

# CLEAN *living*

WITH A CAREFULLY CONSIDERED LAYOUT AND LUXURY FINISHES, STEPHANIE AND LAURENT DUMEAU HAVE CREATED A SMART AND FUNCTIONAL FAMILY SPACE

Feature JANE CRITTENDEN Photography ALISTAIR NICHOLLS

## *Perfect finish*

The couple opted for an induction hob as it sits completely flush into the worktop continuing the smooth, sleek look. There's no splashback, but a clear varnish has been applied to the feature wall to protect it

## *Project profile*

**THE OWNERS** Stephanie Dumeau, a homemaker, her husband Laurent, a media executive, and their daughters, Juliette, 9, and Manon, 7

**THEIR HOME** A four-bedroom semi-detached Victorian house in west London

**THE PROJECT** Two rooms were knocked together and the floor was lowered to be level with the garden. Then an extension was

added to create an open-plan kitchen-diner and living area

**ROOM SIZE** 5 x 5.4m

**DESIGNER** Hugh Adlam of Absolute Kitchens

**CABINETRY** Lucrezia handleless units in white silk lacquer by Cesar, £21,150, Absolute Kitchens

**BUDGET** Around £40,000 (excluding building work)



**The high life**

The exposed brickwork and giant 'EAT' sign make a dramatic backdrop to the dining area and, along with the low-hanging pendant lights, emphasise the high ceiling



**One-stop drop**

The larder and fridge are positioned either side of the bank of Miele ovens with the island set in front of them, meaning groceries can be put away quickly and easily

‘TAMARA FITZHERBERT FROM JOHN CULLEN IS AN AMAZING LIGHTING DESIGNER AND CREATED A FABULOUS SCHEME TO FIT OUR BUDGET’



Stephanie and Laurent Dumeau's previous kitchen in Paris was a glossy white scheme with shabby chic elements. But for their west London home, the couple had something quite different in mind. 'We wanted to make a contemporary statement in a Victorian house,' says Stephanie.

After speaking to 10 kitchen designers, and poring over numerous layouts, Stephanie and Laurent couldn't find anyone to bring their ideas to life. The problem wasn't so much about the look of the room but more its function. Then kitchen designer and architect Hugh Adlam of Absolute Kitchens was recommended to them. 'He was the only one

who asked me about how I use the kitchen – where I put my shopping and what I cooked,' recalls Stephanie. 'It's the most important room in the house for me so it needed to be as efficient and comfortable as possible.'

The couple opted for sleek, matt-white handleless units. We wanted the cabinetry to look more like furniture than a fitted kitchen, but we were worried that too much white might look too clinical,' explains Stephanie. 'I think we've avoided that, though, with the wood flooring and dark blue feature wall.' Hugh suggested integrating an exposed brick wall into the design, too, to add warmth. 'I'm so pleased with it,' says Stephanie. 'And the new kitchen suits our lifestyle perfectly.'

**DESIGN SOLUTION** *Designer Hugh Adlam explains...*

**Was this a straightforward project?**

The kitchen was part of a whole-house renovation, and although it's more ideal for us to start the process as early as possible, there were no nasty surprises. We were able to work with the contractor and structural engineer to avoid any steel columns infringing on the units, and conceal a flat extractor duct within the flank wall.

**How did you meet the couple's brief?**

To help the kitchen cabinets seem more like furniture we opted for a floating design, and encased the full-height units within a niche, which

makes them look as if they're sunken into the wall. We also suggested handleless cupboards from Italian company Cesar, because it also does a white satin finish, which matches the colour and sheen of the Glacier White Corian worktops. Wrapping the Corian around the island with a seamless sink, prevents it looking like a work area.

**Are there any standout features?**

The use of colour on selected walls gives a warm feel without overpowering. Had the cupboards been a colour against a white wall, the result wouldn't be nearly as successful.

**How did you plan the layout?**

We had to incorporate a cloakroom and utility space into the ground floor, so their two openings dictated the layout of the kitchen and where the units could be positioned.

**What's your recipe for success?**

The relationship between client and designer is really important and the process should be fun. It's good to get clients' likes and dislikes but having one very fixed idea can spoil a project. The Dumeaus were so nice to deal with and had good ideas, which helped shape the overall look.



**Sound bar**

As music is a big part of their lives, the couple had a Sonos wireless system installed, which includes smart wall and in-ceiling speakers

**BELOW CENTRE**

**Cohesive look**

In the utility area, a row of tall cupboards housing laundry appliances and cleaning products match the kitchen units for a unified feel

**The details**

**CABINETRY** Lucrezia units in white silk lacquer by Cesar, £21,150, Absolute Kitchens

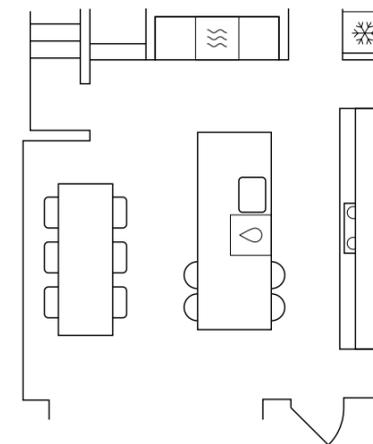
**SURFACES** Glacier White Corian worktops, £4,200, Absolute Kitchens. **Wall paint**, Skimming Stone and Hague Blue estate emulsion, both £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. **Chevron wood flooring** with customised stain, £66sq m, Edward James Fine Flooring

**APPLIANCES** Built-in single oven, £698; built-in combination microwave, £1,619; flush-fit induction hob, £1,372; built-in warming drawer, £809; fully integrated fridge, £944; fully integrated freezer, £907; semi-integrated dishwasher, £1,099; semi-integrated washing machine, £998; integrated tumble dryer, £1,045, all Miele. Caple ST850 Storm built-under canopy cooker hood, £399, Sinks-taps.com

**SINK AND TAPS** Integrated Corian single-bowl sink, priced with the worktop; Franke Olympus Triflow monobloc mixer tap in silk steel, £613; Quooker Design boiling-water tap in brushed chrome, £980, all from Absolute Kitchens

**FINISHING TOUCHES** Stockholm walnut veneer dining table, £500, Ikea. Philippe Starck for Kartell Masters chair in white, £146, John Lewis. Kartell Charles Ghost bar stools in smoke, £98 each, Nest.co.uk. 'EAT' sign, £800, The Old Cinema. Two-seater sofa with chaise longue, £860, Ikea. Pendant lights made from black-and-white striped fabric flex cable, £4.99m; small globe bulbs, £16.32 each; light-bulb sockets, £7.80 each, all Urban Cottage Industries. Donna Wilson 'Henry' pouffe in Nos Da fabric, £240, SCP. Sonos sound system, £2,000, Simply Sound & Vision

**The layout**



**'IT WAS VERY COMFORTING WORKING WITH HUGH. HE'S AN ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER SO COULD LOOK AT THE ROOM AS A WHOLE AND PLAN IT'**



**Social aspect**

The rear extension features sliding glass doors that pull right back to create an indoor/outdoor feel – perfect for entertaining

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