

HOUSE SWAP

Kitchen designers Vivienne Warman and Helen Taylor have transformed a once dark and cramped kitchen into a light, contemporary and social dining-kitchen area

Words: Fiona Reid

THE CLIENTS

Angela and Andrew Dickie live in an end-of-terrace sandstone double-fronted cottage in Dumfries and Galloway in Scotland. Angela has wanted to renovate the kitchen since the couple moved into their home three years ago. She works as an architectural designer for an architectural practice in Cumbria, while Andrew works as a technical operator with Nestlé.

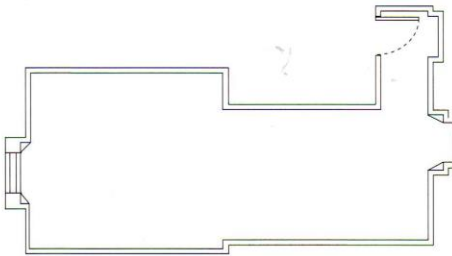
THE BRIEF

The existing kitchen doesn't have a window and is very dark, while the sitting room at the front of the house is rarely used as the couple have a large sitting and dining room on the other side of the hallway. They plan to knock through between the kitchen and the sitting room to form a much larger, more sociable kitchen, which will gain light from the front window.

The couple would like a contemporary kitchen that won't date, as well as a design which features a splash of colour. Angela likes handleless units, and would love a Corian worktop complemented by an interesting splashback finish – she has found a mirrored mosaic tiled finish that reminds her of the work of architect Antoni Gaudí.

Angela would like to incorporate an island with raised seating into her kitchen. Ideally the island would function as a prepping zone, with an extra-wide induction hob and wall-mounted oven located elsewhere. The couple plan to reuse their existing dishwasher and 60cm-wide fridge-freezer, but they intend to buy an American-style fridge-freezer in the future. The couple also have a Labrador puppy, so would like a hard-wearing floor finish that will extend through to the sunroom.

THE SPACE

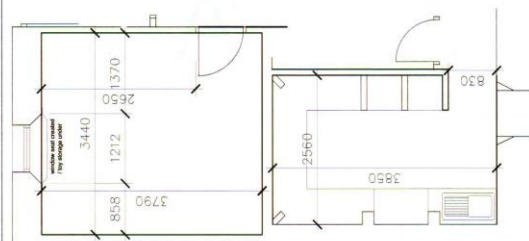


The existing kitchen measure 2.56m-wide x 3.85m-long and leads into a sunroom. This measures 3.4m-wide and is 3.8m-long, with a window to the front and a window seat incorporating storage below.

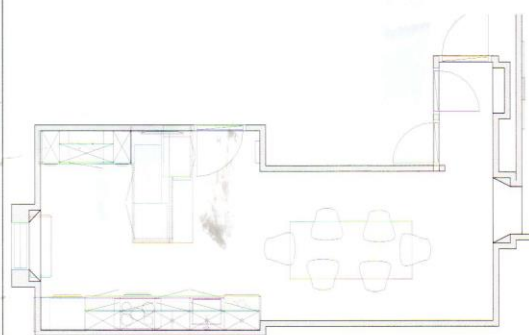
THE BUDGET

£25,000 excluding installation

Solution one



Solution two



YOUR PROJECTS

Do you have a kitchen, bedroom or bathroom project in the pipeline? If you'd like to put it to our Drawing Board designers, email sophiebaylis@taylistmedia.com and tell us more.

Solution one

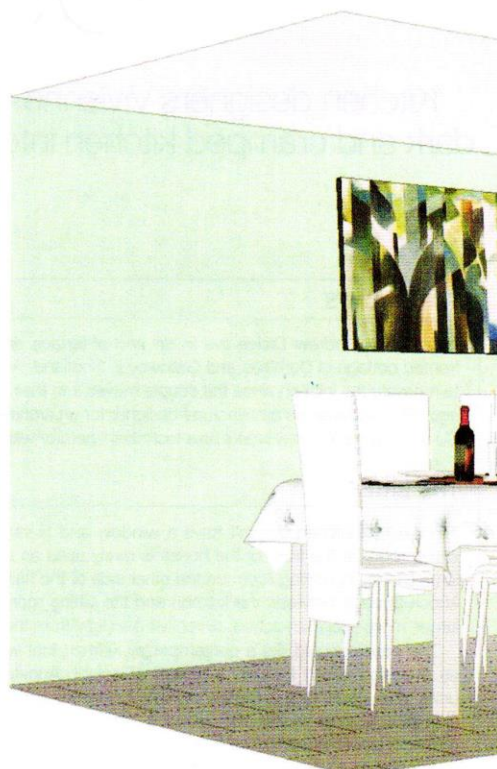
The designer



Kitchen Coordination is a London-based kitchen design studio started by Vivienne Warman 11 years ago with the aim of providing a more personal approach to kitchen design.

