

PROPERTY PROJECT

Open house

Jane Wallenstein and Alex Larkin reconfigured their ground floor layout to create a spacious kitchen

FEATURE VICTORIA JENKINS PHOTOGRAPHS WILL GODDARD

WHO LIVES HERE?

Alex Larkin, a graphic designer, and Jane Wallenstein, a solicitor.

WHERE IS IT? Bristol.

KITCHEN DIMENSIONS 16sq m.

WHAT CHANGED? An adjoining storeroom was knocked through to add 3sq m, with the low ceiling removed to create a pitched roof. A glass wall was installed in the new dining area.

In 2006 we bought our 1890s house, which needed work. The kitchen had a terrible layout, so architect Federica Vasetti advised us to knock down an adjoining storeroom wall to create a dining area. We laid a new oak floor, created a big floor-to-ceiling corner window and a glass patio door further along to let in more light, and added a large area of acrylic mirror cladding on the exterior wall. This increased the sense of space in



the narrow yard and helps reflect light into the rear of the house. Then the kitchen was rewired and we fitted Solar handleless units from Ikea.

Jane Wallenstein



Colour splash

Glass splashbacks are a practical solution in a kitchen. Ideal for adding colour, they also complement wooden worktops.

Glass act

A wall of glass was fitted into one corner of the dining area so the couple can admire the view of the garden as they eat.

Floor show

Wide-planked oak flooring gives a seamless run to the space, extending to the dining area beyond.

THE PROJECT

- To create a bigger kitchen to incorporate a dining area and give direct access to the garden.
- Because the couple removed an interior wall, put in new ceiling joists and new openings, added external cladding and new drainage, they had to apply for building regulations approval. They did not need planning permission as the project did not increase the volume of the house.
- Alex stained the big panels of plywood for the exterior cladding himself, which was then installed by the builder.
- The corner window overlooking the garden cannot be opened - for aesthetic reasons the architect designed it so the frame is recessed into the wall.
- The glass patio door opens out into the courtyard, which now looks wider, thanks to the large panel of acrylic mirrored exterior cladding inserted between the window and glass door.



Sleek lines

The bright green glass splashbacks and white handleless units give the kitchen a sleek, contemporary look.

JANE'S KEY PIECES

- **Design**, Dittrich Hudson Vasetti Architects, 0117 914 8317, dhva.co.uk.
- **Solar units**, £1,100, Ikea, 0845 355 1144, ikea.com.
- **European oak worktops**, £418, Clarks Wood, 0117 971 6316, clarkswood.com.
- **Glass splashbacks and corner glazing**, £281, West Street Glazing, 0800 434 6340.
- **Kitchen table**, £537; **bench**, £100; both New Heights, 0844 984 0003, new-heights.co.uk.
- **Oak flooring**, £560, Wood and Stone, 01483 233066, woodandstone.co.uk.
- **Eames Eiffel chairs**, £192 each, Vitra from Furniture 23, 01934 830180, furniture23.com.
- **Microwave**, £90, Kenwood, kenwoodworld.com/uk.
- **HBN131250B electric single oven**, £278; **PCD615FEU gas hob**, £202; **KUR15A40GB integrated fridge**, £261;

- GUD15A40GB integrated freezer**, £279; all Bosch, bosch.co.uk.
- **TELO6SS grey telescopic extractor fan hood**, £88, Baumatic, 0118 9336 900, baumatic.co.uk.
- **OPX651 sink and tap pack**, £300, Franke, franke.com.
- **Walls painted in Cornforth White eggshell**, £48.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com.
- **Finishing oil for worktops and oak elements**, £11, Liberon, 01797 367555, liberon.co.uk.

THE BUDGET

Units	£1,100
Appliances.....	£1,198
Worktops.....	£418
Flooring.....	£560
Taps and sink.....	£300
Glazing.....	£281
Paint and oil.....	£104
TOTAL.....	£3,961



SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE

Jane says:

'Dividing the kitchen into two distinct areas has made it feel as if we have gained a whole extra room. Even though the fixed glazed corner and kitchen door provide lots of light, it doesn't always penetrate far into the kitchen because of the angle it hits the building. In hindsight, I would install a couple of small skylights in the ceiling above the kitchen table; this would also offer natural ventilation without having to open the door.'

Lofty heights

The dining area has an open beamed ceiling, giving the room a wonderful feeling of height and space.

Behind doors

To continue the sleek, uninterrupted look of the kitchen, appliances, such as the dishwasher, have been fully integrated.



Shelf life

A one-and-a-half bowl sink provides ample space for washing up. Above, a neat shelf works as both storage and display space.

Finishing touches

Jane spent money on a few carefully chosen pieces such as the Eames fibreglass dining chairs in various colours.



Heat it up

Stylish panel radiators provide plenty of heat in the large space, and are subtle enough to blend into the scheme.



Natural wood

The oiled worktop in oak warms up the white scheme and complements the flooring.



Outside in

The couple chose a glazed terrace door for easy access to the garden when entertaining on summer evenings.

Design notes

- * Glass splashbacks
- * Handleless cabinets
- * Floor-to-ceiling windows