



An impressive sliding window lights up this glossy, chic kitchen, complete with island and breakfast bar.

Open house

Tucked away at the back of a 1930s bungalow sits a stunning open-plan kitchen, perfect for entertaining.

PHOTOS **ANDREW LEE** WORDS **EMILY PECK**



When you first set eyes on the traditional exterior of Sally and Stuart Rae's 1930s bungalow home, the last thing you expect to see inside is a contemporary-style kitchen and family room, which is stylishly hidden at the back. This open-plan space, which flows effortlessly through glass panels doors onto a leafy back garden, is part of a new extension that the couple commissioned specifically with entertaining, work and play in mind. 'Sally and Stuart came to my studio to look at the black high-gloss kitchen we had on display,' explains Kevin Buchanan of Kitchens International, the company behind the cutting-edge kitchen design. 'After talking through the project and considering the various components the couple wished to include, we opted for the Callerton design, which is not only eye-catching and suits the modern style here, but is ergonomically efficient.'

The new extension was designed by architect Crichton Wood, whose idea was to open up the interior to the large garden and to extend the house by 3.5m in the space where a glazed conservatory stood. A problem shared by many, the conservatory had been too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer, and it had begun to collapse from the damp. Not wanting to leave their home, which they had enjoyed for 15 years, partly due to its convenient close proximity to work and large secluded garden, Sally and Stuart set about finding a solution which would suit them perfectly.

There were previously two French windows but not a huge amount of light at the back of the house, so a new extension seemed the obvious choice. To create the open-plan space a wall was knocked down, which separated the existing sitting room and kitchen. A partition wall was then added to create a utility room that leads off the

Left and above Black high gloss and Zebrano are a winning combination in this room with stylish barstools giving a touch of elegance to the island unit.

'THE IMPORTANCE OF NATURAL LIGHT SHOULD NEVER BE UNDERESTIMATED WHEN IT COMES TO DESIGN.'



A wall of integrated storage units host a high-performance set of sleek appliances, lit from above by a well-positioned, central skylight.



Above Glass panels now frame the new area and brighten up the space dramatically, with a step leading from the dining area to the kitchen, which subtly divides the two areas and increases the ceiling height in the kitchen.

Opposite top This centrepiece features a sleek and stylish induction hob and two convenient pop-up sockets and is framed by three modern bar stools where guests can sit and socialise.

Opposite below There are two access points to the garden and as the evening draws in, one can appreciate how well the two different ground floor zones blend into one another.

kitchen. This ensures that the rest of the newly created space is sleek and in keeping with the couple's desire for a minimalist look.

'As the interior is now filled with light, we were able to go with such bold finishes and accessories,' says Kevin. 'Light is critical with this design and roof lighting was also installed. Whereas Sally and Stuart rarely spent much time in their old conservatory, this new open-plan kitchen has become an essential place to relax and unwind.'

In terms of style, sleek was a key word used by Sally and Stuart Rae. 'They wanted smooth surfaces and flawless finishes so you could easily move around in the area,' says Kevin. 'We teamed Callerton Manhattan Black High Gloss units with smooth black Zodiac Vortex tops. I could have used a black high-gloss laminate but the couple preferred the softer edges of the high-gloss vinyl doors. It can show all the fingerprints, but they were willing to accept this. The Zodiac tops were used because of the practical nature of the material – it's non-porous and easy to clean. For the island unit, which features ample storage drawers, a Zebrano finish was chosen to add more interest, which is echoed in the tall unit that houses the wine cooler too. The materials used throughout were carefully chosen to blend well with the glass walls and doors, simple natural wooden floor and integrated stainless steel appliances.'

As well as the integrated wine cooler, pyrolytic oven and combination microwave, a particularly useful gadget is the downdraft extractor in the middle of the island.

Once everything was moved back in, it became very clear this family would be really pleased with their new living space. Kevin says, 'As well as offering a bright and relaxing haven in the daytime, come night time it looks spectacular from the inside and outside and is the great space for a party.'

USEFUL INFORMATION

This kitchen features Callerton Manhattan Furniture with high gloss and Zebrano finishes, £8,400; Zodiac Vortex Black worktops, £3,120; Glass wall panel including templating and installation, £1,590; Engineered timber flooring, £35 per sq. m; Micro Lynx under-wall unit lights - installation based on dry fit and including templating and installation of worktops £ 3,000; at Kitchens International.

Appliances

- KFN9755IDE fridge/freezer, £1,400; KDN9713ID fridge/freezer, £849; both at Miele.
- HB86P570B combination microwave, £1,290; HB750550B single oven, £795; HW140560B plate warmer, £434; SE64M359GB integrated dishwasher, £634; EH78S502E induction hob £1,158; KF18WA40GB built-in wine cooler, £1,320; all available at Siemens.
- DD30I extractor, £1,000; at Wolf.

Fixtures & furnishings

- ARX 160D stainless steel undermounted sink, Franke, and Oxygen monobloc tap, £824, at Gessi. All supplied by Kitchens International.

'IT'S ESPECIALLY STUNNING IN SUMMER WHEN YOU CAN OPEN THE DOORS TO THE GARDEN.'

