

# 'Our investment kitchen has Spanish-holiday style'

Fashion influencer **Kopal Jaitly** took the same approach to using colour and print in her kitchen as she does with her outfits, splashing out on a wow-factor style



BEFORE

## STEP INSIDE...

**WHO LIVES HERE?** I'm Kopal Jaitly, 36, and I'm a fashion influencer (@petite\_and\_curvy), interior photographer and stylist (@pink.londonhome). I live here with my husband, Manav Jaitly, 39, the director of revenue at a luxury hotel in London. We bought our four-bedroom, 1930s house in October 2019.

**WHAT WAS UPDATED?** We didn't keep anything from the old kitchen except the hatch opening that connects with the dining room.

**WHY THE CHANGE?** There were only cupboards and a worktop down one side, the fridge-freezer was in the way of the door and the hob was too close to the sink.

**HOW LONG DID IT TAKE?** About 10 weeks to rip out the old kitchen and install the new one.

**TOTAL COST** £14,890

A spacious 1930s house was exactly what Kopal Jaitly and her husband, Manav, were looking for. They wanted to stay in their area, but needed somewhere with more room to accommodate visiting family from India.

On the surface, the freshly painted white rooms seemed to be in a livable condition, but there were hidden issues. 'We expected to decorate throughout and update the bathroom and kitchen. But soon after we moved in, we discovered we needed to re-wire and replace the pipework in the whole house,' says Kopal. They also realised the kitchen was in a poor shape. 'Along with little storage and a hopeless layout, there was a leak from a radiator pipe in the bedroom above, which led part of the kitchen ceiling to collapse.'

## THE PROJECT

Kopal initially considered a monochrome kitchen, thinking neutral décor would be a safer option if they decided to sell their house one day. But, after a trip to Spain just before lockdown, she became enthused by the

## My style tips

### MIX AND MATCH PATTERNS.

Choosing two different, yet complementary, tiles for the splashback and flooring has made my scheme so much more interesting and unique.

### ADD SUBTLE ACCESSORIES.

I didn't want to draw attention away from my tiles, so chose stylish but plain kitchenware and storage in matching candy hues.

**TAKE YOUR TIME.** Having time to think about what I wanted meant I ended up with a much more exciting kitchen than my original monochrome idea.

## LASTING LOOK

Matt pink cupboards have a more grown-up feel than pink gloss and don't need touching up like a painted wood kitchen. Choose handleless units for a look that's streamlined



vibrancy of the floral tile designs she saw in Spanish architecture and gravitated towards a more colourful scheme.

She'd also been working as a stylist and photographer for hotels and Airbnb properties in London, which inspired her to be bolder. 'I photographed some beautiful properties and would sometimes see something lacking in a room, which encouraged me to push myself in our house,' Kopal says. 'When our project was put on hold during lockdown, I had time to reflect and it made me realise I should choose a kitchen that made me happy.'

## WHAT WE DID

Elsewhere in the house, Kopal had adopted a pink and green decorating scheme, so she

decided to extend this colour combination into the kitchen, starting with lively floral floor tiles. 'I wanted to walk into the kitchen every morning and think "wow",' she says. 'Usually, the advice is: pattern on the walls or on the floor, but never both. And I thought, why not? It works when I pair patterns with my clothes. I'm really pleased with the outcome. The green wall tiles pick out the green in the floor and they both look great with pink cupboards in between.'

