

KITCHEN FOCUS

IN THE BALANCE

Combining traditional and modern styles was a challenge for Emily and Tom Harrington when they planned their kitchen renovation

FEATURE MELANIE WHITEHOUSE | PHOTOGRAPHY PAUL CRAIG

PROJECT DETAILS

OWNERS Emily and Tom Harrington and their two teenage daughters
HOUSE A period flint and brick home in a Hampshire town
WORK Changing the layout to improve the flow and the light, which involved moving and recreating the kitchen to suit modern family life

Emily and Tom Harrington's stunning country house was a mix of 19th-century and 1980s architecture with a small kitchen and no room to entertain. 'It felt disproportionate to the size of the house,' explains Emily. 'We needed to switch around the space next to it – a library – and open up the area. In doing this, we vaulted the ceiling into the kitchen, which created a sense of space and light.'

THE BRIEF

The Harringtons met Keith Myers of The Myers Touch when they called in at the Winchester showroom. 'We were using another kitchen designer and it wasn't coming together, so we talked to Keith and his passion and flair for kitchen design was instantly clear,' says Emily. 'We decided that he could make our dream kitchen happen.'

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Working in collaboration with Adam Knibb Architects, the Harringtons asked Keith to design a contemporary family kitchen-dining space with a classic edge. 'We needed a place for everything so that it would be uncluttered and functional,' says Emily. 'The design also had to complement the rest of the house and make the most of our wonderful views to the rear.' An L-shaped kitchen was the answer.

'The large central island is the key focal area,' says Keith. 'The front houses the dishwasher, sink, bin and drawers. The side contains storage and the back has space for bar stool seating.' Clever design tricks include the angled handle profile of the cupboards giving the illusion of the worktop floating on top of the island, with a similar illusion created by the set-back plinths below.

MATERIALS USED

'We used a complementary mix of contemporary and classic cabinetry,' says Keith. 'The lofty period ceiling allowed us to include high-level glazed cabinets for storage, reached by a sliding ladder.' The marble-effect worktop and splashback give a classic look, while the flat, sleek SieMatic SLX cabinetry with Smoked Oak veneer and the island offer modern contrasts.

FINISHING TOUCHES

'For a soft, contrasting finish, I added a dresser to cover an old doorway,' says Keith. 'Shaker-style furniture is used with open shelving that fits neatly into the dresser walls.' A large dining table was created using a seamless, 12mm Dekton worktop on a custom-made steel frame.

LESSONS LEARNT

'It was crucial to find a designer who understood what we were trying to achieve,' says Emily. 'Keith takes a holistic approach and he dug deeply into how we wanted to interact as a family in the space. We're delighted with the delicate blend of traditional and modern, and the light. It feels welcoming and homely but also modern and stylish.' 25

REACHING HIGH

A row of glazed cabinets is accessed by a ladder, which slides along a rail and tucks into a niche when not in use. F-II-01 lean-to rolling library ladder, price on request, MM Furniture



SMART CONTRASTS
The dark hues in the smoked wood surfaces are offset by the lighter tones of the Shaker-style cabinet doors and the sleek white worktops. SieMatic SLX cabinetry with Smoked Oak veneer, from £35,000, The Myers Touch

COMING TOGETHER

To soften and bring interest to the space, kitchen designer Keith Myers added a dresser with dark-toned inset open shelving, which offers a practical surface, extra storage and an eye-catching area for display. The Harringtons wanted a large dining table, and Keith designed this one combining a slab of worktop with a bespoke steel frame. 'It cohesively pulls together the kitchen, dining and entertaining scheme,' he says. Tabletop, splashback and main worktop in Bergen marble effect, price on request, Dekton. Bespoke Shaker doors, price on request, The Myers Touch. Cupboard doors in Opus 147 pure flat emulsion, £51 for 2.5ltr, Paint & Paper Library. Smoked Bronze pull bar handles, from £66 each, Buster + Punch. Yukon worktop (on island), price on request, Silestone. H7860BP ovens, £3,749 each, Miele. Custom-made extractor in Light Patina Zinc, Westin. Black boiling water tap, £1,490, Quooker. Nordic Modern Creative concise style glass pendant light, £240, Frisson Life, has this look. Similar wooden chopping boards, £22.50 each, Nkuku