

# Good Homes

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LIGHT-FILLED  
EXTENSION

# 'This bright space has changed everything'

Sarah Lodge's airy new kitchen-diner connects seamlessly with the outdoors for easy al fresco entertaining

Feature **KAREN DARLOW** Photography **DARREN CHUNG**

## WHY DIDN'T YOU LIKE YOUR OLD KITCHEN?

The room was dark and north facing, and there was no direct access to the garden – plus, its location in the house made it difficult for entertaining.

## WHAT WERE YOUR IDEAS FOR THE SPACE?

We had plans drawn up for a single-storey extension to create a new bright room that opened up the whole ground floor of the house, meaning we could entertain guests without being hidden away. We also wanted the kitchen and garden to become a blended space in the summer months.

## HOW DID YOU ARRIVE AT THE FINAL LOOK?

The green Canterbury cabinets from Davonport Kitchen & Home in Colchester were an easy decision as James and I both love the colour. We thought it would also help bring in the natural tones from the garden. We chose neutral flooring and walls so that if we do decide to repaint the cabinetry in the future there won't be any colour clashes. →



## SOCIABLE SPACE

Two sets of rooflights ensure this spacious new kitchen-diner is filled with light. The cabinetry and Forest Black granite-topped island by Davonport allows plenty of room for food prep, as well as homework space for daughter Emily

## KITCHEN MAKEOVER



## The project details

### MEET THE RENOVATORS

Sarah Lodge, a showroom design coordinator at Davonport Kitchen & Home, lives here with husband James, a global business continuity manager for an international law firm, and daughter Emily, plus their black Labrador Bella

### MAKEOVER BRIEF

To add a single-storey rear extension across the full width of the house, and to replace an old conservatory with a new kitchen

### PROJECT COSTS

Units **£34,000** Worktops & splashbacks **£7,000** Flooring **£1,650** Sink & tap **£1,380** Lighting **£868** Bar stools **£446**

### TOTAL SPEND

**£45,344**



## KITCHEN MAKEOVER



### ACCESS ALL AREAS

With large bifolds leading directly out to the garden, the new arrangement makes the most of indoor-outdoor living



### DRINKS PANTRY

James loved the idea of having a dedicated bar area to house his gin, rum and whisky collection, and to make entertaining easier. With the doors shut, the unit – painted in Farrow & Ball's Mizzle – blends in with the other cabinetry

### Copper pendants PRICE PATROL



£15

#### GOOD CHOICE

Dixon metal easy-fit pendant shade in copper, Next Home



£124

#### LUXURY TOUCH

Industville Brooklyn dome copper pendant light, The Den & Now

### DID YOU HAVE ANY MUST-HAVE FEATURES FOR THE KITCHEN?

An island was an important part of the design, as it would be somewhere for Emily to sit and do homework while we're cooking. We also had a pine plate rack that has been with us since we bought our first house back in 2000. I wanted to incorporate it into the new scheme, so our decorator gave it a lick of paint to match the new cabinetry, and it was then fitted into its fourth kitchen!

### WHAT WAS THE BEST BARGAIN?

The copper pendant lights above the island were found online and had been discontinued, so we were able to buy them at a much lower price than we'd allocated for them.

### HOW DID YOU MANAGE COSTS?

We were very careful to specify exactly what we wanted to our architect and builder, and made sure we had a fixed price for the project from them. We also did the same with the kitchen so there were no forgotten costs. The only overspend was for a new outside boiler when it became apparent that the flue from the old indoor boiler couldn't be re-routed through the extension. Our builder had →

## KITCHEN MAKEOVER



### DESIGN DETAILS

The perfect accent for the green cabinetry and granite worktops, copper pendants above the island provide a contemporary finishing touch

**AMERICAN-STYLE** The couple kept their original range cooker and fridge-freezer, giving the latter a custom housing to match the new cabinets, with extra storage above

warned us that this might happen, so luckily it wasn't too much of a shock.

### DID YOU LEARN ANY LESSONS?

We learnt that you can never have enough plug sockets! I knew this already and thought I'd got it covered, but I still fell into the same trap. We really could do with another one on the island.

### HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW IT'S ALL FINISHED?

The new kitchen has totally changed the way we use our entire house and garden. It's flooded with light from the eight Velux windows in the roof and two sets of bifold doors. We love to open the doors in warmer weather, so the patio becomes an extension of the kitchen and vice versa. ➔



## Shopping List

Canterbury kitchen, £34,000; Forest Black granite **worksurfaces**, **splashbacks** & drinks pantry **shelf**, £7,000; weathered oak farmhouse **stools**, £148.50 each, all Davonport Kitchen & Home. Cabinetry painted in Mizzle & Green Smoke estate **eggshell**, £74 per 2.5ltrs, Farrow & Ball. For a similar induction **range cooker**, try the Toledo Plus 1100, £3,199; and Hi-lite 1100 touch-control **extractor**, £630, both Rangemaster. For a similar **fridge-freezer**, try the iQ500 American side-by-side, £1,989; for a similar **dishwasher**, try the SN87Y801BE, £1,409, both Siemens. For a similar **wine cooler**, try the Wi3126, £781, Caple. Andano 340/340u undermounted stainless-steel **sink**, £825, Blanco. Mimas **tap** in pewter, £556, Perrin & Rowe. For similar **tiles**, try the Noce Travertine filled & honed design, £28.99 per sqm, Travertine Store. For similar copper **pendant lights**, try the Vibrant pendant, £148.80 each, The Lighting Superstore. Wilton glass **pendant lights** in Mercury (in dining area), £299.50 each, Jim Lawrence