

# *A Touch of* **SHIMMER**

Helen and Jeff Goumal enlivened their sleekly modern and open, white kitchen with accents of copper and industrial character

PICTURES PAUL CRAIG | WORDS AMELIA THORPE

## WARM GLOW

Cool white units contrast with glistening copper, parquet flooring and industrial-look bar stools

*'Having created a much larger open space, I wanted a streamlined design with crisp angles as I'm not a fan of curves'*



**LONG VIEW**  
Looking from the entrance hall, there is an open space towards the garden, enhancing the spacious feel of the newly extended room



**MAD FOR METALLICS**  
Left: The rose gold finish of the mirrored splashback is echoed in the choice of copper pendant lights



**I**t was the pillars that did it. For a family that love entertaining – from fancy dress parties to relaxed gatherings with friends – a kitchen limited by a row of structural columns was far from ideal. ‘All those pillars blocked the view of the garden and made the space very awkward to use,’ explains Helen Goumal, who shares the house with accountant husband, Jeff, and sons, Aston, nine, and Ethan, seven. After falling in love with the original features and tall ceilings of the Edwardian house in North London, Helen and Jeff moved into the property about 11 years ago. As their family expanded with the arrival of their sons, so the demand for more usable space in their kitchen increased, and the couple set to work on obtaining planning permission for its improvement. ‘It was a major job to take out the columns and replace them with two massive structural joists in the ceiling, they had to be craned over the top of the house, before they could be slotted into position,’ explains Helen. At the same time, they were able to extend over the side return of the house to increase the size of the room by about a third. To increase the sense of space

and to improve access to the garden they also decided they wanted to add in some bi-folding doors. ‘Having created a much larger open space, I wanted a streamlined design with crisp angles – I’m not a fan of curves – and the previous higgledy-piggledy look had really bugged me,’ laughs Helen. She and Jeff visited a number of kitchen companies, but it was only Vicky Shudell, director of Funktional Kitchens, who instantly understood the brief for a flush run of wall cupboards with cut-out hob area and was able to create it with an immaculate finish, despite the uneven wall behind. ‘I was trying to achieve a modern all-white look, in contrast to the age of the house, but I also didn’t want it to look cold and clinical,’ continues Helen. Working with Vicky, the couple introduced a marble-look granite to the worktop of the island, a rose gold coloured mirror splashback, copper pendants, parquet vinyl flooring and vintage factory wall lights to introduce warmth and industrial character. ‘The room feels so open and spacious now, and it’s now perfect for parties,’ she says. ‘Getting rid of those pillars wasn’t easy, but to us as a family it has really made all the difference in the world.’ **EKBB**



***Kitchen profile***

Sleek, German-engineered gloss white lacquer units, finished with channel handles in satin white and a cut-out hob area, produce a streamlined, modern look in this London kitchen. An island topped in Blanco Perfecto granite introduces subtle interest, while a rose gold mirror splashback and copper pendant lights add the warmth of burnished metal.

**FUNKTIONAL KITCHENS**

128 Crouch Hill, Crouch End, London, N8 9DY.  
Tel 020 8341 2020. Also at 42 Cross Street,  
Islington, London, N1 2BA. Tel 020 7359 4041.  
funktionalkitchens.co.uk  
Kitchen prices start from £12,000.



**THREE-IN-ONE**

**Above** The Quooker Fusion Square 3-in-1 tap dispenses boiling, hot and cold water from one mixer spout

**STONE SET**

**Left** A slender worktop of Blanco Perfecto granite adds a contemporary finish

**WINTER WARMTH**

**Right** The Karndean parquet flooring feels soft and warm, an effect enhanced by underfloor heating



*‘The cupboards begin at a higher point than standard, so that you can comfortably see what you are doing while you cook’*



**SLEEK & CLEAN**

Two built-in ovens are framed in white, in keeping with the gloss finish of the units



**FEEL THE HEAT**

Below The Neff five-zone induction hob features a removable Point & Twist magnetic central control for cooking zone and temperature selection



**VICKY SHUDELL**  
DIRECTOR,  
FUNKTIONAL KITCHENS

**How did you begin the project?**

I knew that Helen and Jeff wanted the flush wall run of cupboards with cut-out, so we spent time on that. The wall isn't straight, and has a shallower area by the bi-fold doors, so it had to be carefully designed, made and fitted to make sure it was perfectly flush-finished at the front. The cupboards above the hob begin at a higher point than standard, so that you can comfortably see what you are doing while you cook, while still creating the immaculate 'letterbox' look.

**Can you tell us about the island?**

It is designed as the main preparation area in the kitchen, facing out towards the dining table so that Helen and Jeff can still interact with their guests while they cook.

It features a bar area with stools, to add interest as you walk into the room from the entrance hall, and arranged so that you can enjoy the view of the garden while sitting with a drink or a cup of coffee.

**And the materials?** The white gloss lacquer of the cupboards is sleek and modern, and the linear design of the channel handles are accentuated by their satin white finish. The island worktop is made of Blanco Perfecto granite, which has the classic beauty of marble, but it is harder and less porous so makes a more durable preparation surface. The mix of modern, natural and industrial elements together, such as the stone, parquet, reclaimed bricks and copper accents really do make the room come alive.





