



Bold as brass

Black Crittall, concrete beams and brass cabinetry were the key ingredients in Linda and Robert's new kitchen design

PHOTOS *Lind & Cumings Design* | WORDS *Victoria Hrastic*



ALL EXPOSED

By stripping back the ceiling to unearth concrete beams and leaving the original brickwork on show, the couple had the perfect canvas for their industrial vision



NEW LIGHT
A dramatic feature light keeps the kitchen well lit during the evenings, while large Crittall doors open up to the garden and flood the space with natural daylight



L

inda and Robert Murray loved their north London maisonette's post-war, industrial charm, with its Crittall windows and concrete beams, but a dark kitchen and side-door access to the garden meant they weren't getting the most out of the space day-to-day. 'I'm a keen gardener, but the garden didn't really feel part of the house – the only time we really saw it was whilst washing up at the kitchen sink,' recalls Linda, a fashion designer by trade. 'In the kitchen, we had space for a table, but it was so cold and dark that we tended to have breakfast on-the-go and head to the upstairs living room to eat in the evening.'

By moving the kitchen into a downstairs bedroom and extending onto a north-facing shady patio, they were able to create a bright space which opens up to the garden with a large workroom doubling as a guest bedroom to the side. Next door, the old kitchen was the perfect spot for a sanctuary-style bathroom, meaning they could then create a study and an en suite for their master bedroom in its original space upstairs.

When it came to the new kitchen design, the couple took inspiration from the bare bones of the property itself. 'We had all the original features - the concrete joists in the ceiling, Crittall windows and unusual brickwork - which made it quite easy to work with what we had and go with an industrial theme,' explains Linda. 'I'm quite obsessed with metal and I've done some metalwork courses, so I knew I wanted it to feature in the kitchen.'

So, when she came across Sola Kitchens' bespoke brass cabinetry, she knew she'd found the perfect fit. 'I wanted to put a new twist on an old look. Sola helped create the exact patina I wanted, which was ideal.'

Creating her industrial vision while ensuring the space worked practically became a running theme, from finding vintage-style sockets and switches with modern-day safety certificates to a statement worktop that could withstand daily life. 'The worktop's the best if you're a messy cook and you drink tea,' she laughs. 'It's perfect for hiding stains, as it always looks like it's clean.'

Finally, thick Crittall doors frame each part of the garden, opening up to let the outside space become more connected with their beautiful new kitchen. 'We hardly watch television now because we are here all the time,' adds Linda. 'The island is really good fun to entertain at, or we just sit with the doors open. The quality of our time at home is so much better now.' **EKBB**

MATERIAL CHOICE

Textured stones and grit in the concrete screed flooring create an authentic look, while underfloor heating keeps their choice practical and comfortable



ON TAP

The black metal tap and Silgranit sink sit perfectly within the Dekton Trilium worktop

KITCHEN PROFILE

Bespoke units in both a black painted finish and wrapped brass from the Metal range at Sola Kitchens are teamed with a practical Dekton Trilium worktop and splashback with black, brass and wood details all adding the luxe yet industrial vibe.

SOLA KITCHENS
 HAMPSTEAD SHOWROOM
 83 HEATH STREET LONDON,
 NW3 6UG. TEL: 020 3405 6799
 Kitchen prices start from £35,000



EDGY ANGLES

Sleek handleless cabinets create a modern look, with patinated brass and painted wood for an interesting contrast



OLD STYLE

Above Linda found vintage-style sockets and switches crafted by a company in Norfolk to make a statement out of everyday details



QUICK WASH

The couple love their Fisher & Paykel DishDrawer, beside the sink on the island. It has two separate drawers so they can easily run half-loads



‘I wanted every detail to be interesting. I had this vision for how the concrete, metal and lighting would work together’



IT GLOWS

Picture lights on the wall above the cabinetry are positioned to light up the metal below



‘The worktop is the best if you’re a messy cook – it’s perfect for hiding stains and always looks clean’



Q&A
SOFIA BUNE STRANDH
CEO OF SOLA KITCHENS

Can you tell us about the brief? They had seen our antique brass doors and wanted to have that finish together with black cabinets. They were very clear on the colour combination from the start because they wanted to achieve a very industrial feel with the exposed brick, concrete and pipework. They also wanted to maximise storage and worktop space.

How did the space inspire your design? It's slightly on the narrow side, so the layout with the slim island and units on one side of the room was set quite early as the best design. We were able to come up with some completely bespoke solutions to add to the industrial look, like brass strips in the handle groves in the black cabinets.

Can you tell us about the beautiful brass used? Because the brass has been antique treated, where it's been manipulated to oxidise in a certain way, further oxidation will be less visible compared to a polished metal. It's also been waxed to protect the brass a little but still enable it to continue to age - a finish the couple wanted.

How did you work in plenty of storage here? We concentrated the storage on the hob side using very large drawer stacks with internal drawers and inserts to maximise storage. To the right of the kitchen is a tall larder with pull out shelves and door hanging rack which will take all dry goods and a bit more. The generous wall units hold all of the glasses, cups and crockery.



STOCKISTS

APPLIANCES Classic Deluxe 90 Dual Fuel range cooker in Regal Blue with brass trimmings, £2,189; Classic 90cm chimney hood in Black, £429, Rangemaster. K187SAF30G fridge freezer, £929, Siemens. DD60DH19 Double DishDrawer integrated dishwasher, £1,199, Fisher & Paykel.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Black painted and wrapped brass units from the Contemporary and Metal ranges; Dekton Trilium worktop and splashback sourced and fitted by The Marble Group, all Sola Kitchens, kitchen prices start from £35,000. Subline 500-U bowl sink, £614; Subline 160-U bowl sink, £331, both Blanco. Gamlesjön dual-control kitchen mixer tap in brushed black metal, £95, Ikea. Vintage switches in bronze, from £150 for a two-gang switch; bronze bezel around sockets, from £115, all Hever Iron Works. HOMCOM Vintage bar stool in black and brown, £46.99 each, Aosom. Similar architectural chandelier, Spider 12-light in Black, £598; similar one-light swing arm LED wall lights in Antique Pewter, £59.76 each, all Beautiful Halo. For stockists see page 144

‘People questioned the green wall, but I wanted to live in something arty and a little bit different’



THE LONG WAY

Making the most of the rectangular shaped room, a long, one-wall run of cabinetry houses appliances, including an integrated fridge freezer, and storage such as a tall larder and deep pan drawers