

Real inspiration Kitchen relocation

LAYOUT

The couple added a box-shaped extension to house their kitchen-diner, which was moved from the basement. Stairs against a brick wall lead up to the sitting room and down to what is now a utility room

AS SEEN IN
Beautiful
KITCHENS

EXTENSION

Bi-fold doors from Expressbifoldingdoors.co.uk link the kitchen with the garden during summer

'WE MOVED our dingy kitchen into THE LIGHT'

A new extension created the indoor-outdoor space that Mike Rourke and Mark Cubbon had always wanted

FEATURE LAURIE DAVIDSON • PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES UNDERTON

Kitchen FACT FILE

THE OWNERS Mike Rourke, who works in investment banking, his partner, Mark Cubbon, a hospital manager, and their dog Oscar, who's a Standard Schnauzer

THE HOME A four-bedroom, end-of-terrace house in south London

THE PROJECT Reconfiguration of layout, including kitchen installation in a new side extension

PRICE GUIDE

£12,00

for a similar Alno Sign kitchen from Halcyon Interiors, cabinetry only

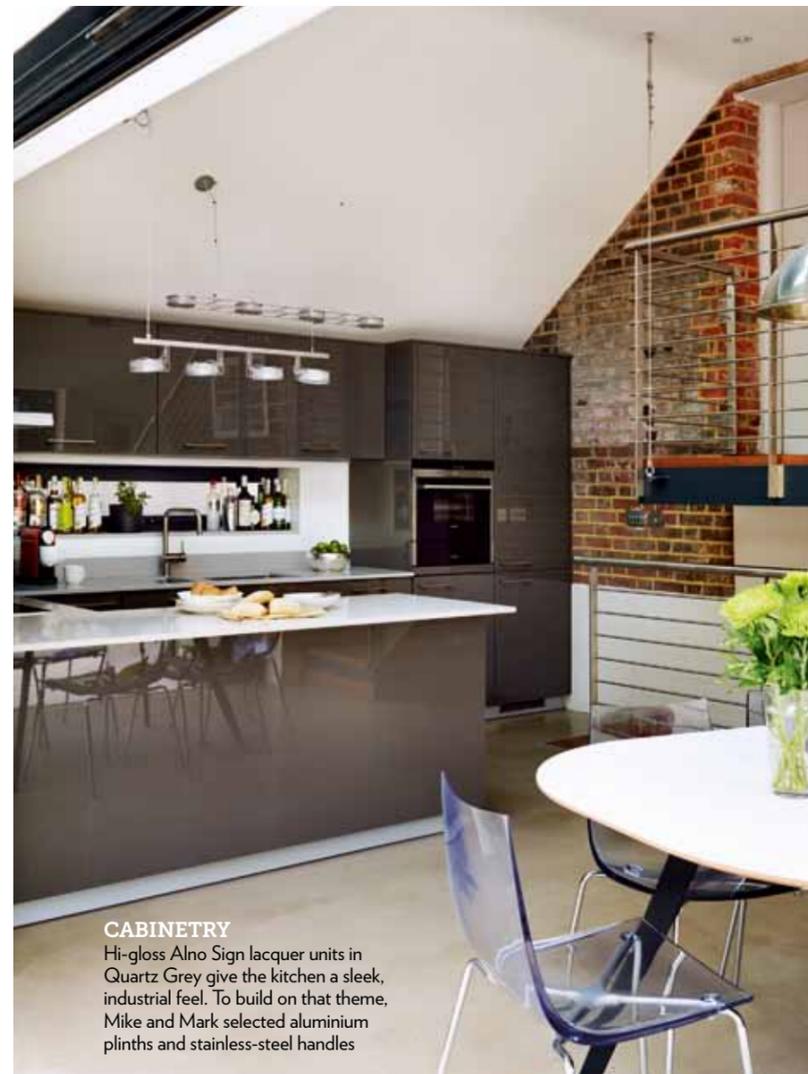
On buying their new house, Mike Rourke and Mark Cubbon were faced with a dark kitchen tucked away at the back of the basement, so the couple added a side extension to incorporate a new sociable kitchen-diner. Mike explains how they went about it...

