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INTERIOR DESIGNER Kitchen

Every detail from the functional layout, tonal colour scheme and luxury appliances combine to make this kitchen a success

PHOTOS TOM MANNION | FEATURE EMMA FOALE

Behind the doors of this Victorian home in central London is a converted kitchen which has been completely transformed by making two and a half rooms into one large kitchen dining space. The traditional style room was narrow so it was given a classic yet contemporary lift with its inviting interior design by Melanie Rademacher of Mena Interiors. She explains, 'While there was an established layout, we updated the flow and allowed the rooms to be bigger and more suited to family living.' The young, international and professional couple who live here with their two children, ages 9 and 7, have lived all over the world, but are now happily settled in their London home, created so they can take time to relax from their busy lives.

By collaborating with both the owners and Laurence Pidgeon, who designed the kitchen, Melanie has ensured the interior works equally well as a cooking, dining or welcoming entertaining space. Choosing light colours and materials – for example the walls are in a pale taupe shade – allowed Melanie to use highlights of dark charcoal, while the traditional parquet flooring and Carrara marble are kept light to enhance the overall bright and airy feel. The contemporary styling is complemented by state-of-the-art appliances including a Liebherr fridge-freezer and Miele Teppanyaki and hob to satisfy the owner's (who also love cooking Asian-inspired food) entertaining needs.

What makes this an inspiring project is the harmonious way that a luxury and hardworking kitchen has become a welcoming and sociable room for all the family. It combines essential storage space with a light and well-planned layout that makes the most of the best features of the kitchen. Melanie has successfully brought out the potential of this space and she comments, 'The courtyard between the kitchen and dining areas was essential to allow the opportunity to bring the outside in and then make it a great vista through, allowing interaction between the rooms.' **EKBB**



Melanie Rademacher

MENA INTERIORS
As the driving force behind Mena Interiors, Melanie has a passion for both design and architecture. Mena Interiors is renowned for providing a personal and tailor-made service for each client. They specialise in high-end residential projects, both new build and refurbishments.



OPEN LAYOUT

The overall feel of the kitchen and dining space is light and welcoming. The island allows the couple to cook while interacting with the children in the TV area. The island has drawers under the hob, for utensils as well as pots and pans. On the far side is an integrated bread slicing machine that gets used for different types of slicing from bread to ham and meat. On the opposite side are cupboards that store the main glasses for guests

PROJECT DETAILS

KITCHEN CABINETRY Häcker **COOKER HOOD** Custom made by Laurence Pidgeon **WORKTOP** Carrara Marble **SINK** Bingara steel sink **TAPS** Dornbracht Madison mixer with pull out spray and a Quooker hot tap **FITTED UNITS** Laurence Pidgeon Design **HOB AND TEPPANYAKI** Miele **FRIDGE-FREEZER** Liebherr **KITCHEN TABLE AND CHAIRS** Knoll table with custom top. Thonet chairs **DINING TABLE AND CHAIRS** Check dining table by Flexform, Hans Wegner Wishbone chair **OVENS** Miele **DINING LIGHTING** FONTANA Arte Flute Suspensioe **KITCHEN LIGHTING** LICHTimRaum pendants (Germany) **FLOORING** Parquet with custom stain Walking on Wood **CURTAINS** Romo fabrics **DRESSER** Dining room joinery custom made by Mystic Wood **PAINT** STONE 3A from Papers & Paints **FIREPLACE** Chesney's **TELEVISION** Samsung **BANQUET SEATING** Linen from Zimmer+Rohde **INTERIOR DESIGN** Mena Interiors

SEATING

Comfort and flexibility were important factors in creating a sociable kitchen-living area. A corner bench has been placed next to the window, and provides an ideal place for the children to sit and do their homework. The Banquet is covered in a thick linen from Zimmer+Rohde

FRIDGE-FREEZER

A large double-door fridge-freezer from Liebherr provides plenty of space for the family's food, and includes wine storage. It's also positioned so it's easily accessible from wherever you are in the kitchen

PREP AREA

The couple are avid cooks and enjoy creating Asian-inspired food. Atop the Carrara marble work surface there's a Teppanyaki cooktop and a Classical 750mm five-burner gas hob with a two dual wok burner, both from Miele

FIREPLACE

A Chesney's fireplace creates a warming feature at the centre of this space. The flue was already in situ so all that needed to be done was to raise the opening so that it could be visible



Q&A

How did you begin with translating the client's brief into reality? We took two and a half rooms and made them into one large kitchen dining space to create a sociable family area that the children can enjoy too.

How have you combined classic and modern elements? The table is a classic Knoll table (with a rectangular top) and the chairs are classic as well but earlier (Thonet). While the units also have a classical feel, all the other details such as extractor, main tap and the appliances are modern.

Did you come across any challenges and how did you overcome them? While a wonderful and inviting space, it was narrow so we needed to ensure that we maximised all aspects within the kitchen.

How important was it to create a light and spacious kitchen? Very important, so the courtyard between the kitchen and dining room was essential to allow the opportunity to bring the outside in and then make it a great vista through, allowing some interaction between the rooms.

How was the layout of the kitchen, with a central island, decided? The island allows the client to cook while interacting with the TV area. The fridge was positioned so that everyone could get to it easily.

Tell us about your choice of low-hanging pendant lighting above the dining areas. In the evening this brings a nice mood, allowing the client to dim down or even switch off the ceiling spots.

How did you choose the colour scheme? The colour scheme is consistent through the house, with light shades of taupe/grey and then highlights of a darker charcoal colour. The pale stone and floor keep the room feeling open and airy.

How did you bring your personal style to this room? The client and I both liked similar styles so it made it very easy for me to propose details that I'd like as well. It was essential to have a light and airy but cosy feeling.

'I always try for as much storage as possible. You can never have enough'

DINING AREA
Low hanging pendant lighting above the table sets the right mood. The Check dining table by Flexform is surrounded by Hans J. Wegner dining chairs. While the custom-made dresser joinery by Mystic Wood sets off the room and provides beautiful display storage for treasured china and glassware. It also allows the room to feel bigger as the eye looks through the glass to the back of the cabinets

