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Circ: 165,161





NEAT SPACE

A sun-filled, south-facing extension makes a stunning family kitchen.

Hilary Ford, 54, and her husband Glenn, 50, live with their two teenage children in their 1970s home in the Scottish seaside town of North Berwick. They bought the property in 2013 with the intention of renovating it and getting a large kitchen extension built at the back. Now they have a bright, airy space where they can live, cook and entertain.

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HOUSE BEAUTIFUL SAYS...

'This elegant scheme is light and bright but has enough tone to keep it interesting. Glossy surfaces create delicate reflections that make the space seem even larger.'

Why did you decide to buy a modern house?

I grew up in a cold farmhouse and our previous home was a period property. It was beautiful but the maintenance was never-ending so we decided to go for a complete change and opt for a modern property. Also we wanted a more minimalist style, and a house that feels light and spacious.

You changed the layout of the rooms

Originally the sitting room was at the back of the house, which is south-facing, and the kitchen was at the front. As we enjoyed both the light and the view of the garden we decided to swap the rooms so the kitchen is at the rear. We extended at the back and into the side return and doubled the size of the old living room.

What help did you get?

We hired architectural consultant Rick McQueenie of REM Associates. He suggested we have a roof that pitches upwards away from the building to increase the height of the glass wall and maximise the view of a nearby landmark, North Berwick Law. He also added side doors to ensure that the room never gets too hot.

Did you have a clear idea for the colour scheme?

I wanted a neutral backdrop and an accent colour. The white walls and Silestone worktops are timeless and at the moment the accent is green but it can be changed easily. To some extent the garden inspired me.

There seems to be no shortage of storage

When we planned the layout we made sure to include plenty of

generous-sized drawers and cupboards. A bespoke double pantry unit with sliding pocket doors was created as well, to house all those kitchen bits and pieces that clutter up worktops.

Are you happy with the open-plan layout?

Yes, I think it works really well and suits us as a family. I can get on with the cooking while the children do homework or watch TV.

The whole space is the focal point of the house now.

Was it easy to choose a kitchen company?

We contacted three showrooms and Kitchens International was the most responsive. Designer Heather Oliver came to see us at home and listened closely to what we wanted. Later she showed us a 3D mock-up on screen in the showroom, which was really useful and meant we could tweak the layout to get exactly what we wanted.

How long did the work take?

The kitchen was part of a renovation project involving the whole house, so it took seven months and we did move out. The windows caused a delay as we had to change our supplier halfway through. We hadn't planned to fit the kitchen until the glass was in but in the end we had to, and wrapped up the cabinets to protect them.

Everything seemed to go to plan...

Fortunately yes. Glenn and I had renovated a few other properties before we tackled this one – we make a good team and don't argue. We knew what we wanted but our architectural consultant and kitchen designer both gave us lots of helpful ideas as well.

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THE NEW LAYOUT

Now the rectangular space is divided roughly into quarters, each with a different function



GET THE LOOK

IN



Crackle vases, £25 for a set of three,

Buffalo 1 marble-effect pendant, £119.40, Dar Lighting

WHAT IT COST

Kitchen units	£11,600
Work surface	.£3,705
	.£4,355
	.£3,859
Floor tiles	
Furniture	.£6,742
Total	£31,493

Eames-inspired Peppermint dining chair with Eiffel metal legs, £69, Cult Furniture

SHOPPING LIST

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Walls in Pure Brilliant White matt emulsion, £16.97 for 2.5L, Dulux. Porcelain floor tiles, £44 a sq metre, CTD Tiles. Cubanit Gloss kitchen units by KI Collection, £219.60 for a 600mm base unit, Silestone Blanco Zeus, Leather finish worktop, £650 a sq metre; Siemens integrated dishwasher SN66M0506B, £480; Siemens EH975ME11E Panoramic hob, £953; Blanco Andano sink, £465; Hansgrohe Focus tap, £180; Zip DOMBC4 boiling and chilled water HydroTap, £3,214; Siemens KIB1RAD30 larder fridge, £1,016; Siemens HB63AB551B single oven, £727; Siemens HB34D553B combi steam oven, £1,179; all Kitchens International. Café pendants, from £66 each, Cotterell & Co. Bar stools, £70 each, Dwell. Barcelona chair, £435, A Modern World. Sofa, £4,000; Lugano TV unit, £579; Adria nest of tables, £349; all BoConcept. Butterfly chairs, £170 each, Iconic Interiors 188

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