



Feature by Amelia Thorpe Photography by Darren Chung

a fresh start

Nestled down an attractive, quiet crescent, Sara and Iain Stern's totally transformed home is now a stylish retreat for all the family.



above Offering that desirable fusion of good looks and top performance, the Star extractor hood brings glitz and softness to the strong and angular scheme.

below By setting the compact combination oven into the island unit, transfer of food from appliance to worksurface is more convenient and much safer.



above An illuminated alcove provides an ideal spot to store, open and browse cookbooks to help the chef settle on the next special menu.

below right A popular choice for busy families and entertaining enthusiasts alike, the big fridge freezer has a handy water dispenser for instant refreshment.



above A drinks chiller is located on the 'sociable' side of the room for effortless usage during festivities – every good host with the most should have one!

below Don't forget those essential stools placed at the breakfast bar to provide both yourself and guests with a casual perch, glass of wine in hand.



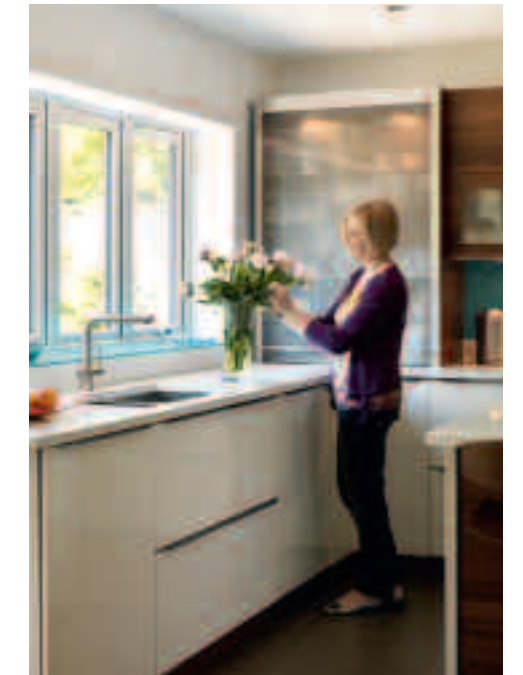
kitchen profile

Rational Cambia Polar White gloss lacquer and Cult walnut veneer furniture creates a crisply linear and contemporary result in this bright, open-plan setting. The large island is topped in the smoothest Blizzard CaesarStone, cut to achieve an architectural look to the robust structure, while turquoise glass splashbacks and a sparkling extractor add freshness and drama to the entertaining-friendly design by Kitchen Co-ordination.

Kitchen Co-ordination, 81 Penshurst Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 9TT.
Tel: 020 8958 6262. www.kitchencoordination.co.uk
 Expect to pay from £10,000.

below Both wash zones have been sited to give the user lovely views while prepping food for dinner.

below Sara finally has her dream kitchen; its well planned, ergonomic layout making life a bit easier.



“W e'd only just finished doing up our old home, so we absolutely weren't looking to move at all," admits Sara Stern, recalling the very day when she and husband, Iain, happened to spot a nice property for sale on an attractive local crescent. "But, we found ourselves looking round the house, and almost as soon as we were through the front door, we'd decided to go for it," she remembers.

While the leafy, peaceful location and large garden were big attractions, especially with children Katy (now 11) and Jack (eight) in mind, the place itself left, well, more than a little to be desired. "It was certainly in need of modernisation," says Sara. "The kitchen was especially bad: tiny and very old-fashioned," she adds. But they both felt that the potential of the 1950s-built residence could be revealed via some very careful updating. With the help of skilled Architect, Dick Butcher, they set about re-modelling it and also added on a big extension to the rear, to create space for a much larger, open-plan ground floor living area.

As Sara is a busy Cosmetics Merchandising Director for a major retailer and Iain works in international tax, there wasn't a lot of spare time to visit showrooms to research the new fixtures and fittings. So Sara says it was good fortune that led her to Vivienne Warman at Kitchen Co-ordination. "I went to see a kitchen belonging to a friend that was created by Vivienne," she recalls. "It was a stroke of luck – I absolutely loved it," she smiles.

