

ROOM TO MOVE

Extending the footprint of their house enabled the Hilliers to create a large open-plan kitchen with plenty of storage and work space



# Open HOUSE

Adding a two-storey rear extension to their home in Guildford allowed homeowners Paul and Juliet Hillier to create a sociable kitchen-living-diner for their family of four

PHOTOS *Darren Chung* | WORDS *Yvette Murrell*



### HOSTING SKILLS

Paul and Juliet wanted to create a relaxed open-plan living space they could spend quality time in entertaining family and friends

Day-to-day family life was what inspired the Hilliers to embark upon an entire renovation of their house in Guildford. Juliet, a general practitioner, and her management accountant husband Paul live in this five-bedroom 1930s property with their children Frank, nine, and Chloe, seven, and had been living there for four years before work began. 'We decided to add a two-storey rear extension and undergo an overall update,' explains Paul. 'The whole project took around nine months, so we lived off-site for most of that.'

While the existing kitchen had been in a good condition, the layout consisted of separate rooms, making it difficult to spend quality time together as a family. 'As we have young children, we planned to combine the kitchen, dining and living space,' says Paul. 'We also wanted to better open the room to our large rear south-west-facing garden.'

The couple worked with an architect, who helped come up with an initial layout – including the wide, multifunctional island the family could socialise around. Having spent time researching kitchens online and in magazines, Juliet and Paul had a clear idea as to how the space should look and work. 'We wanted a smart but informal café-like feel to it.'

After discovering a Harvey Jones showroom within walking distance of their home – conveniently located, as they needed to visit several times – Juliet and Paul opted for one of the company's kitchens. The team there were on hand to refine the couple's initial design. 'Being tall, I felt the recommended addition of drawers instead of cupboards beneath the work surface was worthwhile,' says Paul, 'and Juliet loves the easy access to cooking equipment.'

In the kitchen zone, contemporary patterned tiles help to distinguish the area from the rest of the space. 'The benefit of a busy pattern is it hides the by-products of a busy kitchen,' explains Paul. 'The flecks of yellow brighten things up a little and the tiles gave us the opportunity to echo the colours throughout the space, pulling the whole scheme together.'

Open wooden shelving, coupled with underlighting, and a wood profile on the island help to bring warmth into the kitchen. And there's plenty of surface space on which Juliet and Paul can prepare dinner while the children sit at the breakfast bar. 'We even have an office area at the end of the kitchen,' says Paul. 'It's out of the way, but close enough to be able to do things like research recipes, holidays or general admin while cooking – or, if someone else is cooking, you can still chat.' The result is a functional and stylish kitchen-living-diner that the whole family can enjoy together. **EKBB**

### FEELING BLUE

Top right Rather than place the sink on the island, the couple opted to locate it underneath the window and its views

### ON DISPLAY

Right Open shelves were incorporated for ease of access to crockery, as well as displaying decorative items

'The new kitchen offers plenty of surface space on which Juliet and Paul can prepare dinner for all the family'







‘The couple wanted a smart but informal café-like feel to the functional space’

**NEAT AND TIDY**  
A mix of open shelving, cupboards and drawers throughout the kitchen offers plenty of storage and adds interest to the design





#### ON THE TILES

Above Patterned tiles help to distinguish the kitchen area from the rest of the space and bring the colour scheme together

#### READING TIME

Below Cookery books are on display within the island, while the wooden shelving matches the profile of the breakfast bar



## Q&A

MELISSA KLICK

HEAD OF DESIGN, HARVEY JONES

**Can you tell us about the design of the furniture?** Linear Edge is a sleek and contemporary style of cabinetry and is a handle-less version of our Linear range. It is great for those seeking a modern, minimalist kitchen aesthetic. As with all of our ranges, this cabinetry comes in a primed finish, which allows our customers to choose from an endless selection of paint colours to find the shade that's perfect for their room. The wooden oak breakfast bar, wall shelves and interiors of the open shelving help bring warmth into the space and work in harmony with the blue cabinetry.

**How does the finished kitchen answer the brief?** When Juliet and Paul first came to us, they had a very good idea of what

they envisaged for the kitchen. Open shelving and somewhere to showcase the cookbooks, jugs and vases was a must, along with a pantry larder and wine fridge. A seating area that was separate from the cooking area was also important, so that family and visiting guests could be in the space without interfering with the chef.

**What is the most important aspect of designing a kitchen?** Quite simply, ensuring the design works for the homeowner. We can advise and give recommendations on the dos and don'ts of overall design layout, but the finished result needs to work for the homeowners. After all, they are the ones who will be living in the space.



#### STORE AND ORDER

A large larder cupboard provides plenty of storage for cereals, jams and cooking ingredients

#### KITCHEN PROFILE

Harvey Jones Linear Edge kitchen cabinetry is handpainted in Valspar Evening Coat blue and paired with Spekva Royal Oak and Carrara quartz worktops in an open-plan family kitchen-living space.



#### COLOUR CONTRAST

Cabinets are painted in Valspar's Evening Coat and paired with concrete slab flooring and pops of yellow



#### DINNER'S UP

Paul and Juliet frequently cook for both family and friends, so chose to have a bank of built-in Neff Slide & Hide ovens, a steam oven and a microwave



#### ON THE SLIDE

Deep drawers were preferred to less accessible under-the-counter cupboards



## PROJECT DETAILS

**DESIGN** Harvey Jones. Linear Edge range starts from £20,000.

**ARCHITECTURE** MVL Architects.

**APPLIANCES** B57CR22NOB Slide & Hide **ovens**, £1,049; C17U02NOB built-in **microwave**, £819; similar C88FT38NOB built-in **steam oven**, £1,699; similar N53TD40NO Flex induction **hob**, £729; similar I90CL46NO N70 100cm stainless steel ceiling **cooker hood**, £1,609, all Neff. Similar RF522ADX4 American-style **fridge freezer**, £1,849, Fisher & Paykel. FWC603SS undercounter **wine cooler**, £499, CDA.

**FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS** Linear Edge cabinetry painted in Valspar Evening Coat, Spekva oak royal **worktops**, both supplied by Harvey Jones. SG Carrara quartz **worktops**, Surrey Marble and Granite. Saltram tiles, £92.95 per sq. m, Original Style. Similar Mythos MYX 210-70 stainless steel **sink**, £609, Franke. Similar blue pure 31299001 **mixer tap**, £795, Grohe. Designed by You Sorrento **dining table**, £1,749, Heal's. Consec metal **bar stools** in yellow and black, £79 each; DSW Style **dining chairs**, £59 each, both Cult Furniture. Custom **pendant light**, £POA, Dowsing & Reynolds **For stockists and contacts, see page 143**



### CAFÉ STYLE

Above A wooden profile distinguishes the breakfast bar from the rest of the island, creating a relaxed space to sit at

### VIEW POINT

Left The dining table in the new extension looks out onto the large rear south-west-facing garden