



Strong paint shades hold their own in this spacious kitchen-diner, while the brass detail in the pendants is the perfect match to the cabinetry handles.

DREAM KITCHEN

A SMART APPROACH TO USE OF COLOUR AND SPACE ENSURES THIS KITCHEN-DINER WORKS FOR MODERN OPEN-PLAN LIVING

DESIGNER Caz Myers, Caz Myers Design, 07970 723883, cazmyers.com.

THE PROPERTY A six-bedroom detached Georgian family home on the outskirts of Barnet in Hertfordshire.

DESIGN BRIEF A new extension was built to house a large kitchen-diner/family room (plus boot room and utility room), with windows all round to maximise the views across the fields and plenty of space for informal entertaining. A sociable island unit was essential, and the overall style needed to reference the family home's Georgian roots.

THE BUDGET Around £95,000 (excluding extension cost).

LAYOUT

A structural pillar in the centre of the space was necessary to support the 10.3x6.6m structure. 'We decided to make it a feature by creating a two-way fireplace within it, which segregates the living area from the kitchen without losing the overall open-plan feel,' explains designer Caz Myers. The layout of the kitchen-diner was focused on enjoying the views from as many angles as possible and tucked behind the two-way fireplace is a spacious relaxation zone, complete with bespoke modular sofa and sumptuous rug. 'The fireplace provides a degree of separation without shutting this area off completely,' says Caz.

CABINETS

With so much natural light and space in the room, the bespoke Shaker-style cabinetry could take a really dark colour with ease. Farrow & Ball's Black Blue was chosen for the main run of units for its slightly industrial feel, which was enhanced by antiqued

brass hardware from Grace & Glory.

The owners, who have twin sons, casually entertain on a regular basis, so the island had to be as large as possible and include bar seating so that friends and family can congregate. Switching to a deep olive green – Invisible Green by Little Greene – for the glazed dresser helps it stand out as a freestanding piece, rather than another kitchen unit. 'We put lighting inside, antiqued mirrored glass at the back to reflect the lovely glassware on display, and also provide softly shimmering mood lighting in the evenings,' says Caz.

SURFACES

A clever compromise between pretty and practical, the island unit has statement marble end panels with more durable composite quartz on top. 'It's a Turkish marble with deep blue and purple tones that pick up on the blue tints in the cabinetry paint finish,' explains Caz. Underfoot, the large flagstone-style tiles are actually porcelain but bring an antique time-worn element that stops the space from feeling too contemporary.

STYLING

Dark-painted kitchens can feel a little gloomy, but in a south-facing room of this scale, with so many windows (there is a roof lantern in the dining area, too), it helps the cabinets stand their ground. Subtle use of antiqued finishes – on the cabinet hardware and flooring – help achieve the owners' desire to balance contemporary and traditional styles.

WHERE TO BUY

CABINETS Bespoke Shaker-style kitchen, around £60,000 (cabinetry only), Caz Myers Design.

APPLIANCES Liebherr CBNES6256 freestanding American-style fridge freezer, £4,699; Liebherr WTES5872 Vinothek wine cabinet, £3,789; Mercury electric range cooker with induction hob in black ash, £5,249; JLCHI701 cooker hood, £485; JLBIDW1318 integrated dishwasher, £399, all John Lewis.

SINKS & TAPS Cisterna undercounter sinks in White Alpin, from £433, Villeroy & Boch. Etruscan 1420 filter tap, £587, Perrin & Rowe. Chrome GN1100 hot tap, £549, InSinkErator.

SURFACES Walls painted in Dimpse estate emulsion, £45 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Composite quartz worktops in Classic White, from £400sq m, Silestone at Cosentino. Lilac marble end panels, 20mm thick, from £300sq m, Planet Marble. For similar porcelain floor tiles, try Auvergne Nero range, from £32.40sq m, Mandarin Stone.

ACCESSORIES Hicks pendant lights in bronze and antique brass, £585 each, Lux Deco. Leoni bar stools, around £270 each, Amode.