

Although it's a modern kitchen, it's still in sympathy with the age of the house

The Watsons chose to mix Graphite laminate and frosted glass cabinetry from Alno for a cool, urban look. 'Although it's a modern kitchen, it's still in sympathy with the age of the house,' says Simon. The vibrant splashback was created with clear glass from Devonshire Glass, which was then back painted in Crystal Turquoise by Sanderson. The low-hanging bell lights came from Ormrod Electric



Shades of grey

Experienced renovators Simon and Lee Watson had the confidence to use modern design and graphite colours in their 1930s kitchen

'The pantry cupboards on either side of the fridge freezer mean that we've got all our food in one place – right next to the island where we prepare our meals'

Simon Watson



Sluek grey kitchen units were the understated choice of Simon Watson and his wife Lee for their renovated 1930s home in Chiswick, west London. It's surprising then to learn that their starting point for the design was a psychedelic piece of modern art featuring cartoon characters that now hangs in the dining area. 'We saw it hanging in a gallery in Brighton and had to have it,' Simon recalls. 'It arrived before we started work on the kitchen and it gave us the confidence to have quieter, darker cabinetry, as at the centre of our design was this mad painting.'

Choosing a white backdrop helped to make the foil-wrapped units, suggested by Andrea at Halcyon Interiors, and Gris Serena composite worktops look stylish, but not too sombre. 'We tend to go for white walls and add colour with accessories, so we knew we could get away with something dark,' says Simon.

The house previously belonged to the French Embassy, and was home to diplomats for years, so the decor was very dated when the Watsons bought it. 'The kitchen was a small, 1970s pine-panelled room, but we knew the house had potential,' Simon explains.

As experienced renovators who'd transformed four former homes, the Watsons decided to rebuild the house from scratch, leaving only the façade intact. With four children, Jade, 16, Matthew, 11, Aiden, 10, and Emma, eight, the couple opted to stay in rented accommodation while the work was carried out. 'We knew exactly what we were getting into and it wouldn't have been fair to live there with small children,' says Simon. 'It wasn't without its stresses, but it did ease the pain a lot and of course it was much quicker.'

The kitchen was relocated to the front of the house as the family decided it would be more convenient for, among other things, bringing in grocery shopping. Thanks to Andrea's organisational skills the furniture was installed in just three days. 'Andrea was great and took the time to listen to our needs,' says Simon. 'I would also thoroughly recommend Alno. The kitchen is well built and thoughtfully constructed, so doors don't fall off if they are opened too hard and everything works as it should.'

BK

MODERN



The Lyra stools look as though they were bought to match the kitchen, but date from two kitchens ago. For similar try Design Conscious





Simon loves the 'all singing and all dancing' pyrolytic built-in oven. 'It's really user friendly and you can store the settings you use regularly, so if you often make fish fingers it will remember the settings you cook them at and store them under a personalised name. It even tells you when it needs to clean itself,' he enthuses

The Gris Serena worktop is in keeping with the grey theme. 'The Fuji tap is the first one we've ever owned that doesn't splash,' smiles Simon



The base units of the peninsula have grooved handles so the children don't catch their clothing as they are coming past the island. The canvas of cartoon characters by Dan Baldwin hangs on the dining room wall



THE KITCHEN FILE

DESIGN & CABINERY

- Andrea Mueller at **Halcyon Interiors**, 120 Wigmore Street, London W1U 3LS (020 7486 3080) www.halcyoninteriors.com
- Graphite laminate units from the Alnotop range and Frosted Glass units with an aluminium trim from the Alnotec range, both by Alno

WORKTOPS

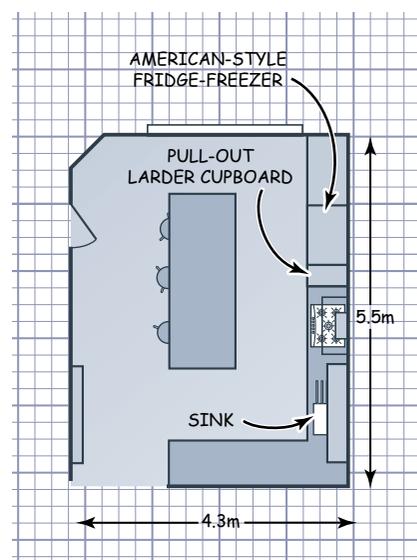
- 30mm Gris Serena Quarella composite stone, Rossi Stoneworks. Price per sq m **£658**

SINK & TAP

- BOX 11050 single-bowl undermounted square sink, Franke **£257**
- Fuji lever tap with pull-out nozzle, Franke **£190**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- H4641BPKAT built-in multifunction oven with pyrolytic function, Miele **£1,895**
- DG4060 built-in steam oven, Miele **£1,696**
- KM371G five-burner gas hob, Miele **£967**
- DA429 extractor hood, Miele **£1,016**
- American-style fridge freezer, discontinued, for similar try PSG25S, GE **£2,600**
- G2630SCIBL semi-integrated dishwasher in black, Miele **£1,147**



GUIDE PRICE

- Total cost **£33,445**

Where to buy Alno 0870 043 3742 Dan Baldwin www.danbaldwin.net Design Conscious 01200 427313 Devonshire Glass 020 8994 9749 Franke 0161 436 6280 GE 01908 366363 Miele 0845 330 3666 Ormrod Electric 020 8994 0118 Rossi Stoneworks 020 7609 7212 Sanderson 0845 880 5866