

Full-width, floor-to-ceiling doors offer easy access to the landscaped garden; a popular place for all in the Davies' household.

Feature by **Amelia Thorpe** Photography by **Darren Chung**

# go with the flow

The Davies family-of-five now has the dream space in which to relax thanks to clever planning and exceptional expert input.



It was such a surprise to hear a friend recommend a construction firm so highly that Maggie and Simon Davies hired Innovation Interiors on the spot. "I've never heard anyone rave about a building company as much," recalls Maggie, who was just starting a big project to extend the kitchen in her south London home.

Steven and Alan Salter of Innovation Interiors began work on the extension of the Victorian property. "It was an unexpectedly complicated job as there were lots of tricky issues about drains and boundaries," recalls Maggie. She continues, "However, they sorted it all out without cutting corners, and finished the job in a matter of months."

The kitchen was previously long, narrow and had a lean-to sunroom at one end that was used as the family dining area, but the couple were fed up with its uncomfortable layout. "It was my real bugbear," says Maggie. "I liked everything else about the house but hated falling over everyone at meal times," she adds. The answer was to create an enlarged room across the entire width of the rear, making way for cooking, dining and living areas and include floor-to-ceiling glass doors to the garden beyond. With children, Lara (ten), Natalya (8) and Jasper (5), plus Maisy, the cat, Maggie wanted a spacious, clutter-free and easy-functioning room as the hub of their home.



**above left** Maggie adores her new and open-plan hub of the home where entertaining guests is not only effortless but always a real pleasure.

**top** The rubbed walnut table extends to seat ten and, teamed with chic chairs and cheerful artwork, makes for a charming place to dine all year round.

**above** Dining alfresco, whether for casual brunches or busy family barbecues, can be done so in comfort due to smart, teak furniture and a spacious patio.

**opposite page** A setting for all times of day; morning coffee can be taken at the breakfast bar while the sofa is a relaxed evening essential.

## kitchen profile

Custom-coloured slate-grey Panama gloss lacquer furniture by Complex for Kitchen Central brings sleek, contemporary looks to this open-plan cooking, dining and living room. The chic scheme is given warmth with smooth concrete-brown CaesarStone and stained oak worktops plus a rich walnut floor while a solid oak dining table and chocolate-toned suede sofa add everyday comfort and practicality.

**Kitchen Central, 19 Carnwath Road, London SW6 3HR.**  
**Tel: 020 7736 6458. [www.kitchencentral.co.uk](http://www.kitchencentral.co.uk)**  
 Expect to pay from £10,000.





The couple chose Kitchen Central to design and build the new kitchen furniture, after meeting designer Bruce Sizeland. "Rather than limiting us to three or four standard ranges, they had lots of possibilities that could be mixed and matched," explains Maggie. "Best of all, the lacquer finish could be made to any shade," she enthuses. It's a particular speciality of Kitchen Central, as Bruce explains. "We like to put a palette of hues together for each client with choices of materials, to show how they might combine with their desired flooring, for example. Colours are from the international RAL system, so the lacquered doors can be made to literally any one you want."

Maggie and Simon chose a mix of slate-grey lacquer units and concrete-brown composite worktops for a contemporary mix, set against white painted walls and dark wooden flooring. Brighter notes have been added through their favourite accessories and prints.

"We love art, so we wanted a simple, neat look to provide an unfussy backdrop to our paintings," says Maggie. The streamlined island ensures that the walkways into the kitchen from the entrance hall and out to the garden beyond are uninterrupted.

"The new layout means that we use the entire ground floor much more and there's plenty of room for us all," says Maggie. The dining table was made specially to be able to extend to accommodate ten people, so friends are always welcome, too.

It has been such a success that Maggie has asked Innovation Interiors to refurbish other rooms in the house, all to her designs. "The kitchen worked out even better than I could have ever imagined," she says. "Plus, we were able to live in the house throughout the project which was only possible because Steve and Alan managed it so efficiently," she adds. And, much like her friend, Maggie has been singing their praises and they are now working for her neighbours too. ■

**above left** Plump cushions and fresh flowers add accents of vibrancy while steps lead to the sophisticated lounge used for quiet adult time.

**top & above** Both the linear Küppersbusch hood and flush-fitting Smeg hob were chosen for their powerful performance and good looks.

## useful information

All **construction work**, price on application, at Innovation Interiors. **Tel: 020 7639 8888. www.innovationinteriors.co.uk**

### Appliances

Single **oven**, £653; combi **microwave**, £974; **extractor hood**, from £2065, at Küppersbusch. **Tel: 01235 821288. www.kuppersbuschuk.co.uk**

PGF95F-2 flush fitting **gas hob**, around £728, at Smeg UK. **Tel: 0870 442 4452. www.smeguk.com**

Dualit two slice **toaster**, around £50, at John Lewis. **Tel: 0845 604 9049. www.johnlewis.com**

### Fixtures & furnishings

Various **cushions**, from £49 each, at Designers Guild. **Tel: 020 7351 5775. www.designersguild.com**

Concrete Brown **CaesarStone worktops** and wenge **oak worktop**, priced to order; Complex **stools**, £294, at Kitchen Central. **See kitchen profile for details.**

BlancoZerox 700-U stainless steel **sink**, £384, at Blanco. **Tel: 020 8452 3399. www.blanco.co.uk**

Inox **tap** with pull-out spray, £612, at KWC. **Tel: 01992 708335. www.kwc.co.uk**

Boiling water **tap**, around £752, at Quooker. **Tel: 020 7923 3355. www.quooker.com**

Aalto **sofa**, from £1439, at Sofa Workshop. **Tel: 01798 345345. www.sofaworkshop.co.uk**

Edge **dining table**, from £1650, at Berry Design. **Tel: 01635 255352. www.berrydesign.co.uk**

Walnut **flooring**, £90 per sq. m., at Wood Floor Studio. **Tel: 020 7371 9090. www.woodfloors.co.uk**

Cape **dining chairs**, £110 each, at Heal's. **Tel: 020 7636 1666. www.heals.co.uk**

Leda **pendants**, from around £60 each; Sweeping **fan**, from around £86, at Mr. Resistor. **Tel: 020 8874 2234. www.mr-resistor.co.uk**

Various **art**, at Flowers Central. **Tel: 020 7439 7766. www.flowerseast.com** or The Affordable Art Fair. **Tel: 020 8246 4848. www.affordableartfair.co.uk**

Henley **garden dining chairs**, from around £190 each; matching Henley **garden dining table**, from around £650, at Indian Ocean. **Tel: 020 8675 4808. www.indian-ocean.co.uk**