

LIGHT & *Inviting*

Gentle greens and an abundance of daylight combine to create an oasis of this repurposed East London kitchen

PICTURES PAUL CRAIG | WORDS AMELIA THORPE





‘Previously, the ground floor was made up of a series of little rooms – now we have an open space with a light feel’

It all started with a bed. Not a large dining table, new oven or urgent need for more cupboard space – the things that so often trigger the quest for a new kitchen – but an extra bed space needed for a growing family. Explains Rachel Sylvester of the early Victorian house in East London that she shares with husband, Patrick Wintour, and their four children aged 19, 17, 11 and 8: ‘We wanted an extra bedroom, so that each child could have their own space.’

The couple ended up adding a double-height extension across one half of the back of the house, creating the new bedroom and, in the process, making room for the kitchen-dining space downstairs. ‘This was a wonderful bonus,’ says Rachel. ‘Previously, the ground floor was made up of a series of little rooms – and now we have a much more open space with a light and distinctly modern feel.’

The highlight of the extension is the super-size frameless window, which wraps around two sides, blurring the boundaries between inside and out. It was architect Jelena Cousins who designed the new configuration, cleverly reusing the old bricks from the original structure in construction of the new. Even the existing kitchen cupboards, produced by Roundhouse a couple of years before the extension, have been incorporated into the new space. ‘We loathed the idea of throwing them away, so we decided to recycle them and have reused almost all in the new space,’ says Rachel. They went back to Roundhouse to commission additional units to fill the larger room, plus a new island and worktops. ‘It’s a room where we like to cook and entertain, so the island works well – I can be cooking while friends are having a drink sitting on the bar stools,’ she says.

The classic cabinetry is painted in a light green-blue, teamed with accents of oak. ‘Together, they set a calm, restful mood that makes the most of the beautiful natural light in here,’ she says. ‘For a project that started off about needing the room for an extra bed, the result is so very much better than ever expected.’ **EKBB**

SOFT AND SERENE
Above Classic Shaker-style cabinetry features a simple cornice and Frog Leg handles in brushed steel

GO WITH THE GRAIN
Oak details provide contrast – from the island top and weathered bar stools against the blue-green painted finish of the cabinets, to the open shelves which lighten the look of the row of wall cupboards





Kitchen profile

Roundhouse Classic Painted bespoke furniture painted in Farrow & Ball Teresa's Green sets a tranquil scene in this light-filled kitchen. Teamed with a work surface of Silestone Tigris Sand and centre island topped in Wholestave oak, with reclaimed oak floor and weathered oak bar stools, the natural colours echo those of the garden, the views of which are enjoyed through the frameless picture windows.

ROUNDHOUSE
11 Wigmore Street, London,
W1U 1PE. Tel 020 7297 6220.
roundhousedesign.com
Roundhouse bespoke kitchen
prices start from £35,000.

Architecture by Cousins & Cousins,
Linton House, 39-51 Highgate Road,
London, NW5 1RT.
Tel 020 7482 4009.
cousinsandcousins.com



PERFECT BLEND

A worktop of Silestone Tigris Sand quartz surface for the sink area is non-porous and hardwearing. Its shade was chosen to blend in with the colours of the room

BRIGHT IDEAS

Modest Toldbod white glass pendant lights by Louis Poulsen are each hung on a teal coloured fabric cable



**FRAMELESS
BEAUTY**

The L-shaped window creates a focal point for the house and blurs the boundaries between interior and exterior



**DELIGHTFUL
DINING**

The island marks the boundary between the old galley kitchen, left, and dining room on the right. Now the family can sit, socialise and enjoy the garden views

‘We reused many elements from the original framework of the home such as window frames and bricks, and also repurposed the existing kitchen cabinetry’



JELENA COUSINS
DIRECTOR,
COUSINS & COUSINS
ARCHITECTS



How did you begin the project?

In order to create the new bedroom on the first floor, it made sense to extend out at the back of the house. This then created an opportunity to introduce much more light into the ground floor and open up the space to make it better suited to modern busy family life. We agreed with Rachel and Patrick to knock down the wall between the existing small, galley kitchen and separate dining room, combining and extending the rooms to create a

single, larger, open-plan space which let in the maximum light.

Can you tell us about the large window?

We wanted to create a room that was as bright as possible. A column is slightly set back from the corner to take the load from the floor above, assisted by a system of concealed beams. This allowed us to design a large window to wrap around the two sides, for a frameless look. A sliding door on one side, offers access to the garden.

And how did you choose the materials?

We reused many elements from the original framework of the home, such as the window frames on the first floor and bricks throughout the structure. We also repurposed the original kitchen cabinetry. We used the same reclaimed oak flooring throughout and chose a timber to match other areas of the ground floor: it is reclaimed pine, which has been whitewashed and oiled for a natural, semi-matt finish.



SEAMLESS STYLE

A sliding door
affords easy access
to the garden from
the new glazed
dining area



Stockists

APPLIANCES

Similar **oven**, B14P42N3GB, £613; Similar **gas hob**, T62S26S1, £300; S51E50X1GB fully integrated **dishwasher**, £398, all Neff. Cube 90 **extractor**, £529, Elica. Similar freestanding **fridge-freezer**, KG34NVI30G, £657, Siemens.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Eiger tap, £209; Kubus KBX 110-55 undermounted stainless steel **sink**, £371; both Franke. Wholestave oak island **worktop**; Silestone Tigris Sand **worktop and upstand**; White glass **splashback**, all priced to order, Roundhouse. Whitewashed and oiled pine reclaimed **floor**, priced to order, Reclaimed Flooring Company. Weathered oak **stools**, £145 each, Cox & Cox. Toldbod glass **pendant lamps**, £210 each; PH4/3 pendant lamp (above dining table), £350, all Skandium. Many lighting suppliers sell decorative cable and braid for hanging pendant lights, or try Lamps and Lights for a good selection of colours. Eames DSR **chairs**, £223 each, The Conran Shop. Try After Noah for a similar vintage oak refectory **table**.

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 154