

Go back two years and Fiona and Mark Dalrymple's kitchen was anything but peaceful – it was a building site. The couple had taken the decision to rework the layout at the back of the house because, although the kitchen was a good size, they wanted to make it bigger – a smart idea as they have three children. To do this, they knocked down the walls between the old kitchen and the bathroom and conservatory next to it. They then extended into the side return to enlarge the space even more.

All this extra room has meant Fiona and Mark have been able to create a living area where the whole family can chill out, whether it's at the table right next to the new folding doors leading out to the garden or on the squasy sofa beyond the island unit. 'We wanted the overall feeling to be calm, so we chose a neutral colour palette and a pale wooden floor,' says Fiona. With three children, the kitchen had to be practical, too. 'Having worked as a chef, I had a clear idea of where I wanted the appliances to go,' says Fiona. 'I really do believe the cooker, sink, fridge and dishwasher need to be close to each other, and you need to be able to unload a dishwasher right into an adjacent cupboard.' All decisions that make life easier.



How we did it

“We found a wonderful builder, Gabriel Da Vinci, who made combining the three rooms into one and adding the side extension seem easy. He also stuck to the timings and budget we gave him! We looked at several high-street kitchen companies, but someone recommended a local company called Azco Interiors and we were impressed with their design ideas. We also liked the idea of the kitchen being bespoke. The building work cost around £50,000 and the kitchen company fitted the units for £2,500. The whole project took two months to complete.”

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Fiona and Mark created their new kitchen

Where to buy ITEMS SHOWN

Hacker Rio units, £9,000; **panels** (on island), £322 per m; painted in Pavilion Blue Estate Eggshell, £48.50 for 2.5lt; Farrow & Ball; **Canara worktop**, £437 per linear m; at Azco Interiors. **JRCSS102 range cooker**, £1,699; for a similar top, try the Arc, £190; both John Lewis. **V8K 720 sink**, £360; Franke; **limestone flooring**, £63 per sq m; German Flooring Direct. **Tiles**, £75.60 per sq m; Misagros. **Pendants**, £125 each; Balleys Home and Garden. For similar **blind fabric**, try Festival, £14 per m; Clarke & Clarke. **Walls** painted in Cornforth White Estate Emulsion, £32.50 for 2.5lt; Farrow & Ball. **Folding doors**, £10,000; Town and Country. For similar **bar stools**, try the Ingalls, £199 each; John Lewis. **Chairs**, £40 each; for a similar sofa, try the Eldorp, £295; at Ikea. For a similar **lamp**, try the oak lamp, £59; The Furniture Barn. For similar **artwork**, try Grass by Davide Pola, £99; Easyart. **Keep Calm artwork**, £160; Box Brownie Trading. Find similar **hooks** at Velvet Brown. **Tea towel**, £7; Spacelia Design.

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'It's now our oasis of calm'

Create a peaceful haven the whole family can enjoy, like the Dalrymples have done



KITCHEN IDEAS *Restful retreat*



IDEA Leave brickwork exposed to add interest to a neutral space

Family space

A squasy sofa for all the family to chill out on is in the space that used to be the side return. The ceiling of the extension is glazed to flood the room with light

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