What sort of condition was the house in when you took ownership of it?

Although Mark and I bought the property in March 2011, we didn't move in until just before Christmas, as there was a lot of work that needed to be done first. The house previously belonged to an elderly couple who had lived there for some time. It was in need of full modernisation, in particular the kitchen, which was located in the basement. It was a small room, with a staircase leading up to the ground floor that took up much ▶

PENINSULA

This has been positioned so the couple can enjoy the garden views while preparing food. With a combination of drawers and cupboards, it incorporates plenty of storage



CABINERY

Hi-gloss Alno Sign lacquer units in Quartz Grey give the kitchen a sleek, industrial feel. To build on that theme, Mike and Mark selected aluminium plinths and stainless-steel handles

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HOW TO... PLAN AN EXTENSION

- Decide on the type and size that will suit your home and needs. You can expect to pay around £1,000sq m for a low-cost construction with no site constraints and budget fittings, or from £2,000sq m for a more complex structure. Try designyourhouse.co.uk for further information about extensions and homebuilding.
- Find out if your extension falls under permitted development or whether you'll need to apply for planning permission. Check out planningportal.gov.uk for more information.
- Employ an architect or designer to help guide you through the planning process and work out a budget. Make sure they are RIBA Chartered and ask to see examples of their previous work. They will undertake a site survey and present you with plans for your approval.
- Search for a builder and check they are TrustMark approved (trustmark.org.uk). Get several quotes before making your decision. Make a list of all the appliances you want, and do your research before the builder starts work.
- Hire a project manager if you don't have time to oversee the work yourself. Make sure your cabinetry, flooring, worktops and appliances are all ordered. Your project is likely to take a minimum of six months from submitting plans for approval to the building work being completed, so be patient.

of the space, and pine cabinetry that was a bit dated. The very worst thing about it, however, was that there were no windows along that side of the house, so it felt completely enclosed, and was dark and dingy.

How did you get started on the revamp?

We spent a lot of time trying to work out how to make more of the basement location and get some natural light into it. Eventually we had a real eureka moment when we came up with the idea of moving the kitchen into a new side extension. By doing that, we would also benefit from gaining direct access to our large garden – which the existing layout didn't allow for – and we could turn the basement into a much-needed utility and guest room with an en suite. It was a big job, though, and we couldn't have lived there while the work was going on, so we moved into Mark's London flat until it was complete.

What sort of style did you have in mind?

A modern, industrial design was what we wanted to achieve. As the house is in a conservation area and is Grade II listed, there were some requirements that we had to adhere to – one of which was to keep the exterior wall that adjoins the extension as

exposed brick. Fortunately, it suited our plans and the look we were going for, so the next task was to find flooring to match. We considered resin, rubber and other industrial-type materials, but we finally decided on polished concrete, which is modern without being too wacky.

Did you use the services of an architect?

We did initially. However, as we had a fair idea of what we wanted to achieve, once we'd made the decision to have the kitchen relocated into the extension, we used a draughtsman to draw up the plans instead.

How did you choose the cabinetry?

Our hope was to find something that would be smart and functional during the day, but that could blend into the background in the evenings with the lights down low. We decided a dark grey kitchen would work with the industrial look we wanted. After visiting several showrooms, we still hadn't seen anything we liked – all of the grey kitchens seemed to be either too modern and gimmicky, or else they were very traditional. We happened to spot the Alno Sign kitchen when we were passing the Halcyon showroom and it had exactly what we wanted. The next

thing we knew we were talking to designer Ashley Collins about our vision.

Could you tell us what sort of ideas Ashley came up with?

Yes, he was absolutely invaluable in helping us to see what might work. Neither Mark nor I had ever designed a kitchen before, so some of the things we wanted just wouldn't have worked. Rather than going along with what we asked for, Ashley would make suggestions and come up with a better way of doing things. At one point, for example, I'd decided we should incorporate some glass cabinets, but Ashley advised against them and I'm so glad he did, as they wouldn't have looked right at all. He really knew his stuff and was great every step of the way.

