

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

feeling fresh

Soft blues and lots of natural light create a restful mix in this contemporary kitchen; an ideal retreat for its busy owner – a well-travelled professional.



Patricia Jamieson is celebrating. Not only is she standing in her freshly completed kitchen and feeling good, “I’m very happy with the whole space,” she explains, she has also just heard that she’s been awarded an OBE for services to industry. Unsurprisingly, she is in the mood to throw open her doors and have a party.

Her new kitchen and dining area is just the spot for relaxed entertaining, but it hasn’t always been this way. Once half the size, it was squashed into a small square room, which had been added on to the south London Victorian house just before Patricia bought it in 1987. “The estate agent had warned me that having such a small kitchen would be a liability when and if I come to sell the house,” explains Patricia. “People want large, open-plan settings, not a tiny boxed-in room,” she adds.

left Black glass brings bold accents to the pale cabinetry and offer an in vogue contrasting look.

above A bespoke, hi-tech computer station allows Patricia to work from home with total efficiency.



above The BlancoCurzon tap has a pull-out spray to make washing food or dishes an easy task.

left The powerful extractor ensures the open-plan setting is free from cooking smells while its slanting angles cleverly echo those of the skylight above.



above With a passion for gadgets, Jamie chose the handy coffee machine that's smartly housed in a tall unit with combination microwave below.

below The sleek glass splashback accentuates the tones of the Bross Blue granite worktop perfectly.



This chat with the estate agent set Patricia and her 20-year-old student son, Jamie, thinking. Instead of simply replacing the old, falling-apart units, they began to dream up a long-term plan. Extending the kitchen width ways over the former patio would double its size and link the space with the reception rooms on one side and garden on the other. "We knew it would be a worthwhile investment in the property and a much more comfortable space to live in," explains Patricia.

As a senior sugar buyer with responsibility for regulatory issues, Patricia's life is a busy one. She travels extensively, (a two week schedule might include a visit to Brussels, two days in Fiji, before she heads off to Africa), so her first step was to find a responsible kitchen designer who could take charge of the project from start to finish.

Following up a recommendation, Patricia met Vivienne Warman at Kitchen Co-ordination, whose skill in design even extends to tip-top sourcing of lighting, flooring and furniture.

After an initial visit to meet Patricia and Jamie at their home, Vivienne returned a week later laden with samples of doors, tiles and granite. Noting Patricia's collection of blue and gold antique Mason's Ironstone jugs and vases, and the fabrics chosen to decorate her living room, Vivienne suggested using pale-blues as the inspiration for the kitchen. It was an instant hit. "We liked it straight away," remembers Jamie, who encouraged Patricia to go for clean-lined looks throughout. "We wanted something totally different to the traditional, Shaker-style furniture that we always had before," he adds.



left The custom-made staircase leads from the reception room that's ideal for post-dinner drinks.

above A pretty chandelier adds a touch of femininity and glamour to the strong design.



kitchen profile

Wide glass doors and skylights provide maximum natural light in this chic kitchen and dining area by Kitchen Co-ordination while reflective surfaces and pale tones enhance the fresh feel. Sleek Rational Whisper Blue Sigma high gloss furniture is combined with a sky-blue glass splashback, polished Bross Blue granite worktops and a Cracked Ice glass-topped serving area to complete the restful, good looks.

Kitchen Co-ordination, 81 Penshurst Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 9TT. Tel: 020 8958 6262. www.kitchencoordination.co.uk
Expect to pay from £8000.



above A cheerful place to entertain in all through the year, the dining area opens on to the garden beyond.



above right An understated serving area offers extra storage and is invaluable during parties.

Practicality became their next focus of attention. Vivienne designed most of the furniture with easy-use drawers, as her client finds bending and kneeling difficult. "It's made a big difference to me," says Patricia. "How much more sensible to pull out a drawer than to struggle to find something at the back of a low cupboard," she adds. Magic corners and a large larder unit are other access aids.

The island is designed as a workstation and includes a sink, dishwasher and a wide preparation surface. "I've got a bit of a thing about worktops – it's very important to me that there's enough," says Patricia. This is due to the fact that, when she returns from her travels, Patricia adores cooking. "Chopping vegetables is very relaxing," she says while catching up with her emails at the specially designed computer station before moving to the dining table overlooking her tidy garden. The soft colour scheme, spacious feel and ample natural light creates a soothing mix. "It's such a restful place to be – I absolutely love it," she concludes. ■

useful information

Whisper Blue Sigma **cabinetry**, price on application, at Rational. **Tel: 01543 459459. www.rational.de**

Appliances

KM406 **gas wok burner**, from around £584;
KM5731 **induction hob**, from around £1055;
CVA4085 **coffee machine**, from around £1587,
at Miele. **Tel: 01235 554455. www.miele.co.uk**

S20XMF-5 90cm wide **oven**, £795, at Smeg UK.
Tel: 0870 442 4452. www.smeguk.com

GC23 **fridge freezer**, around £1640, at GE.
Tel: 0800 731 8657. www.lsy-appliances.co.uk

Bogart **extractor hood**, £670, at Elica.
Tel: 01252 351111. www.elica.co.uk

SHV55M03 **dishwasher**, £540, at Bosch.
Tel: 0870 727 0446. www.boschappliances.co.uk

Fixtures & furnishings

BlancoCurzon pull-out **spray tap**, £204, at Blanco.
Tel: 020 8452 3399. www.blanco.co.uk

Graffito Amberes porcelain **floor tiles**, around £34 per sq. m., at Tiles & Baths Direct. **Tel: 020 8202 2223. www.tilesandbathsdirect.co.uk**

ARX160 **sink**, from around £234, at Franke.
Tel: 0161 436 6280. www.franke.co.uk

Blue glass **splashback**, £150 per sq. m., Cracked Ice **glass shelf**, priced to order, at Glass Express.
Tel: 020 7828 6046. www.glassexpress.co.uk

Bross Blue granite **worktop**, around £450 per sq. m., at Livra. **Tel: 020 8944 8837. www.livra.co.uk**

Pod pendant **lights**, from around £89 each, at Adrian Sankey Designer Makers.
Tel: 01539 433039. www.glassmakers.co.uk

Laud **dining table**, from around £1931; Lilly leather **dining chairs**, around £70 each, at Home Frenzy.
Tel: 0870 720 0098. www.homefrenzy.com

Jewel **chandelier**, from around £80, at John Lewis.
Tel: 0845 604 9049. www.johnlewis.com

Suspended glass **staircase**, prices are available on application, at Crawford Glass.
Tel: 020 8520 4494. No website available.