

I designed my kitchen to be PRACTICAL & ELEGANT

Hannah Hooper proves that you don't have to sacrifice style for function. With her dark, sleek design and considered storage her kitchen is effortless to use *and* maximises on space



About me

I'm Hannah Hooper, 34, and I'm a beauty therapist. I live with my husband, Berran, 36, a design engineer and our children, Ivy, six and Grace, three. Our home is a five-bedroom 1970s detached house in Wantage, Oxfordshire. We moved here in March 2019, and I post about our renovation updates @oldandtired_to_chicandinspired.

My room...

MY PROBLEM KITCHEN

The layout was really disjointed with no direct access to the garden and only two wall cupboards, so storage was a massive problem. Although the appliances worked okay, the oven door opened to the floor and there was an awful fur of mould around the tap and sink.

HOW I MADE IT WORK

Flipping the layout around enabled us to change a window into bi-fold doors that connect the new dining area with the outside. I put cupboards in both parts of the room and planned what would go in each one. Handleless doors in charcoal with a bright white worktop were the way forward for a seamless, modern look.

MY FAVOURITE PART

When I saw the peninsula on the kitchen plan, I thought it would feel like a squeeze, but it works really well. I also love my wine fridge – it's an inexpensive luxury.



Before

TOTAL
£7,797

Style idea
Bring drama to a dining table with an overhead pendant light



Pairing a white table with see-through gold chairs and grey floor tiles keeps a lightness to the room. 'An extendable round table works well in the modest space and is great for entertaining at Christmas,' says Hannah

▼ The existing floorplan works hard with a new layout incorporating all the mod cons from Hannah's must-haves. 'We've packed in so much, yet the design is neat and streamlined and has a feeling of openness,' she says



The kitchen island makes a perfect drink and snack station for Christmas gatherings

Style advice

Three simple tricks to try in your own home



◀ SPACE ILLUSIONS
Hannah wanted her new kitchen-diner to feel open and bright, and she was mindful of this when choosing furniture and lighting for the space. She chose transparent materials – ribbed glass pendants, a wire ceiling light and slatted gold seating. 'The styling came together with Dunelm's gold bar stools, which were a bargain price at £89,' she says. 'With the matching dining chairs they add a touch of colour and, because you can see through them, they don't overcrowd the room at all.'

COHESIVE STORAGE ▶

Top of Hannah's wish list was a breakfast cupboard next to the dining table.

'I saw the idea on Instagram,' she says. 'I love having everything in one place as I keep the toaster, coffee machine, bread bin, cereals and bowls here. The girls help themselves and eat at the table, so the rest of the kitchen is kept clear. When the doors are closed everything is hidden too.'



◀ OPEN-MINDED SHOPPING

Hannah had been looking for a splashback with gold tones to complement the seating – but took an unexpected U-turn. 'The tiles I liked were either crazy expensive or the wrong shade,' she says. 'We chanced upon this grey geometric design at B&Q while out shopping for something else. They were an absolute bargain, on sale at £8 per square metre. I love the pattern and the textured finish.'



'I had the gold stools, chairs and lighting ready and waiting as I'd bought them months before we started'

Hannah found a warm white paint for the walls with a hint of pink. 'My husband wasn't sure at first but once we'd put samples of the door, tiles and worktop together with the gold furniture, I managed to persuade him!'

Kitchen makeover ★

▼ A blank wall was given interest with a shelf made from a scaffolding board, finished with industrial fixings that tie in with the other dark accents in the space. Hannah rotates style details like the pine cones and gold-coloured baubles according to the season, though the star and candles are cosy all year round



MY EXPERIENCE

We moved house so I could have space to run my beauty business from home and give the kids a bigger garden. The whole property needed updating – particularly the kitchen-diner – but we couldn't do everything at once.

Although I didn't like this room, it was useable, so we decided to save up and do the project last. I began thinking about the changes early on, considering an extension to square off the back, but I decided it wasn't worth the expense. Instead, we invested in new doors and windows. We settled on a Howdens kitchen as my builder could get a good deal and Instagram reviews assured me it was the right decision. Matt charcoal handleless cupboards paired with a plain white worktop appealed to my love of a spotless, clean look. We bought the kitchen early to take advantage of the good prices and put the boxes in storage.

During the project, two big problems occurred – but luckily both worked in our favour! First, when the floor tiles arrived they slid off the pallet and smashed and there were no more in stock. In a panic, I had two days to find something similar, which I did, and I love them much more. Second, the tall picture window replacing the old back door was supposed to be opaque but arrived with Crittall glass – I love that design mistake! The builders spent nine weeks doing the whole project; afterwards, the gold stools, chairs and lighting were ready and waiting as I'd bought them months before we started.

I'm absolutely delighted with the finished result, and I love having people over now. Our kitchen is so easy to cook in and it makes great use of all the space we have.

My shopping list

- Clerkenwell Super Matt Charcoal **cupboards**, £4,420; Lamona 12-bottle 30cm **wine fridge**, £264; AEG single-touch pyrolytic **oven**, £568; Quooker 3-in-1 **flex tap**, £1,141, all Howdens
- For a similar sink, try the Vellamo Horizon 1.5 under-mount **sink**, £175.99, Tap Warehouse
- For a similar worktop, try the Simply Quartz Super White **worktop**, from £155 per sq m, Stone Synergy
- Manhattan Moroccan Grey ceramic **wall tiles**, £20 per sq m, B&Q
- For similar floor tiles, try the Portland concrete-effect **floor tiles**, £29.90 per sq m, Stone Superstore
- **Walls** painted in Crown's White Pepper, £16 per 2.5L, Wickes
- Grenchen extendable round **table**, £329.99, daals
- Siena **chair** in Gold, £159 for two; Siena **bar stool**, £89 each; sheepskin **seat pads**, £12 each, all Dunelm
- Solklint ribbed **pendant**, £22 each; Kallfront ceiling **pendant**, £19, both IKEA
- Marble **serving stands**, £17.99 for two, Lakeland
- Osby **star light**, £22.99, Lights4fun
- **Paper star**, £4.95, Idyll Home