Simple, clean-lined furniture was what she saw, and 'more of the same' formed the basis of her brief to Vivienne, who straightaway suggested a dramatically large island to make the most of the new room's substantial size. At three metres long, it forms both the centrepiece of the ground floor and that all-important prep area. "The hob on the worktop is great for cooking, but there's also ample space for gathering and socialising, too," says Sara. "One of the things that I learnt in my previous home was to include plenty of chairs and stools in the room, because people like to gather and perch wherever you are," she adds.



Colours were next on the list of things to think about. While the cool white gloss lacquer doors created the crisply contemporary look Sara and Iain wanted, sections of walnut veneer add warmth and contrast. For zing, Sara spotted a patterned turquoise wallpaper to create a feature wall in the dining area. "I was able to match it exactly to use on back-painted glass splashbacks and on top of the wall cabinet in the dining area," says Vivienne. Adds Sara, "I'm not sure I would have been brave enough to go with the turquoise glass, if I'd been on my own. But clever use of bold tone is a key part of Vivienne's design, and it works perfectly in here."

opposite page Leading off from the retro-style dining area and lounging zone, double doors grant easy access to the lush and inviting garden beyond.

As the finishing touch, the extractor adds sparkle and character. "Although I like clean lines, I wanted to make sure that the room would feel homely and friendly, too," says Sara. To celebrate completion of the kitchen, Sara and Iain called on their friends. With the splashbacks due to be installed later in the afternoon, a big crowd of them were invited to dinner that night. "The poor man doing the glass fitting was caught up in traffic," recalls Sara. "He got here at seven in the evening, and ended up working watched by 17 people!" she laughs. All good things come to those who wait, however. "The end result is just what we wanted," says a very happy Sara. ■

below A floral feature wall injects femininity whilst complementing turquoise accents throughout the room: from glass surfaces to a selection of cushions.



below Comfort is key to a successful open-plan living space, so the couple chose a leather sofa on which to unwind post-work or after partying.



useful information

Architect
Dick Butcher.
Tel: 01727 852272. No website available.

Appliances
Similar appliances; U16E74 double oven, around £1500; N22H40 warming drawer, around £409; N8642X0EU System Steamer oven accessory, £220; C54R60 microwave, around £490; T45D80 induction hob, around £783; K3990 fridge freezer, £2150, at Neff. Tel: 0844 892 9033. www.neff.co.uk

SHV55MO3 integrated dishwasher, £492, at Bosch. Tel: 0870 727 0446. www.boschappliances.co.uk

Wi6112 wine cooler, £445, at Caple. Tel: 0117 938 1900. www.caple.co.uk

Star glass and stainless steel extractor with remote control, expect to pay around £1670, at Elica. Tel: 01252 351111. www.elica.co.uk

Fixtures & furnishings
BlancoLinus mixer taps, around £215 each; BlancoZerox 400/400-U sink, around £825; BlancoZerox 340-U sink, from £395, at Blanco. Tel: 0844 912 0108. www.blanco.co.uk

Blizzard CaesarStone worktops, expect to pay around £380 per linear m., at Prima Granite. Tel: 020 8201 5857. www.primagranite.co.uk

Painted glass splashbacks, prices supplied according to specific project, at Crawford Glass. Tel: 020 8520 4494. www.crawfordglass.co.uk

Youngstone Mocha matt porcelain floor tiles, expect to pay around £53 per sq. m., at Tiles Direct. Tel: 020 8500 2100. www.tilesdirectukltd.co.uk

Avellino Lucido wallpaper, £38 per roll, at Harlequin. Tel: 0844 543 0200. www.harlequin.uk.com

Moda dining table, priced from £1795; Fly pendant light, expect to pay around £132, at Heal's. Tel: 0870 024 0780. www.heals.co.uk

Coco Classic dining chairs, around £103 each; Quad bar stools, around £100 each, at Danetti. Tel: 0844 804 2222. www.danetti.com

Similar leather sofa, from £975, at John Lewis. Tel: 0845 604 9049. www.johnlewis.com