

# Making dreams reality

The Grahams couldn't find their ideal home, so they decided to re-model their existing one instead



While travelling, Martin and Fiona Graham decided to let out their Victorian townhouse and look for a more spacious property on their return, that would better suit their needs. However, it soon became apparent that what they were looking for just wasn't available. 'Our house had five bedrooms, but didn't offer enough day-to-day living space for our family of four,' explains Fiona. 'We were struggling, as we wanted to stay in Worcester, but the next jump up in terms of Victorian property size is colossal, and anything near the right price needed large-scale renovation work.'

After talking with friends who had renovated their own homes, the couple decided to extend their property to create the space they were looking for. 'The beauty of this was that our property was a known entity, so no drawn-out searches or costly legal fees were required.' The Grahams used a local architect who was recommended by several of their friends. Plans were drawn up for the back of the house, adding a single-level, pitched roof extension, which doubled the width of the rear of their home. This enabled them to knock down walls to create a light, alfresco-style, kitchen/dining space.

## NATURAL DESIGNS

The abundance of light from the two loft-light windows in the extension's roof, and the glazed, bi-fold door, creates a tremendous feeling of space. 'With a large section of the kitchen wall gone, we were able to incorporate a peninsular island with a hob. This allows me to converse while cooking, with friends and family at the dining table.'

For the kitchen, the couple chose Churchwood Design of Tideswell, Derbyshire. 'We wanted it to last, as well as stay true to the architectural style of the property. I also wanted modern appliances and accessories,' says Fiona. Based on this, their designer, Charlotte Ambler, produced a classical light-painted scheme with a simple moulded Shaker door design. The light-painted maple cabinetry contrasts with both the black pearl granite worktops and cats-paw oak accent pieces of cabinetry. A Neff integrated oven, microwave, warming drawer and induction hob were added to give Fiona the cooking capacity she wanted. 'I love the quality of the timber cabinets as well as the little design touches, such as the tray storage cupboard and the roll-out shelves. Overall, I'm pleased it doesn't look too fitted – it's as if it's always been here.'

**Left from top** The light tones of the classical painted furniture contrast beautifully with the dark tones of the granite worktops. The kitchen has been finished to a high standard with exquisite details, such as dovetailed oak drawers. The latest integrated appliances sit immediately adjacent to the hob and sink, helping them work together in harmony.



Originally, a wall separated the narrow kitchen and living space, but now, the new peninsular island looks directly into the dining area, so the family can cook and socialise at the same time.

## FURTHER ADVICE

For a free, no obligation quotation for your kitchen, call Churchwood Design on 01298 872422, or visit [www.churchwood.co.uk](http://www.churchwood.co.uk).



## HANDLES

Swirl ball pair of silver metal doorknobs, £36 for two, Laura Ashley, 0871 983 5999, [www.lauraashley.com](http://www.lauraashley.com).



## INTEGRATED

Neff U14M42N3GB stainless steel double electric oven with wide viewing windows, 88.8 x 59.4 x 55cm, £859, John Lewis, 0845 604 9049, [www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com).



## FLOORING

Honey oak oiled planks, from the Hardwood Castello collection, £58.99 per sq m, Quick-Step, [www.quick-step.co.uk](http://www.quick-step.co.uk).



## PAINT FINISHES

Thai Jasmine satin gloss interior paint for wood, £92.47 per 5ltrs, Ecos Organic Paints, 01524 852371, [www.ecosorganicpaints.co.uk](http://www.ecosorganicpaints.co.uk).