“Although Angela wanted an island, there was no way of fitting this into the original kitchen space, so it made sense to swap the rooms around, placing the kitchen beside the window in what was originally the sitting room and creating a new dining area where the original kitchen was,” explains Vivienne. “I know that the current dining room is in a different part of the house, but I think a dining space has to be off the kitchen, so I would relocate the dining area to this side of the house to make the space flow really nicely.”

Angela liked the idea of a handleless kitchen, so Vivienne chose a handleless Rational design in Tio, which is a high-gloss laminate. “Angela mentioned a sage green gloss, but having said that the room was dark, so I chose



a natural stone colour and then added green accents, including the watery green Corian worktop,” continues Vivienne. “The walls could be painted a very light shade of green, and Angela also specified a mosaic splashback so she could pull the colours into this, although personally I’d choose a glass splashback.”

As requested, Vivienne has given Angela a working island, which features an overhang, under which two barstools will fit. The induction hob is placed on one side of the kitchen with the sink on the other so that the island is a dedicated prepping space. Vivienne has integrated a set of undercounter bins here too.

“The first wall unit on the left-hand side is a reduced-depth storage unit because the wall steps in here, so that unit is 350mm-deep and is shelved top to bottom,” explains Vivienne. “There are also drawer units on either side of the extra-wide induction hob and I’ve built in a single oven and dishwasher. Angela mentioned re-using the existing fridge-freezer and adding an American fridge-freezer in the future, but you can’t build a space for one piece and then make it bigger afterwards. If you’re doing a kitchen, you have to get everything in one go, so I’ve put in an American fridge-freezer. I’d recommend choosing appliances from Bosch, Neff or Siemens.”

As the couple has a dog, Vivienne chose unpolished porcelain floor tiles, which is an easy surface to keep clean. “I thought the dog bowl and basket could be placed where the window seat is currently,” she concludes.

Kitchen Coordination
020 8958 6262 or www.kitchencoordination.co.uk



The specifications

Rational Raster 614 Tio	£12,000
laminate cabinets	£4000
Corian worktops	£1500
Appliances	£2000
American-style fridge-freezer	£2000
Splashback	£2000

Total £21,500

CONTACTS

Products available from Kitchen Coordination, as before.

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VIVienne WARMAN KITCHEN COORDINATION



The verdict

"I can understand why Vivienne swapped the spaces round; it makes sense to have more light with the window in the kitchen area," says Angela. "I love how Vivienne has designed the island with two stools at the end, and I like having the three pendant lights overhead. I also like the fact that the sink is away from the hob and the idea of the pale units with the light green walls. I was quite surprised that we could afford the Corian worktop and still keep within the budget, and I really like that Vivienne has also managed to include the American-style fridge-freezer, and still have money left over for the flooring and so on. I love the idea of the glass splashback as this will reflect more light. Overall, this is an interesting design and something I could imagine living with."

Solution two

The designer



Helen Taylor, senior sales designer and showroom manager at Kitchens International in Perth, has extensive kitchen design experience, and in 2014 won the *KBB Review* Retailer of the Year award.



“Angela and Andrew had some fairly definite views on what they wanted and didn't want, but most importantly with their brief they desired a brighter and more spacious kitchen space that allowed them some connection with the dining space when entertaining,” says Helen. “In choosing to open up the kitchen to the existing sitting room, the light then brightens the whole space.”

Helen chose to move the kitchen into the old sitting room, freeing up the narrower kitchen space, which perfectly suits Angela and Andrew's existing dining table. “The dining space is cosy but provides enough space and is lit well, creating an intimate dining area for guests while still being sociable with the chef,” says Helen.

