



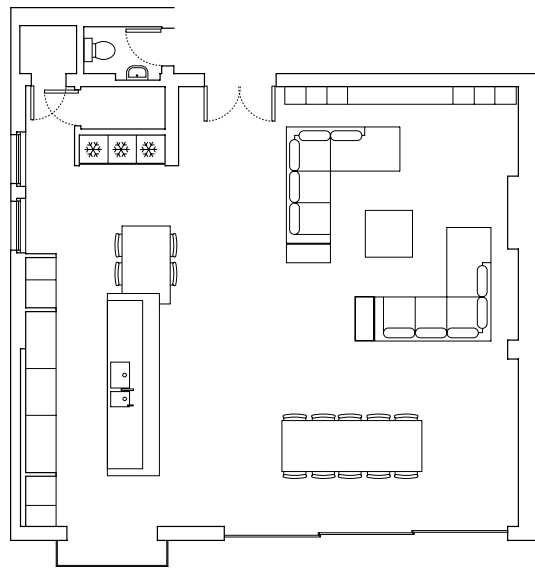
FINE CONTRAST

A modern, streamlined kitchen featuring luxurious Carrara marble and rich timber works beautifully within this vast, elegant space

Report: **Felicity Borthwick** Photography: **Alistair Nicholls**

Previous page (p117): A custom-made chandelier and colourful sofas bring elegance, warmth and liveliness to this vast open-plan space. The stylish coffee table, meanwhile, tones in nicely with the timber flooring and dark cabinetry.

Right: The beautiful bespoke dining table works perfectly in here with its combination of warm timber and elegant glass mirroring the coffee table design in the living area.



Designing an open-plan kitchen-living area is never without its challenges, especially when the room is as enormous as the one Tom and Sarah Wright created by building onto the back of their house to 'fill in' a sizeable L-shaped space. Not only is there the question of where to position the various zones, it's a matter of how to define each one whilst simultaneously pulling them together to ensure the space flows visually.

Much of the challenge lies in having the kitchen – typically a very functional room – in the same realm as the living and dining areas, which are generally more decorative and elegant. However, by opting for a beautiful, contemporary kitchen where luxurious Carrara marble marries a rich timber finish, the Wrights have created a space that's stunning from every angle, without any visual jarring.

The pair had seen a similar kitchen in a magazine and loved it so much that they commissioned the designer, Hugh Adlam of Absolute Kitchens, to create one that would work within their home. "When Tom and Sarah came to see me, they already had quite



Right: Timber cutlery inserts help keep the Wrights' drawers neat and tidy with quicker, easier access to the pieces they need.

Far right: The couple specifically requested an electric range cooker from Everhot, which is great when cooking for the family or large groups. There is also a steam oven nearby for added flexibility.

Opposite page: The kitchen table was custom made by Waxed Floors from the same planks of treated oak that flow across the floor.



"An enormous island runs parallel with the wall units and features a Carrara marble surround that shields the living and dining areas from cooking clutter."

a strong idea of how they wanted it laid out, which always helps," recalls Hugh. "They wanted to keep it where the previous kitchen had been, which is ideal as it wraps along one long wall, providing plenty of space front to back to fit everything in. It also allowed the living and dining areas to sit within the new extension, which is much more connected to the garden thanks to floor-to-ceiling glass doors."

Hugh drew up a selection of layouts that accommodated all the couple's requirements and the one they opted for functions beautifully in here. An enormous island runs parallel with the wall units and features a Carrara marble surround that not only shields the living and dining areas from cooking clutter, but also serves as a room divide to demarcate the kitchen zone whilst providing somewhere for sockets to be built in.

The same stunning marble appears on the splashback for a balanced and more luxurious look, which complements the surrounding living areas. The worktops below, however, are fashioned from composite Caesarstone as it's infinitely more practical. "Carrara marble is quite porous and will really show up things like red wine so Caesarstone was a much better choice and the colour works well with the rest of the kitchen scheme," explains Hugh. "Sarah had a walnut kitchen in her previous flat so she wanted to go for something a lot more durable this time. However, she liked the warmth of dark timber so we used a beautiful wood finish that's extremely tough and hardwearing for the cupboard doors."

