



The Bruckner family wanted to create a kitchen that 'didn't look like a kitchen' and this striking design certainly fits the bill and is a perfect backdrop for Raphael to run around and play guitar.

MOVABLE FEAST

This classic and very elegant kitchen, with a clever transportable island unit, makes it extremely practical too.

PHOTOS DAVID STILL WORDS ANNA TOBIN



KITCHEN PROFILE

Owners Christopher and Celine Bruckner briefed expert designers Krailler, to create a kitchen that 'didn't look like a kitchen'. Their specific tastes could really be included in the scheme. By teaming high gloss lacquer cabinets, in non-standard 70cm widths with the rare and striking Blue Louise granite from Brazil, they have created a luxurious wall of units which suited them perfectly. The innovative twin island units can be wheeled out of the way to create more room to play for the couple's three year old son Raphael, or a larger space in which to entertain guests. Kitchen: Krailler Ltd, Unit 13, Zennor Road Industrial Estate, Zennor Road, Balham, London, SW12 0PS. Tel: 020 8675 8500. krailler.com. Kitchens start from £10,000, including fitting and VAT.

Art and antique dealers Christopher and Celine Bruckner bought their two bedroom Victorian apartment in central London about a decade ago, but with their first child on the way, they decided that the time had come to completely remodel their home to make it baby friendly. 'We decided that we wanted to live differently to accommodate the baby and we totally gutted the place,' explains Christopher. We heightened doors, we moved walls and changed the whole layout of the apartment. We knew that the kitchen would be central to our new life and so we repositioned it within the apartment to create a kitchen/diner and a stylish, but practical open-plan living space.' Although the couple, wanted an easy to maintain and safe space to bring up their baby, they didn't, however, want to sacrifice the

elegance of their home. To achieve this, Christopher was adamant that the kitchen wasn't to be made up of standard kitchen units. He wanted guests to have to look twice before realising that the kitchen was at the far end of the dining room. While most standard kitchen units are 60cm wide he, for example, wanted 70cm wide pieces. An impulse purchase before he'd embarked on the new kitchen scheme proved to be the springboard for its design. 'A while ago, when we were shopping for a new bathroom, I found two huge slabs of Blue Louise granite. I love all types of stone and I just fell for this material, so I bought these pieces without knowing what I'd do with them,' Christopher recalls. The pieces were kept in storage, until he realised that they would be brilliant for the kitchen. It was after discovering that a friend's ➤

Christopher had a full size plasterboard model of the kitchen made and placed in situ, to get more of an idea of how it would work and look.



Above The couple wanted this space to truly reflect their personal tastes, so they chose to sprinkle it with stylish items from different periods of history to create a luxurious and eclectic overall scheme.

Right An elegant chandelier complements the sleek, contemporary twin island units and cabinetry while certainly adding a glamorous finishing touch.



‘The unique granite dictated the colour scheme of the kitchen units.’

kitchen that they had always admired was over 20 years old, but yet still looked as good as new, the Bruckners decided that they wanted to team the granite with a similar hardwearing high gloss lacquer, because it looked chic, but had proved itself to be very durable, as well as stylish.

Christopher and Celine were recommended to use Krailler to design and build the kitchen. The company could offer the highly bespoke service that the couple were looking for and would also welcome Christopher and Celine’s input on the actual design of the new space.

‘The granite dictated the colour scheme of the kitchen units. We were looking for a soft colour, again not too kitcheny,’ Christopher explains. The couple got in touch with Page Lacquer and discovered they had an extensive range of colours and finishes on offer.

‘Given the colours in the granite, the natural choices were white or turquoise, but we felt white would be too cold. We found a deep gloss lacquer for the unit fronts that has the look of a beaten copper structure, matching the brown tones in the stone.’

When you’re working with lacquer fronts, precision is everything, so Krailler had to ensure that the all the innards of the units ➔



The sumptuous copper coloured lacquer complements the granite by drawing out the rust tones in the exquisite stone.

Above The island preparation unit was designed on wheels and ingeniously separates into two so that they can be moved out of the way when more space is required in the room.

Right The cupboard unit alongside the sink cunningly conceals a well-loved espresso maker and toaster – inkeeping with the couple’s wish to hide all the practical elements of their new kitchen.

Far right An integrated induction hob was chosen as it sits unobtrusively in the counter top and fits in with the couple’s desire for a stylish, yet inconspicuous kitchen.



were built to very specific sizes. Before the units went into production, Christopher had a full size plasterboard model of the kitchen made and placed in situ to get more of an idea of how it would work and look.

'I used it to fine tune the design, hollowing out part of the wall so that the units could sit back further into it and not cut into the line of the window.' At this point, Christopher asked for movable middle consoles that make up the island. These units, one of which has a plug socket attached to it via an extension lead, are on wheels so that they can be moved out of the way when more floor space is required.

A refined, but sophisticated, living space that offers a safe and secure place for Raphael, who is now nearly three, to play happily in was the eagerly anticipated end result. 'Every day I look and admire it,' says Christopher. 'It's just as we wanted it to be.' ■



STOCKISTS INFORMATION

APPLIANCES

Miele induction hob KM6340, £1,292; Miele multifunction oven H4740B, £1,399; Miele dishwasher G5500 SC, £976; DeLonghi Icona 310 R Espresso maker, £135; All supplied by Krailler Ltd.

FIXTURES AND FITTINGS

Franke Triflow Doric tap, £399; Franke Ariane sink ARX 110 35, £137; all supplied by Krailler Ltd; Wall paint Teresa's Green £55 for a 5L, available at Farrow & Ball; French Oak reclaimed flooring, prices vary according to stock, available at Lasso; For similar Blue Louise granite try Pisani Lacquer – Page Lacquer.

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



The glossy cabinetry oozes a classic elegance which works well with the chic wall colour and eye-catching granite surfaces. The units reflect the natural light, which streams through the large windows.