



KITCHEN IDEAS *Change the layout*

IDEA Incorporate glazed cupboards to display china and glass



Painted units

Chloe chose wooden units as she thought they wouldn't date quickly. They are hand painted in dove grey to give a subtle, warm feel. A Belfast sink is unfussy and practical

Where to buy ITEMS SHOWN

Neptune Suffolk solid birch units in Dove Grey, from £425 for a 350mm base unit, Nero Assoluto granite worktop, £470 per sq m; Neptune oak and birch table, £850; chairs, £200 each; Neptune painted stools, £225 each; supplied by Chris Budget at Surrey Kitchens. Travertine Opus flooring, from £19.90 per sq m, Stone Superstore. Similar Cannon range, £1,225, Rangecookers.co.uk. Similar Samsung fridge-freezer, £713, Boots Kitchen Appliances. Similar Siemens dishwasher, £633, John Lewis, Astracast tap, £107, Villeroy & Boch. Belfast sink, £189, Sinks-taps.com. Designair cooker hood, £215; utensils pot, £15; both B&Q. Tea towel, £10, To Dry For. Knife set, £40, Jean-Patrick. Compost bin, £18, Garden Trading Company. Toaster, £51, Morphy Richards. Sophie Conran tableware, from £32 for four bowls, Portmeirion



Storage

'The built-in wine racks and tray storage fill a space between the units, are useful and look smart. This smaller wine rack is mine. Paul has a taller one which he keeps fully stocked!' says Chloe



How we did it

“Our builder recommended an architect to us to design the new space and we found the kitchen designer and supplier on the internet, as I hadn't liked what I'd seen on the high street. I wanted a bespoke kitchen, but we couldn't afford it, so we opted for hand-built units for a quality feel. We selected a classic style and matched it with a travertine floor with heating underneath and a black granite worktop. Work started in August 2010 and finished in November and it cost £1,500 to fit the units. Luckily, we could carry on using our existing kitchen. There was tons of dust, of course, but we managed, and the builders were punctual, polite and efficient.”



'We swapped our rooms around'

Kitchen in the wrong place? A change of layout gave the Constantines the family-friendly hub they craved

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

Even before Chloe and Paul Constantine moved into their new home four years ago, they knew the small kitchen at the front of the house would not suit their needs. 'It had only recently been fitted by the previous owners, but the laminate units weren't to our taste, it was too cramped, and the window opened straight onto the street,' says Chloe. 'We decided to relocate the kitchen to the living room and the conservatory at the back of the house, and turn the existing kitchen into our living room. I wanted the kitchen to lead off the garden so I could see the children when they were playing outside, and the conservatory was impractical anyway. It was too hot in summer - the children's plastic toys all melted one year - but too cold to use in winter.'

'Now, I have a kitchen that is spacious and practical with plenty of storage. I like the way everything is hidden away because there are so many cupboards and drawers,' says Chloe. 'Plus, I love the fact there is so much light because we have doors into the garden and lots of windows and skylights. I also like the open-plan design, especially in the dining area of the kitchen, as it means I'm not cut off from everybody any more. It's a room where the family likes to gather.'



BEFORE



Bespoke storage

A mix of wall units and floor-to-ceiling cupboards cleverly utilise the available space, including around the American-style fridge-freezer



Give it a make-over

Bright white walls reflect the light and are easy to touch up

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, detached Victorian house in Carshalton, Surrey. The current owners bought the property in March 2007

WHAT IT COST

Units	£30,400
Worktop	£2,750
Appliances	£1,080
Sink & tap	£296
Flooring	£1,100
Furniture	£2,550
TOTAL	£18,176

WHO LIVES HERE

Chloe and Paul Constantine and their children Max, seven, and Emily, five.

WHAT THEY DID

Relocated the kitchen from the front of the house to the living room and conservatory at the back, knocking down the conservatory and extending to the rear. A local company designed and supplied the new kitchen. The couple sold their old kitchen on eBay

THE LOOK

Hand-built, solid-wood units hand-painted in dove grey, and a travertine floor for a classic look that will not date, offset by a black granite worktop, which adds a sleek and modern feel.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Being hands-on works well. I was here so the builders could easily consult with me as they went along. Be willing to collaborate with kitchen designers, architects and builders and keep an open mind, and accept that hiccups will occur.”



THE LAYOUT

An open-plan kitchen-diner, with the dining area at one end of the room and the kitchen opening onto the back garden at the other end

Love their STYLE?

THE UNITS ARE BY NEPTUNE, SEE FOR SIMILAR TRY HOMEBASE'S PORTLAND & OR RICHARD BAKER FURNITURE'S DECO KITCHEN SEE

Bright move
Formerly a living room, the kitchen is flooded with light from skylights and the doors onto the garden. Chloe finds the galley layout offers lots of storage: 'It's so practical with young children as it means I can keep an eye on them when they're at the table and I'm cooking'

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW the Constantines created their new kitchen