This commitment to providing functionality without compromising on aesthetics continues throughout the entire kitchen. The huge fridge, ►





Above: A picture window at the end of the kitchen run allows the couple to enjoy the garden views whilst working here.

Right: The living area is defined by a raised ceiling section and two huge sofas arranged in an L-shape, while all the furniture and accessories feature sophisticated shades of blue for a further sense of unity.

freezer and wine storage unit, for example, are banked together directly opposite the kitchen table for convenience, but have also been deliberately positioned on the adjacent wall so as not to break up the symmetrical arrangement of dark units either side of the cooker. Fashioned from the same treated oak as the floorboards, the table abuts the island, but is slightly offset to provide an interesting design detail and divide the long kitchen into 'work' and 'eating' zones.

On the island, meanwhile, various functional items are housed within coordinating cabinetry for an ultra-clean, symmetrical look. "I didn't want to have one large door, then drawer lines and then another large door as it doesn't look nearly as neat," says Hugh. "So you pull out one door on the island and there are two jumbo drawers within that, whilst another door pulls down to reveal the dishwasher."

The opposite wall is also beautifully balanced with an Everhot range in the centre, as requested by Tom and Sarah, and two large pan drawers either side of that. These drawers are then flanked by two tall cupboards, one of which incorporating an integrated steam oven so all cooking appliances are ►





grouped together. From here, hot dishes can easily be set down on the worktop beside the oven or cooker or on the island opposite. This layout also allows food to be transferred up to the breakfast bar and across to the nearby dining table.

The breakfast bar area is highlighted by a recess in the base of the island, which accommodates two cowhide barstools and some built-in lights to cast a warm glow across the cool marble. Lighting plays an integral role throughout the entire space as it adds drama and atmosphere and further defines various zones thanks to careful planning by lighting designer Bruce Munro.

Bruce also custom made the stunning chandelier in the living area, which provides the room with a touch of glamour, while sumptuous sofas and colourful cushions enliven it and provide warmth. As Hugh observes, it's essential in such large open spaces to add softness where possible and the Wrights have achieved this beautifully; in the living area with their elegant furniture and artworks and in the dining area with a curved, bespoke walnut table and Vitra's sculptural Panton chairs.

As such, the couple now have an enormous sociable space that makes the most of every area both visually and functionally, whether that's cooking in their spacious, high-spec kitchen, dining at the magnificent table whilst overlooking the garden or relaxing in their stylish yet cosy living area. **[KBB]**

SourceBook

DESIGN

Kitchen Hugh Adlam of Absolute Kitchens (0844 414 6046 or www.absolute-kitchens.co.uk)

Construction Qualitas Construction (020 8874 4921 or www.qualitasconstruction.com)

KITCHEN/DINING/LIVING AREA

Cabinetry Dark wood finish from Absolute Kitchens, as before

Worktops Caesarstone (www.caesarstone.com)

Island and splashback Carrara marble, Absolute Kitchens, as before

Appliances Electric range cooker, Everhot (01453 890018 or www.everhot.co.uk); Fridge, freezer and wine unit, all Gaggenau (0844 892 8988 or www.gaggenau.com); Steam oven, Miele (0845 365 6600 or www.miele.co.uk)

Tap Franke Swiss Pro (0161 436 6280 or www.franke.com)

Flooring and kitchen table Treated oak, Waxed Floors (020 7738 1620 or www.waxedfloors.com)

Lighting Bruce Munro (01985 845228 or www.bruce-munro.co.uk)

Pendant lights Original BTC (01993 882251 or www.originalbtc.com)

Barstools For similar try London Cows (07715 467447 or www.londoncows.co.uk)

Dining chairs Panton by Vitra (020 7608 6200 or www.vitra.com)

Sofas For similar try The Sofa & Chair Co (020 8752 8935 or www.thesofaandchair.co.uk)

Coffee table and dining table For similar try custom-made designs by Simon Austen Furniture (0117 971 9842 or www.simon-austen.com)

Pendant light Custom made by Bruce Munro, as before

Media unit/cabinetry Dark wood finish and pearl grey satin lacquer, Absolute Kitchens, as before

COST

Kitchens from Absolute Kitchens start from around £15,000