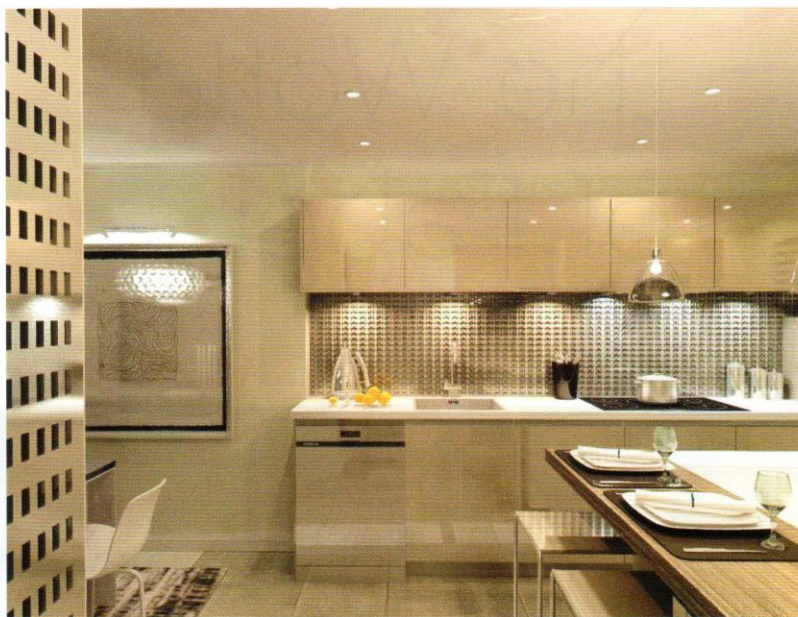
“We decided to use a peninsula with work space and breakfasting space to create the feel of a central

island without compromising on the walk space from the hallway,” she continues. “We have created a frame for Angela's existing fridge-freezer using pull-out larders and panelling that surround the appliance. The panels will be fitted so that these can be cut internally when Angela and Andrew replace their appliance with a new larger American-style fridge-freezer.”

The materials Helen suggests are sand grey gloss and white matt laminate worktops with crackled glass wall panels to appeal to Angela's love of Gaudí and maximise light. “The use of the handleless style of kitchen from a manufacturer such as Leicht will provide a contemporary, fresh kitchen but one that also remains timeless,” Helen says.

Helen has located the extra-wide induction hob from Siemens on the side wall, allowing easy access for cooking but still being very much incorporated into





The specifications

Furniture, worktops and accessories	£23,000
Radiator	£390
Total	£23,390

CONTACTS

Products available from Kitchens International, as before.

the body of the kitchen. The Siemens extractor will be concealed in a wall unit, again to minimise clutter and enhance the feeling of space. To provide even more light, Helen has chosen LED under-unit lights and a gloss wall panel to mount the TV.

"We've installed a moveable TV bracket above the peninsula so that a TV can be viewed from both ends of the room," Helen concludes. "We have suggested that the dog bed be recessed into the floor below the window as it will be out of the way from the functioning areas of the kitchen space, plus we would also install a Zehnder Garda radiator behind the door." Finally, Helen chose hard-wearing porcelain tile flooring (£36 per sq m).

Kitchens International 01738 639090 or
www.kitchensinternational.co.uk

"The dining space is cosy but provides enough space and is lit well, creating an intimate dining area for guests while still being sociable with the chef."

HELEN TAYLOR KITCHENS INTERNATIONAL

The verdict

"I love the colour of this kitchen with the white worktops. I think the worktops look really fresh and I also like the idea of the crackled glass splashback; it looks unusual and Helen's picked up on the Gaudí influence," says Angela. "I like the breakfast bar, but I prefer the other design with the bar in the middle, although I really like the fact that Helen has introduced wood on the breakfast bar, which works well with the cabinet colour. I'd have liked the built-in oven to be a bit higher, but the detail at the side with space for cookbooks is novel – it's more interesting than having a wine rack here."

"Andrew will love having the TV on the moveable bracket," she adds, "and I like the look of the radiator that's been integrated behind the door. Both designs feature porcelain tiling, but I'm concerned about the coldness of this finish, although it would be very practical with our dog. And again having the dining table here seems like a good idea. We hadn't thought about doing this, but we can see why it works. I think both these designs have been very successful."

