



'Our kitchen was a bedroom'

Completely rethink your home's space to gain a great kitchen, as the Horgans did

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

When Elin Horgan and her husband, Steve McGuigan, bought their large Victorian semi-detached house in Bristol six years ago, it was split into two flats. For four years, the couple lived on the ground floor and rented out the upper flat, but when they discovered they were expecting a baby – George, now two – they decided to convert the property back into one house.

Top of Elin and Steve's wish list was a big kitchen-diner. 'I wanted a large, airy room,' says Elin. 'When we lived in the flat, the dining table was in the living room and the small kitchen was miles away.' To get what they wanted, the couple turned what was once the ground-floor flat's bedroom, plus the bathroom and part of the corridor, into a new kitchen space. An architect helped with the plans and provided invaluable advice. 'She suggested the bifold doors leading into the garden, which we love,' says Elin.

A favourite feature is the island with its built-in wine rack and cookery-book storage. 'I love the breakfast-bar bit of the island, too,' says Elin. 'It's where I sit and have a glass of wine while the dinner is cooking. Our kitchen is where we entertain and spend most of our time, while the old kitchen is now a utility room and a workshop for my jewellery business.'



Hard worker

The island not only doubles as a breakfast bar, but also has plenty of storage for bottles of wine and recipe books

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, Victorian, semi-detached house in Bristol, bought in 2007.

WHAT IT COSTS

Units, worktops and splashback.....£7,960
Appliances.....£2,463
Sink and tap.....£258
Flooring.....£1,500
TOTAL.....£12,181

WHO LIVES HERE

Elin Horgan and her husband,

Steve McGuigan, with their son, George, two.

WHAT THEY DID

Combined three spaces – a bedroom, bathroom and part of a corridor – to create a large kitchen-diner. Replaced the old bedroom's bay window with new bifold doors that open onto the garden, and had new units and appliances installed. Turned the old kitchen into a utility room and workshop.

THE LOOK

Modern and minimalistic, with simple white units and oak-effect flooring. Pops of colour have been added in the accessories and furniture to lift the scheme.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Doing research online and visiting outlet shops meant that we were able to pick up some real bargains when kitting out the kitchen. Also, it was good we went for gloss units, as we can easily wipe away fingermarks – ideal when you have a toddler!”



THE LAYOUT The island unit containing the sink divides the cooking and dining areas. To the left of the island is the fridge-freezer and next to the table there are bifold doors leading out to the garden

Fulfilled wishes

Combining a bedroom, bathroom and part of a corridor created the airy, spacious kitchen the couple wanted. 'We're always in here now,' says Elin

Love their STYLE?

THE SC KITCHENS UNITS ARE FROM SAMUEL CONSTRUCTION. £. FOR SIMILAR, TRY THE CRISP CONTEMPORARY RANGE AT BATH KITCHEN COMPANY ££ OR POGGENPOHL'S PLUSMODO £££



TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Elin and Steve created their new kitchen



Colour splash
Choose chairs in a variety of vibrant shades to lift a neutral scheme

GET READY FOR
Christmas
Complement a modern scheme with simple, unfussy decorations, like these mini trees and model reindeer



Where to buy
ITEMS SHOWN

Hand-made, white-gloss **units**; solid-oak block **worktop**; toughened-glass **splashback**, £7,960; all SC Kitchens range; oak-effect **flooring**, £1,500, Karndean range; all Samuel Construction. For a similar **range cooker**, try the JLRC906, £999; for a similar steel **cooker hood**, try the Rangemaster LEIHDC110SC, £399; for a similar **fridge-freezer**, try the JLAFFS2011, £999; all John Lewis. For a similar 1.5-bowl **sink**, try the Blanco Lantos, £179; for a similar **tap**, try the Saru in Chrome, £109, Cooke & Lewis range; both B&Q. For a similar **table**, try the Asper, £250, Habitat. Eames DSR **chairs**, £217 each, John Lewis. Bertoia **bar stools**, £75 each, Vertigo Interiors. Lunta pendant **lamps**, £37 each, Ikea. For a similar **map**, try the National Geographic South America classic map laminated poster, £13.99, AllPosters.co.uk. **Canisters**, £22 for three, Orla Kiely range, John Lewis. **Teatowel**, £1, Primark. Acrylic **trees**, £3.95 each; acrylic **reindeer**, £3.95 each; wooden **tree**, £14.95; all Muji

FOR DETAILS TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Size matters
The cupboards either side of the range cooker have extra-wide drawers for storing pots and pans



How we did it

“ We contacted architect Elke Dittrich to help us draw up plans to convert the two flats back into one house. She came up with the idea of knocking together the bedroom, bathroom and part of the corridor in the downstairs flat to create a kitchen-diner. We asked Sam Clothier of Samuel Construction to do the building work, which involved taking out a chimney breast, putting in an RSJ to support the floor above and replacing the old bedroom’s bay window with bifold doors leading out to the garden. We rented a place to stay nearby for four months while the work was happening. The builders fitted the units for us, and the building work and installation of the kitchen came to £8,150. The architect’s fee was £4,000. ”