## Stockists

### APPLIANCES

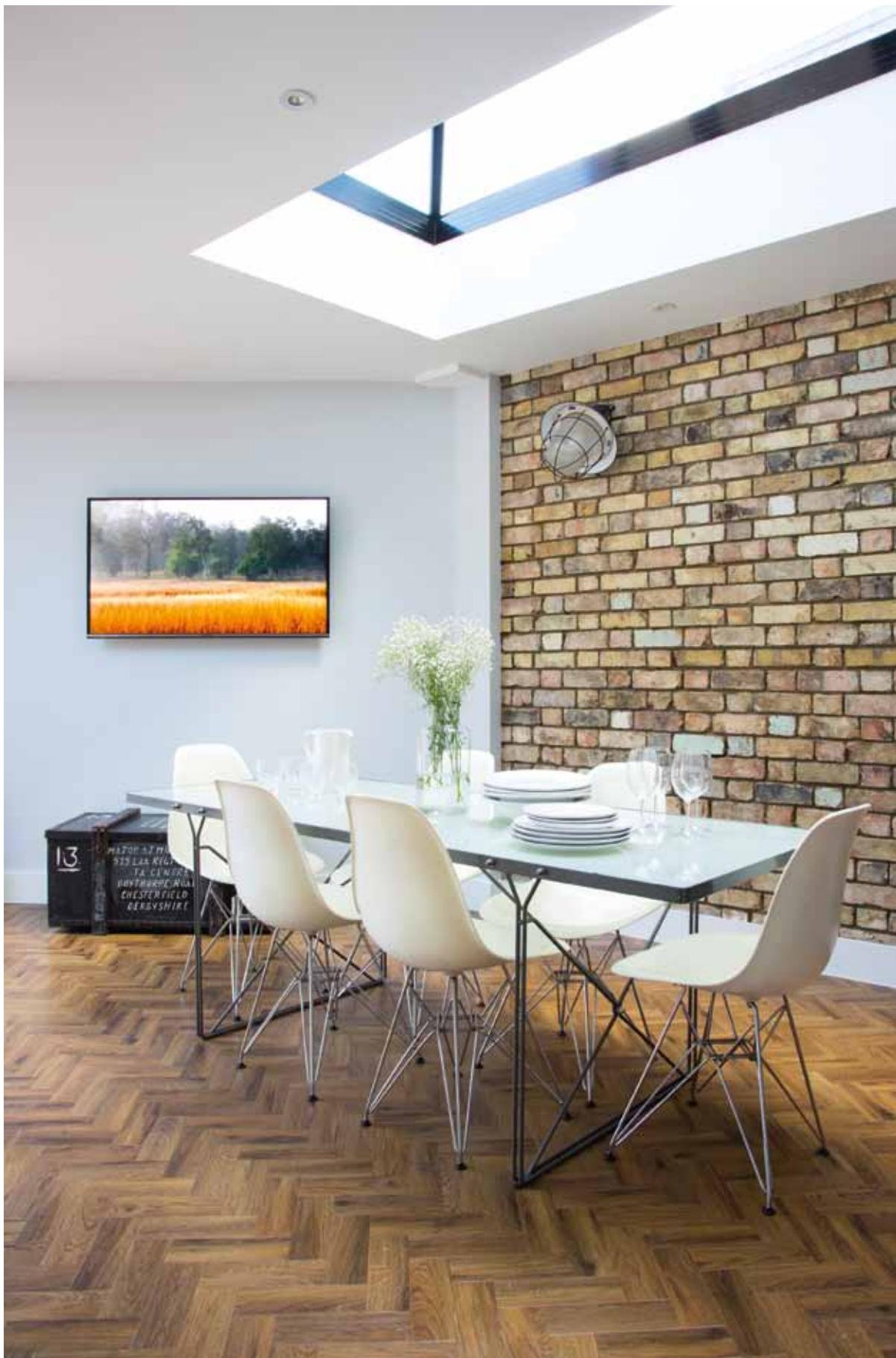
Similar white **ovens**, SFP109B White Glass, £499 each, Smeg. LB75564GB canopy **extractor**, £269; SN66L080GB fully integrated **dishwasher**, £559, both Siemens. T51T86X2 **induction hob**, £815, Neff. KSF3022VL tall integrated **fridge**, £449; KSZ3022NFI tall integrated **freezer**, £603, both Luce by Hotpoint. WIS28441GB integrated **washing machine**, £699; WTB86590GB **tumble dryer**, £449, both Bosch.

### FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Fusion Square 3-in-1 **boiling water tap**, £1,150, Quooker. Subway 331002 undermounted **ceramic sink**, £392, Villeroy & Boch. Blanco Perfecto granite **worktop** (on island); Sardinian White **worktop** (by hob); both priced to order, Funktional Kitchens. Rose gold mirror **splashback**, priced to order, D & K Glass Company. Morning Oak Parquet AP06 **vinyl flooring**, £54.49 per sq. m, Karndean. **Bi-fold doors**, priced to order, Affix Windows. Similar **bar stools** and **dining table**, from a selection, Ikea. Tom Dixon Copper **pendant lights**, from £255 each; Vitra Eames DSR side **chairs**, £225 each, all John Lewis. **Vintage factory lights**, price on application, Scott's Furniture Mart of Margate. Similar **reclaimed bricks**, price on application, Reclaimed Bricks.

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*'It's not until I had to choose the bricks that I realised just how many colours there are'*



## A TOUCH OF BLUSH

To enhance the industrial feel of the newly extended room, Helen and Jeff chose reclaimed bricks for the dining area wall. 'It's not until I had to choose the bricks that I realised just how many colours there are,' laughs Helen. 'I chose those with pink-grey tones to add warmth to the overall look of the room'