

KITCHEN FOCUS

ONE FOR ALL

A space where everyone could come together to eat, drink and chill was what Karolina and Thomas Norlin wanted and they got just that

FEATURE AMELIA THORPE | PHOTOGRAPHY PAUL CRAIG

PROJECT DETAILS

OWNERS Karolina and Thomas Norlin and their sons, Algot, 21, Elov, 19, and Axel, 12
HOUSE A five-bedroom new build in Berkshire
WORK New kitchen as part of the build project

Unable to find a house with the ideal layout to suit their family life, Karolina and Thomas Norlin decided to build one themselves – purchasing a plot of land and commissioning Croft Homes to complete the project. ‘We wanted a large open-plan kitchen/living/dining room where we could all get together with friends,’ says Karolina. ‘I didn’t want a series of smaller rooms that would never be used.’ With building underway, the couple followed up a recommendation to meet with kitchen design company The Myers Touch.

THE BRIEF

‘I enjoy interior design, so I had developed a clear idea of the traditional-meets-modern look I wanted to achieve,’ recalls Karolina. ‘We love to cook and entertain, so a big island was essential as somewhere to prepare food while socialising.’ The couple also enjoy visiting vineyards on their travels and wanted a glass-fronted wine presentation cabinet to chill their favourite bottles. ‘The display brings back great memories,’ she adds.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

‘The island is the focal point of the design, with tall units set against two walls – one to house the wine cabinet and fridge, the other the built-in ovens and coffee machine – all in easy reach,’ explains Keith Myers, managing director of The Myers Touch. The tall cupboards run towards the ceiling, their elegant coving drawing the eye upwards and accentuating the height of the space. The hob is positioned at the centre of the cooking zone, with an extractor concealed in cupboards above, while the all-in-one tap and sink are positioned close by on the island.

MATERIALS USED

Painted in a rich lead grey with the island in deep blue for contrast and definition, the timeless Shaker-style in-frame cabinetry features smooth, rounded handles in brushed brass. The warm metal accents are echoed in the choice of tap and the statement light fitting, while the crisp white marble-effect quartz worktops and splashback add a clean, modern finish. As a nod to Karolina and Thomas’ Swedish roots, they chose white wood-effect floor tiles. ‘They lighten and lift the room,’ notes Karolina.

FINISHING TOUCHES

As this room is used for relaxing with friends, lighting plays a key part in creating a softer evening mood. Integrated lighting in the wine cabinet casts a gentle glow, as do built-in lights in the high-level glazed cabinets in the cooking area. Downlights in the ceiling and above the hob provide practical task lighting, while the chandelier by Jonathan Adler adds a touch of glamour.

LESSON LEARNT

‘Lots of careful planning and thinking at the outset of the project paid off well,’ says Karolina. ‘Now we enjoy the combination of beauty and practicality.’ 25

ENTERTAIN THIS

Four seating spaces were created in the island for informal get-togethers. A built-in wine fridge caters for a crowd. Bespoke cabinetry in Farrow & Ball’s Plummet and Hague Blue; kitchen prices from £35,000, The Myers Touch



REFRESHING PALETTE
 Echoing the blue tones of the island, the dining area also includes pops of zingy green to introduce a fresh feel.
 Eichholtz Remington dining table, £3,800; Abstract painting 10, £285, both Sweetpea & Willow

GREAT CONNECTION

Designed for entertaining, the open-plan space features kitchen, living and dining zones with folding sliding doors that allow open access to the terrace. Bespoke hand-painted in-frame **cabinetry** in Farrow & Ball's Plummet and Hague Blue; **kitchen** prices from £35,000, The Myers Touch. KM7697FL **induction hob**, £2,899, Miele. Gruppo Incasso built-in **extractor hood**, from £593, Falmec. HB478GCB6B **oven**, £919; CP465AGBoB compact **microwave** with steam function, £1,179; CT836LEB6 **coffee machine**, £2,249; BI630DNS1B **warming drawer**, £579; SX87Y801BE fully integrated **dishwasher**, £1,259, all Siemens. RF610ADX5 French door **fridge freezer**, £2,299, Fisher & Paykel. Teca TE-BH10 **wine cabinet**, £6,630, Wine Storage Solutions. Silestone Eternal Calacatta Gold quartz surface **worktops** and **splashback**, £11,450, The Myers Touch. Tree-Age White porcelain **floor tiles**, 10x70cm, £44.10sq m, Minoli. Fusion Round hot, cold, boiling, chilled sparkling **tap** in Gold finish, £3,170, Quooker. Subline 500-U **sink** in Silgranit White, £682, Blanco. Meurice Rectangle **chandelier** in brass, £1,595, Jonathan Adler. Similar bar **chairs**, from a selection, Sweetpea & Willow. Similar **curtain fabric**, Petrona in Blue, £105m, Jane Churchill