Why did you opt for a Silestone worktop?

Originally we'd planned to have a brushed-steel surface, but when we found out how much it would cost we decided to look at alternatives. Ashley also suggested that something to lighten the kitchen a bit might work better and provide a contrast to the units. Silestone is a hard-wearing quartz material and when Ashley showed us a few of the finishes, we knew it would be perfect, as ►

3 GET THE LOOK Aluminium pendant lights



THE CONRAN SHOP
This Titan 1 pendant lamp, £179, is based on an original 1940s workplace design

SWEETPEA & WILLOW
Perfect for an industrial-style kitchen, the Maritime pendant is an investment purchase at £695

HOLLOWAYS OF LUDLOW
The Spun pendant has a shiny polished finish, £118

OWNER'S ADVICE 'When planning your layout, imagine how you'll use the space, as even the simple task of making a cup of tea will annoy you if the design's not right'



SINK AREA
A Franke design has been matched with an angular Grohe tap, while an integrated Siemens dishwasher is located below for ease of use

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WORKTOPS

Pale Silestone worksurfaces in Alluminio Nube provide a contrast to the cabinetry

DESIGNER'S TIP 'As the kitchen could be viewed from different levels, it had to look good from every angle. Using lacquer cabinetry meant that all surfaces could have the same finish, so the design appears seamless'

ASHLEY COLLINS

it's so bright and clean. Although the worktops lighten the look of the kitchen, they suit the rest of the room and don't jump out at you.

Was it easy to choose appliances?

We were set on having two separate ovens, and we also considered a built-in microwave. It was Ashley who suggested including a steam oven in its place and we're so grateful for his advice, as we use it all the time. We also chose an induction hob – I'd used one before and liked how easy it was to control. Initially I was unsure about having one that had four zones in a row, rather than two at the back and two at the front, but it's actually really practical. It means there's space behind to put oils and spices, and you don't have to stretch over lots of pots and pans to reach them.

Did everything go to plan?

Yes, it all went smoothly, especially as we hired a project manager to oversee things. The only real problem came up fairly late in the process – and it was something we just hadn't thought about. When you enter the extension from the sitting room you have to go downstairs into the kitchen. This means that when you're standing at the head of the stairs you can see the tops of the wall units, which aren't in the same gloss finish. They'd usually be out of sight and it wouldn't matter, but in this case

it did, so Ashley came up with the perfect solution and had a bespoke piece of material made to fit on top, which looks a lot better.

Are you pleased with your new kitchen?

Both of us are delighted. We entertain regularly and our guests always end up congregating around the peninsula, before moving to the dining table or out into the garden to eat. It's a really sociable space. □

SHOP THE LOOK

CABINTRY

■ Alno Sign hi-gloss lacquer units in Quartz Grey, Halcyon Interiors at The Alno Store. A similar kitchen, cabinetry only, costs £12,000

WORKSURFACES

■ 20mm Alluminio Nube Silestone. Price per sq m £480

SPLASHBACK

■ Halcyon White glass wall cladding. Price per sq m £350

FLOORING

■ Polished concrete, Puur. Total cost £4,500

APPLIANCES

- Built-under single oven, Siemens £792
- Built-in steam oven, Siemens £1,190
- Four-zone induction hob, Siemens £890
- Chimney extractor hood in stainless steel, Siemens £540
- Built-in warming drawer, Siemens £360
- Fully integrated fridge freezer, Miele £1,565
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Siemens £700

SINK AND TAP

- Kubus undermounted one-and-a-half-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke £492
- Minta single-lever monobloc mixer tap in Supersteel, Grohe £288

FINISHING TOUCHES

- Dining table, Bo Concept. Prices from £1,068
- Dining chairs, for similar, try the Calligaris L'Eau, Heal's, each £125
- Pendant light, Swag Antiques POA
- Lighting, Wortmeyer Licht. Total cost £2,084
- Krups CitiZ Nespresso coffee maker £149
- Clock, Swag Antiques £60

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 142

