

Scotland on Sunday

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INTERIORS



ALL CHANG

Susan Gearing couldn't wait to spot a bit of wear and tear so she could rip out her barely used kitchen. Well, she does like a project...

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WHEN Susan Gearing thought about replacing the en-suite in her guest bedroom with a laundry room just so she could start a new project, she knew it was time to move.

Susan is a woman who relishes a project and while she has enjoyed seven years in her current home – a two-bedroom, lodge-style property in Edinburgh's Barnton area – there just isn't enough to do now.

"My neighbour owned the original house, which was initially single storey,



SLEEK LINES Clockwise from main: Susan Gearing in the dining area with her poodles, Beryl and Mabel; the kitchen features two sinks; the kitchen has been designed as a modern and sociable space

but he decided to split it over two storeys. Today I live in the former swimming pool sauna. I was the first into this lodge when it was built, and it's classed as a new build, as the original haven't been touched by tradesmen in, the standard of the modern.

While the property was renovated, it wasn't started with the en-suite the master bedroom. the bath for me was



almost open plan, so I did feel it didn't work with my living space. However, it was a brand new kitchen, so I couldn't justify changing it. I left it for three years before I did anything and then a few of the tiles cracked and a handle came off and I thought, "Brilliant, time for a new kitchen."

"I hate waste and things going into landfill, so I put the old kitchen on eBay. The appliances were only three years old and only used by me, and it felt wrong to put everything in a skip."

"I wanted a modern, sociable kitchen that was part of my living space. I'm not a big cook and I didn't especially want the kitchen to look like a kitchen. In fact, what I really wanted was a nightclub in a spaceship! Eventually I spoke to Carol Cameron at Kitchens International and she took my ideas on board."

"When Carol showed me the design there were a few tweaks, but it was the first time I'd seen what I wanted. I'd given her a colour scheme of whites and greys and a splash of colour. But really it was the way she'd planned the space. It looked like a social room, not a kitchen. Carol introduced me to the induction hob, which I adore. From a practical point of view, I've fitted two

sinks and splashed out on a Quooker tap."

Carol also suggested several recesses, which provided enough space to display items, without the space looking cluttered. The central light fitting came from Luminesse and gives a nod to the nightclub vibe.

Susan's kitchen was the icing on the cake for her home and has delivered everything she hoped for, but she has recently bought a cottage in Fife that needs to be fully renovated.

"I realised when I was seriously thinking about ripping out a perfectly good en-suite just for something to do that I really needed a new project. I'm now the proud owner of two Standard poodles, Beryl and Mabel, and I'm about to take on a major renovation project. And, whilst this area is absolutely brilliant for dog walking with Cammo and Cramond on the doorstep, I think I need a house that has a private garden and suits my more-chaotic lifestyle. An ultra-white kitchen isn't really for me now." □

King Lodge, Cammo Walk is on the market at a fixed price of £390,000; contact DMD Law (0131-316 4666, email: property@dmdpartnership.co.uk)

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