



Crabtree's bamboo veneered cabinets stretch down the length of one wall, leading the eye to the contemporary dining area and garden beyond.

Feature by Tamsin Kingswell

Photography by Zac Macaulay

# opposites attract

A bold glass extension updates a classic Victorian house and creates the backdrop for a sleek, minimalist yet welcoming kitchen.





**left** Extremely durable, honed Nero Zimbabwe granite is punctuated with a large sink and an elegantly arched Oberon tap from Perrin & Rowe.

**above and below** A place for everything – the beauty of bespoke design is that all your storage requirements can be met to ensure a clutter-free space.

Both decided that Crabtree Kitchens could deliver precisely the style they were after. "What the couple needed was a modern kitchen with a minimalist and simple appeal," says designer Andy Stone. To go with the stark white walls he suggested bamboo veneer, a material with plenty of depth and texture, coupling it with honed Nero Zimbabwe granite worksurfaces.

The layout of the kitchen sees one wall dedicated to food preparation. There's a prep sink, a large stainless steel fridge freezer, a pull-out larder, a range oven and 800mm-wide drawers with brushed chrome handles which are all bespoke; perfect for storing all of the couple's cooking essentials. Using peg systems and drawers divided into different combinations means there really is somewhere for everything.

The utilisation of the floor was important because David wanted to avoid wall cupboards. "I was concerned that they would overhang and look too bulky," he explains. So, to enhance the feeling of space, Andy suggested a stainless steel splashback complete with cleverly UV bonded glass shelves. "They look like they're floating which is a great effect," he adds.

In the centre of the room is a large island with a breakfast bar; comfortable stools sit on one side, a main sink and built-in dishwasher on the other. "In effect what I did was to divide the main activities of the kitchen, preparing food and washing up, into two distinct areas," says Andy. "This works really effectively, everything always seems to be at hand," adds David.





Andy was careful not to make the design too clinical, little, almost imperceptible details stop it from feeling too rigid and uniform. The curved form of the fridge freezer is echoed with the bayed front of the DishDrawer® and again picked up in the rounded prep sink. "I think it's these little features that change everything, it softens the angles and makes the design more human," he says. David has taken this theme further, choosing curvaceous, brilliant-white retro chairs and a matching table for the dining area.

**above** Great aesthetics and ergonomic design combine to provide a space that makes food preparation both easy and a joy.

"I love 60's architecture and design and I think they sit perfectly within this glass extension," he says.

The new kitchen has certainly exceeded David and Amanda's expectations and both are thoroughly delighted with the results. "I was concerned that the space would be small after all the work we had done, but I needn't have worried. We were right to keep faith with our architect's strong view of the space – it's a fantastic design. Everything works so well and you never feel crowded, even when guests visit," smiles David. ■

## Useful Information

### *Kitchen design*

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.

### *Appliances*

DD603HSS DishDrawer®, around £949, at Fisher & Paykel. Tel: 0845 600 1934.  
[www.fisherpaykel.co.uk](http://www.fisherpaykel.co.uk)

### *Fixtures and furnishings*

3332w steel under-mounted sink, around £260; 3339w steel under-mounted sink, around £160; honed Nero Zimbabwe granite worksurfaces, around £450 per sq. m., at Crabtree Kitchens. Details as before.

AF4861PF Oberon monobloc pewter mixer tap, around £211, at Perrin & Rowe. Tel: 01708 526361.  
[www.perrinandrowe.com](http://www.perrinandrowe.com)