## HIGHS & LOWS

Kopal spent a lot of time considering how she would likely end up using the kitchen, and decided to move the hob to the shorter wall, near the door, and position the oven at

To keep cooking mess hidden from guests, Kopal decided not to go open-plan, instead keeping the existing hatch through to the dining room. She's a keen baker, so moved the oven to the end of the room and included plenty of storage to give her a practical baking area

Kopal successfully paired two tile patterns by sticking with florals and using colours from the same palette. 'Don't get nervous and move away from your vision halfway through – a scheme like this doesn't make sense until everything is in place,' she advises

## KITCHEN MAKEOVER



### MATT METALLICS

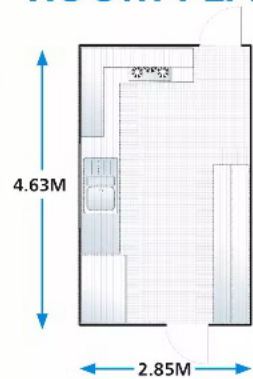
Stick with the same metallic finish throughout – as well as a gold tap and sink, Kopal chose a gold trim for the tiles, gold sockets and switches, and even gold frames for artwork



Curved corners and glossy worktops make Kopal's galley kitchen feel super luxe and spacious. 'When the light hits the surface it sparkles, and I love that when I'm cooking,' she says

After a persistent search, Kopal finally found a gold tap with a pull-out spout that also delivers filtered water to match her gold sink: 'The surface is amazing. It's still shiny and doesn't wear because the colour is infused during manufacture'

### ROOM PLAN



### THE DETAILS

CUPBOARDS	£8,500
WORKTOP	£3,200
SINK AND TAP	£720
APPLIANCES	£1,600
TILES	£870
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£14,890</b>

### SHOPPING LIST

Milano Contour Ermine kitchen in Rose Matt, from £3,701, Wren Kitchens. Arctic Starburst quartz worktop, £210 per sq m, Gemini Worktops. Gold 1.5 bowl sink, 670 x 440mm, £359.99; Spirale gold flexible spout tap, £379, both East Coast Kitchens. Jardin Rose Moroccan tiles and Madeira Green Moroccan tiles, both 20cm x 20cm, £60 per sq m, YourTiles. For a similar fridge try Samsung 510L American fridge-freezer, £947.98; for a similar hob try Hotpoint 58cm four-burner gas hob, £148.97; for a similar ceiling extractor try Elica Cloud ceiling extractor, £879.97, all Appliances Direct. Globe ceiling flush light in Brushed Brass and Blush Pink, £130, MADE.com. Pale Pink venetian blinds, £59, Blinds2go. Pink tea towels, £15, Amazon. Swan Retro Pink bin, £59.99, Currys. Pink cannisters, £10.99 each, Wayfair. Pastel Donuts poster; Macarons poster, both 50cm x 70cm, £20.95 each, Poster Store. Plant hangers, £15 each, IKEA. Gold draining rack, £38, Red Candy.

the other end of the room, on the far side of the hatch. 'When my mother comes to stay with us, she likes to cook and I like to bake, so we needed space where we could work comfortably together,' she explains.

But after Kopal placed the order, she had second thoughts and bought two more cupboards. 'I was going to start the units in line with the edge of the hatch so there was enough space between runs coming into the room,' she says. 'But I realised I could fit in slimline cupboards on the top and bottom.'

The couple used a builder who'd already done a great job of tiling their bathroom. He didn't disappoint when it came to fitting the

pre-made cupboards in the kitchen. It was his first pink kitchen in 50 years. 'He was pretty surprised,' says Kopal. 'But I loved the matt pink cupboards with gold trim.'

### THE FINAL DETAILS

Kopal chose accessories and artwork that ensure her tiles remain the star of the show. She's glad she chose to invest in a kitchen that suits her personality, rather than a more neutral scheme. 'I'm pleased I trusted my instincts. I love how the colours and pattern work in harmony,' says Kopal. 'Having time to plan in lockdown was a good thing – look what came out of it!'

## 3 OF THE BEST... geometric glam

**1 £18 from Dunelm**  
Steal Kopal's style for less with these self-adhesive splashback tiles.

**2 £24 from Next**  
Pretty up your coffee break and countertop with these geo stacking mugs.

**3 £26.95 from Lime & Lace**  
The chic graphic pattern on this pendant light will enhance a decorative bulb.

