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COVER
HOME

After living in a four-storey town house with a small garden for more than twenty years, Adam Walker and his wife Gail decided it was time for a move. "We wanted a home with more lateral space, with less time spent running up and down stairs, and a larger garden," says Adam, a chartered surveyor. They were lucky enough to find an attractive two-floor detached property a few miles from their previous home, close to the sea, and with a spacious garden.

However, while the location and size were perfect, the house was in dire need of a rethink. "It was built about 40 years ago and it hadn't been changed since," explains Adam. "The oak kitchen was dated, and the room was in the wrong place, tucked to the side and a long way from the dining room, which made the layout very impractical."

As the couple began to mull their ideas for renovating the interior, they took a winter holiday in Majorca with friend Michael Rogers, managing director of Design Interiors. "One wet weekend, we sat down together and Mike started sketching out layout ideas for the ground floor, introducing options we just hadn't thought of," recalls Adam. "Mike showed us how we could reconfigure the layout to create an open-plan cooking-dining-living space, with better sense of flow and improved access to the garden." By removing internal walls, swapping the living area with the kitchen and extending across wasted space at the side of the house, they could create a much more usable layout, geared to their lifestyle and love of entertaining and socialising with friends and family.

Three sets of steel-frame double doors across the width of the house now allow plenty of natural light into the room, while the open-plan design accentuates the spacious feel. "I could see that it made sense to use the long wall of the kitchen zone for a run of tall cabinets to house the ovens, fridge, freezer and pantry cupboard, plus breakfast dresser, with a sink area with dishwasher, creating a very practical layout," Michael says.

To form the hub of the room and the main preparation area, Michael then turned his attention to the island. "The T-shape design makes the best use of the space, bridging the dining and living areas, with generous curves, to make a real focal point in the room," he continues. "While one side sweeps around the corner of the space, the other makes a neat area for a banquette seat and breakfast table, so that Gail and Adam can look out over the garden while eating." By opting for bespoke furniture by Davonport, it was possible to achieve the unusual concave curves of the island, to include as much storage as possible. "There's another smart detail," adds Michael. "The builder curved the wall as it turns the corner from the dining to the living area, matching the skirting as well."

The choice of soft white paint for the tall cabinets was carefully considered, reducing any sense of bulk and creating a calm backdrop in the room. "We chose the bold blue for the island to bring in contrast and add interest – we didn't want the room to look bland – while Gail added the mustard touches to boost the sense of warmth," says Adam. "The gold finish to the handles and tap also lift the look, adding a little luxury." Quartz surface worktops with a subtle marble effect are durable and stain resistant, making them a good choice for a busy kitchen, while a splashback of the same quartz, finished with a fluted detail, introduces texture to the room.

"We invested in the best quality kitchen we could afford, in a classic style chosen to stand the test of time," says Adam. "The room is a joy – it's where we love to spend time and enjoy the views of the garden. We're so pleased with how it's turned out." →

opening pages
Designed by Design Interiors, the bespoke *Davonport* Tillingham cabinetry is painted in *Farrow & Ball*'s Wevet and Hague Blue for classic contrast, with *Armac Martin* Rotunda handles in Satin Brass finish. Dylan, the Welsh Terrier, enjoys his cosy oak bed, custom-made by *Davonport*.

"WE CHOSE THE BOLD BLUE FOR THE ISLAND TO BRING IN CONTRAST AND ADD INTEREST"



AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Adam and Gail Walker chat to **Amelia Thorpe** about their kitchen's clever layout, thoughtful details and that eye-catching island

Photography **Darren Chung**



"THE T-SHAPE MAKES THE BEST USE OF THE SPACE, BRIDGING THE DINING AND LIVING AREAS, WITH CURVES"





THE FACTS

Who Adam and Gail Walker
What Ground floor reconfiguration, extension and new kitchen
Where Hove, East Sussex
By Kitchen design by *Design Interiors*; cabinetry by *Davonport*





above *Caesarstone*'s Statuario Maximus 5031 quartz-surface splashback has a fluted finish that adds contemporary texture.

left The 'working' side of the island includes a *Siemens* KU21WAHG0G wine cooler, next to storage drawers, designed to store utensils, pots and pans close to the *Bora* X Pure hob.

opposite page clockwise Despite its large 3.5m width, the island worktop appears almost seam free, since the joint is almost hidden by the induction hob.

The bold blue shade of the island adds interest and matches the colour of the dining chairs.

Bi-fold doors open to the oak-lined breakfast dresser, with sockets for small appliances. ■









above The kitchen leads on to the open-plan dining area, with the Saarinen Tulip table from *Little Tulip* and Hamilton dining chairs from *Next*, below a Navy Blue Freya pendant light, also from *Next*.

left and right Metal-framed doors by *Shaws of Brighton* open directly to the garden, with outdoor seating and coffee table by *Maze Living*.

bottom right The island worktop is finished with a lamb's tongue edge profile – another softly curved detail.

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