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Shaker-style kitchens you'll love

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Feature by Hayley Gilbert  
Photography by Darren Chung

# changing spaces

At the heart of this 1950s Surrey home, a once badly designed kitchen has been transformed to meet all the needs of a family of five.



## kitchen profile

Solid oak and sky-blue hand-painted units are teamed with black appliances and Steel Grey granite worktops to give this Manhattan design from Crabtree a sophisticated and timeless look. The owners had an extensive wish-list, which included an island, a large seating area and ample storage, so they called in the experts to help them create the kitchen of their dreams.

Crabtree Kitchens, 17 Station Road, Barnes, London SW13 0LF.  
Tel: 020 8392 6955. [www.crabtreekitchens.co.uk](http://www.crabtreekitchens.co.uk)  
Kitchens cost from around £25,000.



Perfect for casual family meals as well as entertaining friends, the new dining area accommodates six comfortably.



If kitchens are the hub of the home then Lorraine and Paul Masterson have got it sussed, for theirs is a warm, welcoming space that's perfect for every occasion. Whether it's laying on a lavish dinner party or spending cosy nights in with the family, this room has it all. When you've three children under nine years old you need all the space you can get. "We've lived here for seven years," says Lorraine, "and the kitchen was the first thing we wanted to change. It was poorly designed with the oven, fridge and dishwasher all crammed into one corner and, as Paul and I both love cooking, we were constantly bumping into each other so it had to go."

After discussing their ideal kitchen the couple drew up a list of everything they wanted to incorporate. They had planned to extend the original space, which was lucky as Lorraine was reluctant to reduce her large wish-list. "We desperately needed more storage and a large dining area. Paul had always wanted an island. We couldn't see how to make it all work," she says.

After a thorough study of showrooms and brochures, they chose local specialists Crabtree Kitchens. Andrew Stone, design consultant, worked closely with architect Perry Barnes to create an open-plan kitchen/diner that fulfilled all their needs. "My brief was to produce an interesting kitchen suitable for family living," says Andrew. "It's actually a very large room but we had to be creative when it came to fitting everything in."

During the extension work the original windows were repositioned and resized to

introduce maximum light into the room. Then the original, single-glazed white metal frames were replaced with sleek, black, double-glazed versions. "We didn't want to compromise the look of the house," says Lorraine, "as what works on the inside doesn't necessarily work on the outside. It's these sympathetic things that really make the difference."

The existing room was full of traditional wooden units that were too twee for Lorraine's taste, so out they went and in came the more contemporary feel of Crabtree's Manhattan range. The doors are essentially a Shaker style but, with enlarged frames, flat panels, stainless steel handles and perforated steel details, the result is more modern. Solid oak and sky-blue hand-painted units are contrasted with granite worktops.

Squeezing in all the appliances was also something that Andrew had to get just right. An enamelled black Mercury range cooker takes centre stage with a co-ordinating extraction canopy hood. "We didn't want something completely clad in stainless steel because with children running around you'd get fingermarks all over it. Black is very forgiving and doesn't need cleaning all the time," says Lorraine. An integrated dishwasher, along with a microwave snugly installed in a wall cabinet enhance the seamless look.



above Deep drawers with neat peg dividers keep plates and crockery in their place.



above Storage solutions have been created for every nook and cranny, including the built-in 18-bottle wine rack.



above Durable Steel Grey granite worktops are ideal for a hardworking family kitchen.

It's being able to spread things out which makes this kitchen work so well. "We really thought through what should go where," explains Andrew. "The idea was to separate the main tasks. We've got the range cooker at one end of the room, a dishwasher at the other, an integrated fridge in the larder cupboard and a central island unit with a preparation sink and huge pull-out bin."

Lorraine couldn't be happier with the results. "It functions beautifully. Everything is in the right place and it's a comfortable kitchen for both entertaining and just for us. The only thing we couldn't fit in is a sofa, but I'm pleased we didn't as we'd never leave the room!"

below Stainless steel drawer handles lend the Shaker-style cabinets an ultra-modern touch.



Two-year-old Josh loves to help mum with the cooking.

## Useful Information

**Architect** Perry Barnes, 2 Station Approach, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7SQ. Tel: 01372 376611.

### Appliances

RC1090 range cooker, around £2439; EC1090 extraction canopy, around £1084, both at Mercury. Tel: 01522 881717.

[www.mercury-appliances.co.uk](http://www.mercury-appliances.co.uk)

S5456X3GB 60cm dishwasher, around £543; H5430S0GB compact microwave, around £279, both at Neff. Tel: 0870 513 3090. [www.neff.co.uk](http://www.neff.co.uk)

KIe2544 integrated refrigerator, around £651; KIe2840 integrated larder fridge, around £621, both at Liebherr. Tel: 01977 665665. [www.liebherr.com](http://www.liebherr.com)

### Fixtures and fittings

Traditional TRADPF pewter trillow tap, around £326, at Franke. Tel: 0161 436 6280. [www.franke.co.uk](http://www.franke.co.uk)

Double-glazed windows, price on application, at Clement Windows Group. Tel: 01428 643393. [www.clementwg.co.uk](http://www.clementwg.co.uk)

Stainless steel 5409 undermounted double sink, around £601, from Kohler. Tel: 0870 850 5551. [www.kohleruk.com](http://www.kohleruk.com)

Steel Grey granite and solid oak worktops, around £5500 including fitting, from Crabtree Kitchens. See kitchen profile for details.

Creta Ivory porcelain floor tiles, around £35 per sq. m., at Versatile. Tel: 020 8397 2828. [www.versatiletiles.co.uk](http://www.versatiletiles.co.uk)

200cm by 100cm table; Lydford side chairs and Coleridge leather chair, all £2000, at Oakapple Furniture. Tel: 07734 959969. [www.oakapplefurniture.com](http://www.oakapplefurniture.com)

B2 aluminium radiator, from around £1171, at Bisque. Tel: 01225 478500. [www.bisque.co.uk](http://www.bisque.co.uk)