



TWICE AS NICE

This two-tone kitchen effortlessly combines classic charm with cutting-edge integrated appliances

It can come as a surprise to discover that when your three grown-up children leave home you can actually find yourself needing more room. But of course when they visit with their partners and youngsters, having a kitchen that's large enough to accommodate everyone comfortably is a must. When Theresa and Martin Knibbs came to redesign the kitchen in their Sussex home, they knew they wanted it to be an elegant space that would be ideal for effortless entertaining during large family gatherings.

"It was only after watching property programmes and reading magazines that we decided on an open plan idea," Theresa explains. They were keen to employ a local firm to help them create a stylish design that wouldn't date so they chose Jason Collier at CW Collier & Sons to fit classic Edwin Loxley cabinetry. Lighter painted units, contrast with the darker burr walnut furniture to highlight key zones within the room. The shaker-style units have a timeless appeal but have been given a contemporary edge by their juxtaposition with the smooth curves of the walnut units. This sense of elegance is further enhanced by the glazed mid-height unit which was made specially to fit the old chimney breast.

This is just one of the clever design touches that Jason Collier came up with. To make their kitchen more spacious, Theresa and Martin decided to have the rear wall taken out and extended. This meant that Jason had a sun-filled, airy space to work with, but he was also faced with the challenge of working around the nib of the wall where it had been removed. ●●●





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Instead of seeing this as an obstacle, he used it as inspiration for the dramatic shape of the island. “This key feature integrates the food preparation area with the living area in a classic sweeping curve, with clearly-defined ‘stations’ for separate tasks,” Jason explains. Remote control halogen ceiling and unit lights combined controlled with LED lights around the island and hob, can be used to instantly define the atmosphere of the large room – whether it’s being used for a romantic dinner for two or a festive gathering for fifteen!

As Martin and Theresa have found, there are other benefits to be had from designing the kitchen to be such a multi-functioning area. As it is so ideal for preparing the food, enjoying the meal, and relaxing afterwards, it removes the need to use three separate rooms – making it an exceptionally eco-friendly and versatile space. “We still have our formal lounge at the other end of the house and have converted the old dining room into a playroom for the grandchildren, but we all spend a lot of time in here,” Theresa reveals.

Another green touch is that the whole area has underfloor heating. This not only uses less energy, it creates an ambient warmth that is perfect for a family kitchen. ●●●



Theresa also specified lots of energy-saving devices such as a triple A rated dishwasher, steam oven, wine cooler and a boiling water tap, which means that the room is as ergonomic as it is elegant. "Finding an American fridge freezer that had curved edges to compliment the curves of the kitchen units took us a while," Theresa reveals. "Fortunately we found a Whirlpool model on the internet that was perfect and Jason integrated it into the design seamlessly."

With every aspect of the room so carefully thought out, the whole family are delighted with the finished result. One fun touch that the grandchildren particularly enjoy is the coloured lighting above the wall units. "These can be operated separately and programmed to stay illuminated or flash fast or slow," Theresa explains. No wonder this room has become the hub of the home. ●



Details

Kitchen design by Jason Collier at CW Collier & Sons (1935) Ltd **01903 210 101** www.colliers.uk.com

Kitchen furniture by Edwin Loxley **01159 758 168** www.edwinloxley.co.uk

Miele KM5941 induction hob, DA289-4 SS extractor, H5240BP SS oven, H5040BM SS combination microwave, DG5061 SS steam oven, CVA5060 SS coffee machine, ESW 5080-14 SS warming drawer, G1182SCVi dishwasher, K621Ui-1 built-under larder fridge, KWT4154UG-1 black glass wine fridge **0845 365 6600** www.miele.co.uk

Whirlpool side by side American fridge freezer **0845 815 8989** www.whirlpool.co.uk

Schulte Pop-up Evoport electric socket tower, in stainless steel **+ 49 (0) 235 194 810** www.schulte.com

Franke KBX1604520 SS 1.5 bowl under-mount stainless steel sink, Stainless steel Panto mixer tap **01614 366 280** www.franke.co.uk

In-Sink-Erator ISE GN1100 boiling water tap **0800 389 3715** www.insinkerator.co.uk

Silestone worktops polished Brazilian Brown **0870 011 8788** www.silestone.com

Atlantic Shopping Lattice Lime Green Bar stools **01212 301 644** www.atlanticshopping.co.uk

Farrow & Ball, Slipper Satin paint **01202 876 141** www.farrow-ball.com

Flowers supplied by Bo-K **01903 501 600** www.flowersworthing.co.uk

