

BLACK MAGIC

A flood in their new home could have been a disaster, but Cory and Adrian Learer gained an exciting new kitchen.

PHOTOS DARREN CHUNG WORDS AMELIA THORPE

A run of black and white cabinetry makes a statement to create the perfect stage for socialising, whether it's a cup of coffee or glass of wine.



Opening their front door on return from holiday, Cory and Adrian Learer were in for a big shock. 'The whole ground floor was awash with water,' recalls Cory. Faulty pipework underneath the kitchen sink meant the water had flooded out for the weeks while they were away, causing extensive damage.

There was nothing for it but to set about repairing the damage right away. Having only recently bought the 1980s-built house in North London, Cory and Adrian got a list of all the fittings from the previous owners. 'We liked everything about the place when we bought it, so we decided to keep it the way it was,' says Cory, who began contacting the suppliers to order replacements, so as to restore family life with their young son Jonathan (three) as soon as possible.

But things got a bit more complicated when it came to replacing the kitchen units. 'This was the one supplier we couldn't locate, so we did some research on the internet and found Kitchen Co-ordination,' Cory recalls. Instead of plumbing for 'the same again', designer Vivienne Warman showed the

KITCHEN PROFILE

Rational Sigma units in Cammee high gloss lacquer sweep around this kitchen, while a run along one wall features horizontal panels of black glass. They are designed to sparkle like the Maron Cahiba granite worktops, which are sprinkled with beautiful jewel-like flecks. The black and white mix in this sleek kitchen adds exciting contrast and drama.

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



'The black glass turns to a soft silvery-grey when the lights are switched on, creating a lovely effect, especially at night-time.'

Above and right The Corner Fridge has room for plenty of shopping required for a household that loves to entertain.

Far right Generous, drawers offer maximum storage capacity for the owner's impressive crockery collection.

Right below Cory was able to personally select the fine slabs of Maron Cahiba granite used for her kitchen work surfaces.

Opposite Lift-up wall units contain integrated low voltage downlights, which make the black glass appear a moody silvery-grey when lit.





'Too much black would be overwhelming, but just enough can make an elegant statement.'



couple samples of several different materials. 'She showed us how black glass and Maron Cahiba granite could inject drama and interest into the design,' says Cory.

As well as proposing a contemporary mix of materials, Vivienne introduced plenty of wide, load-bearing drawers to provide easy-to-access storage. 'I knew that Cory likes to cook and entertain, so it was essential that the kitchen would function perfectly and look good,' recalls Vivienne.

The island boasts a breakfast bar, where people can pull up a bar stool to chat to Cory as she gets busy at the hob. 'My friends often visit with their kids, so it's great that we can all be together while I'm preparing a meal,' she enthuses.

'The flood was a blessing in disguise. We'd have carried on with the old hub for years, if it hadn't been ruined. But, luckily, now I have a new kitchen which is tailor-made for us. It's just fantastic – in every way.'

Above Wide drawers were designed to give ample storage, working in unison with the vast extractor fan.

Left Simple, well-lit glass shelves provide the perfect backdrop for herbs and spices, and allow them to be found with ease.

STOCKISTS INFORMATION

APPLIANCES Similar single oven B15E54, £850; combination microwave C57M70, £750; gas hob T26R66, £550; extractor hood I89D55, £900; integrated fridge K5604, £500; all at Neff. **Integrated dishwasher** G2383SCVi, £1000, at Miele. **Integrated corner fridge**, £3200, at The Corner Fridge Company. **Waste disposal unit** ISE 65, £299, at InSinkErator.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS Similar tap, Gotthard in chrome, £173; sink ARX 160, £353, at Franke. Maron Cahiba granite worktops, from around £450 per sq. m., at Kitchen Co-ordination. Similar Bistro bar stools, priced £38 each, at John Lewis. Trav White Natural floor tiles, price on request, at Bibliotheque. *All prices are approximate. For stockists, see page 158.