that is continuous and reflected in the shelving on the back run too. Contrasting the back of the island, the front is designed to suit the clients need, and be practical for everyday use by providing an integrated microwave and bins tucked away.

THE details

Form 2 Kitchen painted in white with bespoke stainless steel island by Sola Kitchens. **solakitchens.com**

Siemens Chimney Extractor LC77WA532B in stainless steel, Siemens Gas Hob EC745RC90E in stainless steel, Siemens Microwave Oven HF24M564B, Siemens Built-in Single Door Fridge K182LAF30G, Siemens Built in Dishwasher SN678D00TG **siemens-home.bsh-group.com**

Blanco BL467694 Claron 550-u sink, BL467653 Claron 340-u sink, both in stainless steel, with Blanco BM5600 taps also in a stainless steel finish **blanco-germany.com**

Silestone Lagoon 20mm splashback, Silestone Lagoon worktops **silestone.co.uk**