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cottage

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apartment

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new build

Edwardian
terrace

ISLAND LIFE

A spectacular centrepiece is the multifunctional hub of Sarah and Steve Prior's revamped kitchen

FEATURE AMELIA THORPE | PHOTOGRAPHY DARREN CHUNG

PROJECT DETAILS

DESIGNER

Design Interiors
(design-interiors.com)

PROPERTY

Edwardian house

WORK

Extension/internal reconfiguration to create a kitchen-dining-living room

LOCATION

East Sussex

When Sarah and Steve Prior bought their house eight years ago, they knew they had a substantial renovation project ahead. When at last it was time to tackle the kitchen, the couple visited three different companies and eventually settled on Design Interiors after meeting with senior designer Tim Brown.

1 SORT THE SPACE

'The existing kitchen was poorly located and too small to be a sociable space,' says Sarah. 'By knocking three ground floor rooms together and extending across the rear with maximum wall and roof glazing, we were able to create a much larger, light-filled room for cooking, dining, relaxing and entertaining,' Sarah says the couple gelled immediately with Tim Brown from Design Interiors. 'Tim really took the time to really listen to my vision,' she notes. 'I wanted a multifunctional island as the focus of the room and traditional handmade cabinetry that would stand the test of time, yet sit comfortably in a contemporary space.'

2 ZONE THE LOOK

'The room is carefully zoned into distinct areas, making sense of the large space and creating a cohesive feel,' explains Tim. In the centre, the generously proportioned island includes prep surface, sink, hob and storage, as well as a sweeping breakfast bar and curved banquette seating to accentuate its statement design. Behind, tall Devonport cabinetry houses a bank of ovens, as well as an integrated fridge freezer, breakfast station and tall cupboards. 'The tall furniture is recessed into a specially constructed wall to reduce visual bulk, while its curved pilasters soften the look,' explains Tim.

3 CREATE A PALETTE

Sarah chose an off-white shade for the painted tall cabinetry to accentuate the light feel of the room, while walnut on the island adds contrast and richness. The worktop is made from a durable marble-effect quartz surface, finished with a lamb's tongue edge profile. 'It's a small detail, but one that elevates the design and introduces a sense of luxury,' says Tim.

4 ADD WARMTH

While the soft neutral tones provide the calm backdrop, burnished brass handles, smoked glass pendant lights and mustard chairs ramp up the interest and warmth in the room. 'It comes together as a very inviting family space,' says Sarah. 25

SHAPE SHIFTER
The dramatic shape and large size of the island accentuate its role as the standout feature of the room. Curved pilasters in the tall run of furniture contrast with the square ones of the island, providing another note of contrast and character



ATTENTION TO DETAIL

The small circular dining table with custom banquette seating is designed for casual meals and morning coffee. The scalloped supports to the banquette seating add an elegant detail. Davonport Tillingham **cabinetry** in Farrow & Ball Wimborne White with walnut island; Armac Martin Mix **handles** in burnished brass; banquette **seating** upholstered in Villa Nova Cambay Taupe weave; Caesarstone Moorland Fog 6046 quartz **worktop**, all Design Interiors. H7262BP **oven**; DG2740 steam **oven**; M7240TC **microwave**; CVA7445 **coffee machine**; ESW7010 warming **drawer**; G7160SCVi **dishwasher**, all Miele. Pura induction **hob** with extractor, Bora. RS90A2 **fridge freezer**, Fisher & Paykel. W16143 **wine cooler**, Caple. Classic Fusion hot, cold and boiling water **tap**, Quooker. Subline 500-U Silgranit **sink**, Blanco. Minoli Marvel Crema Delicato porcelain **floor tiles**, Master Tiles. Jule pendant **lights**, Atkin and Thyme. Similar round **table**, Apollo; similar **chairs**, Beckton, both Barker and Stonehouse. Tribeca **bar stools**, Cult Furniture. Glazing and bespoke **table top**, Shaws of Brighton



TOP TIP

Opt for a round table and bespoke curved banquette to create a stylish yet sociable seating area