

CREATIVE VISION

An old Victorian school house was boldly converted into this artistic family home.

PHOTOS DAVID STILL WORDS ANNA TOBIN



White clean lines and chic steel accents give this open-plan kitchen a real sociable edge, while a raised bar behind the range hides views of food preparation from guests.



‘We opted for a simple white kitchen with few lines, so that it would flow seamlessly into the dining area.’

The large airy apartment that Jaime and Justin Cooke, their 2-year-old daughter Alberta and ten-month-old son Gibson now live in was a huge open-plan fashion photographer’s studio. But then the building the apartment is housed in has seen many reincarnations over the years. It started out life as a Victorian school house.

‘We bought the flat in 2007,’ explains Jaime. ‘It had no bedrooms, it was just a big studio space with a tiny mezzanine floor. We were renting a flat downstairs and already felt at home here. ‘When the flat above us was up for sale we bought it and moved in straightaway.’

A month later, however, Jaime, discovered that she was pregnant and they realised that they had to make their home more practical for a family. The couple both work in creative industries, Jaime is a shoe designer and founder of the ultra hip shoe brand Muks Worldwide and Justin runs a digital agency, so they relished the design challenge.

‘We realised that we really needed some bedrooms, so we sat down with a friend who is an architect and redesigned the whole place, whilst cleverly retaining the impressive high ceilings that we just couldn’t do without.’

Despite working quickly, time crept up on them, and only a month before the baby was due did they call in the kitchen designer. ‘We chose Krailler, because we knew the ➔

KITCHEN PROFILE

Owners Justin and Jaime Cooke didn’t want their new kitchen to detract from the fabulous high ceilings and huge geometric windows of their apartment, which is part of a former Victorian schoolhouse. So they chose minimalist white handleless units, topped with glossy Zimbabwe Black Granite and teamed this with chunky stainless steel appliances to create a subtle, contemporary contrast to this historic backdrop.

Kitchen: Juergen Krailler at Krailler Ltd.
Unit 13, Zennor Road Industrial Estate,
Zennor Road, Balham, London, SW12 0PS.
Tel: 020 8675 8500. krailler.com.
Krailler kitchens start from £15,000,
excluding VAT and appliances.

Above The contemporary pendant ceiling lights draw attention to the awesome, double-height ceiling. The quirky contemporary dining table fits in neatly under the window and the red chairs add accents of colour to the largely monochrome scheme.

Right The sleek stainless steel free-standing range cooker includes two large ovens and a rotisserie, perfect for entertaining large parties.



The eye-catching paintings in the dining area epitomise the couple’s creative style. Jaime found these rolled up at an antiques market and had them stretched on to contemporary style frameless canvases, which now make the perfect focal point in this large room.



Above The simple geometric kitchen units balance the sharp lines of the staircase, whilst the ceiling beams have been painted a charcoal grey and, like the Black Zimbabwe granite worktops and glossy black laquer dining table, break up the large expanses of white.

Left Bedroom storage was made from the same material as the kitchen cabinetry, giving the restored home a sense of continuity. A matching ladder provides access to the upper cupboards.

founder Juergen Krailler and we'd seen some of the work he'd done and really liked it. 'I'm from Canada and I like the spaciousness that you find there, I didn't want a property with lots of tiny rooms,' explains Jaime. 'So, we opted for a simple white kitchen with few lines, so that it would flow seamlessly into dining area.'

Krailler also designed and built the floor to ceiling wardrobes in the bedroom and hall area. They are also designed in a pure and simple form, which again helps to create the feeling of unity that runs throughout the home.

The kitchen was installed and the final touches were added to the rest of the property a month after Alberta was born. Jaime says: 'There is really nothing that we'd change. It's a great space, functional, open and bright.' ■

STOCKISTS INFORMATION

APPLIANCES

Side-by-side **fridge/freezer** SOV628ZB, £2,408, at Maytag; **Dishwasher** G5585 SCVi XXL, £1,125, at Miele; SI-10TC-DL-S 100cm Dual Fuel **range cooker**, £4,200, at Britannia; Supra 400-U twin sink, £339, master-S mini tap, £350, at Blanco.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Zimbabwe black granite **worktops**, approximately £780 per linear metre, supplied by Krailler; For similar **table lamp** to that on the sideboard, see Chrome plated Bourgie table lamp, £281, at The Conran Shop; Louis **dining table** by John Reeves, £1,395, at Heal's; Charme **dining chairs**, £610 each, at The Conran Shop; Louis **console table** by John Reeves, £695, at Heal's; For similar pendant ceiling lights, Icon Fly Suspension **lamp**, £149, at The Conran Shop.

**All prices are approximate. For stockists, see page 160.*