



Once a chilly and uninviting space, the rich oak floor and cosy Aga have created a warm room. It has been given a contemporary feel by use of polished lacquer, Silestone and glass surfaces.

INTO THE BLUE

Take the stress out of installing a new kitchen by jetting off on holiday, and leave the designer to it!

PHOTOS DARREN CHUNG WORDS AMELIA THORPE



Above Ample storage runs along one wall and includes a pantry cupboard, available in tall stylish units.

Left Here a deep pan drawer fits below a cutlery drawer, both lined in ash, efficiently maximising storage.

Opposite An integrated dishwasher and recycling bins fit neatly into the island, while a large skylight floods the space with natural light.

Click, went the front door as the Eden family shut it behind them, before wheeling their suitcases down the front path and heading off to the other side of the world. As they set off for a month's holiday to New Zealand and Australia, Teresa Eden admits to feeling just a little, well, nervous. 'We had arranged for a new kitchen to be installed whilst we were away,' she explains. 'We had packed up a few boxes and put them in the basement, but that was it. Everything else was to be done when we weren't there.'

If it sounds daring, even Teresa concedes that it probably was. 'I suppose it was rather a gamble, but I trusted the team implicitly,' she says. 'And I had worked very carefully beforehand to make sure everything was organised and everyone was singing from the same hymn sheet.' Head of the team was kitchen designer Vivienne Warman of Kitchen Co-ordination, whose reputation for sleek, contemporary designs and tip top organisation ➔

KITCHEN PROFILE

Rational Cambia furniture in Sand High Gloss Lacquer creates a polished look in this contemporary, clean lined room. Its crisp finish is enhanced by slender worktops of Silestone Amazon and brushed steel bar handles. A pewter Aga creates a homely feel, while a French blue glass splashback adds personality and individuality.

Kitchen Co-ordination, 81 Penschurst Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 9TT.

Tel: 020 8958 6262. kitchencoordination.co.uk. Kitchen prices from £15,000.

Building work: Affleck Property Services. Tel: 0800 316 9595. affleckservices.co.uk.



precedes her, and who was recommended to Teresa by a friend. 'It was a very exciting project,' recalls Vivienne. 'After approving all the drawings, we were left to get on with it, knowing that the room was to be perfect by the time the family came back from their travels.'

The first task for the team was to rip out the old kitchen, a disintegrating series of units in dark laminate with drawers that had long since stopped working smoothly. 'The room was unbelievably cold in winter because there's so much glass in here, and the white floor tiles just made it seem even colder,' adds Teresa. Having moved into the Victorian house in south London four years ago, Teresa, a swimming teacher, and accountant husband Stuart made the decision to rethink the room to make it more inviting for life with daughter, Millie, 13, and son Ted, 11, not forgetting Alfie, the miniature schnauzer.

First came the Aga, something that Teresa had always wished for and top of the list for its warmth-enhancing features. 'We wanted a contemporary look for the kitchen, and I was worried that the traditional style of the Aga might jar,' explains Teresa. 'But Vivienne managed to cleverly

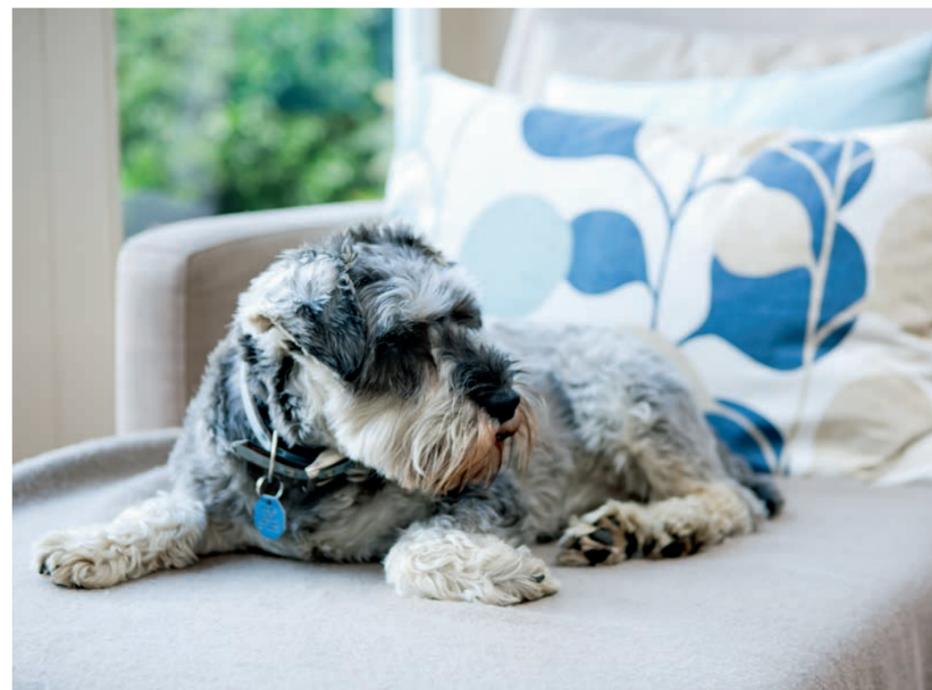
incorporate it into the design beautifully, by streamlining it perfectly as part of the run of units.' Simple sand drawers and cabinets form the backdrop to the room, while a statement island, an impressive 3.2 metres long, forms the main preparation area in the room, as well as social space. 'I love it because I always feel part of what's going on in the rest of the room,' says Teresa, who enjoys cooking and regularly entertains a crowd.

As well as the kitchen furniture, the builders also installed a new timber floor to create a warmer finish in the room, with underfloor heating for the coldest of winter days. And the finishing touch to the room: a French blue glass splashback and painted feature walls to add character to the large space. With everything complete, Vivienne stood back to admire the handiwork. 'It was all ready, but I confess that I did rather have my heart in my mouth before the family got back,' she says. 'Would they like it?' Opening the front door again after those weeks away, Teresa says it was all a bit of a blur. 'I was so looking forward to seeing the room – it was hard to take it all in. But I do remember squealing with excitement – a lot.' ■

Above A support wall divides the kitchen from the dining space, without interrupting the flow of the open-plan room.

Top right A matching blue feature wall creates harmony between the kitchen and the light and airy dining room.

Right The extra space allows the family, including Alfie, the Miniature Schnauzer, to relax and socialise.



STOCKISTS INFORMATION

APPLIANCES

BlancoMenu Rinse mixer tap with separate pull out spray rinse, £359; BlancoNiagara double bowl sink, £369; both at Blanco; Silestone Amazon polished worktops, from about £300 per linear m, at Kitchen Co-ordination. See Kitchen Profile for details. Blue back painted glass splashback, priced to order, at Crawford Glass; Walls painted in colour mixed 10BB29174 Soft Sheen, £18 per 2.5 litres, at Dulux; Galaxy bar chairs, £70 each, at Atlantic Shopping; European Oak flooring with Walnut Stain, from £69 per sq. m, at The Wooden Floor Specialists; Dining table, from a selection, at Tablemakers; Westbury dining chairs, £299 pair, at Next; Table lamps, from a selection, at Porta Romana; Blue bowl, £165, at Page Pottery.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Pewter two oven electric Aga, £7,695, at Aga; HB75 AB 550B single oven, £700; HB 84K652B combination microwave, £895; ET375MF11E ceramic hob, £504, both at Siemens; Similar fridge/freezer, GWE23LGYFSS, about £2,500, at GE Appliances; Glacier extractor hood, £599, at Elica.

*All prices are approximate. For stockists, see page 168.