

Feature by Amelia Thorpe | Photography by Darren Chung

# modern marvel

Stanley and Elaine Phillips' five bedroom Victorian terrace now offers the ultimate in luxury living thanks to its 21st century transformation.



## kitchen profile

Created to be a room offering cooking, eating and entertaining areas, this open-plan design by Funktional Kitchens fuses handle-less graphite oak veneer and white lacquer furniture for a sleek, contemporary look. An island sets the ideal scene during gatherings while turquoise glass splashbacks inject a sense of freshness and a burst of colour.

Funktional Kitchens, 142 Crouch Hill, London N8 9DX.  
Tel: 020 8341 2020. [www.funktionalkitchens.co.uk](http://www.funktionalkitchens.co.uk)  
Expect to pay from £16,000.



**above** A Blek Le Flat photo and mirrored piece of art have been perfectly placed for maximum impact.



**above right** Guests can take pre-dinner drinks at the island unit while watching the host work his magic.



**below** Blitting dirty dishes, rinsing vegetables and filling pans is effortless thanks to the dual-spout tap.



**above right** The turquoise splashback is taken to full height for bold hue either side of the white cabinetry.

**below** Old and new unite; original bay architecture is revitalised by glazed doors for access to the garden.

“Architects create the space and the design, but it’s kitchen companies that make our schemes functional,” says Stanley Phillips, the Principal of Architectural Practice at Pennington Phillips. “They definitely add value by giving a great practical edge to the client’s specific desired style aesthetics,” he adds.

Stanley, his wife, Elaine, and teenage son, Jack, together live in a five bedroom Victorian terrace that they carefully and beautifully re-configured into a big contemporary 21st century home. The kitchen at the back of the house, that was originally three rooms, has been opened up by removing all internal walls – bar a structural beam – and adding pivoting doors onto the garden. As the main bank of the units are full height, running along the length of a wall with no windows, they also installed a flat, rectangular glass roof to allow ample light to filter in.

Stanley wanted the room open-plan as he loves making dinner for the family. “I do hate being shut away elsewhere when I’m cooking,” he explains. “So, it had to be a place for living, socialising and cooking in, where we can hang out even if doing different things,” he adds. They, therefore, set about creating a large setting complete with a bespoke dining table, an island unit and TV space with sofas.

With the physical dimensions now configured to suit his taste, Stanley used a predominantly black and white scheme, apart from one hit of turquoise glass above the sink that reflects light to volumise space. “It’s a strong look, but it’s not precious,” he says. “Whilst everything is sleek and uncluttered, it’s actually a workable style to live with. The room gets trashed nearly every night when I’m making meals, but there’s ample storage and a home for all items, so it’s easy to tidy up afterwards,” he adds.



**below** Lined up ready for action, an array of built-in appliances gives good looks and top performance.



Next step was choosing Funktional Kitchens to supply the kitchen. Imported from Germany, the Hacker cabinetry is solid, durable and modern in its construction. The doors operate on a sliding mechanism, so they glide open and can be gently pushed shut. "They're brilliant, because they come in modules of various sizes. You can also make them any width, which helps maximise every inch of space without the need for infill panels," says Owner Vicky Shudell. She continues, "Stanley and Elaine opted for graphite oak veneer, that's a great choice because it's contemporary but not too high fashion, so it won't date quickly. It's a beautiful grain that's pleasing to the eye. We paired it with white lacquer units to help keep the look light and fresh."

The couple is thrilled with the finished room. "I feel lucky every day that I live here," says Stanley. To anyone contemplating a big open-plan scheme, he would say that. "Although this style may appear impossibly tidy, it works and is easy to maintain if the storage is well-planned throughout. So many clients have said that this type of design has really transformed how they feel about their kitchen. They are now spending more time there with family and guests. This is great to hear – everyone's happy!" ■

**right** Whether dining indoors or alfresco, there's ample space to entertain in total comfort and style.

**below right** Bought in Paris, the plaster-cast hand is a quirky, interesting way of holding incense sticks.

**below** After a hard day at the office, Stanley can now come home and relax in his pretty, quiet courtyard.



**left** Even external areas have been given an injection of the contemporary with shiny sphere sculptures.

**above** From iconic seats to the glass-topped table, reflective surfaces help increase the volume of light.



## useful information

**Architectural design**  
Pennington Phillips, 16 Spectrum House,  
32-34 Gordon House Road, London NW5 1LP.  
Tel: 020 7267 1414. [www.penningtonphillips.co.uk](http://www.penningtonphillips.co.uk)

**Appliances**  
Similar models: HB78AB570B single oven, £850;  
TK76K572GB coffee machine, £1200; HW140562B  
warming drawers, £375 each; HB36D572B steam  
oven, £900; EP726QB90E hob, £450, at Siemens.  
Tel: 0844 892 9044. [www.siemens-home.co.uk](http://www.siemens-home.co.uk)

Quad extractor hood, £750, at Elica.  
Tel: 01252 351111. [www.elica.co.uk](http://www.elica.co.uk)

**Fixtures & furnishings**  
Zimbabwe Black Quarella quartzstone worktops,  
£3500; turquoise glass splashback, priced £1800, at  
Funktional Kitchens. See kitchen profile for details.

Subline 500 sink and BlancoMaster tap set, £1000,  
at Blanco. Tel: 0844 912 0108. [www.blanco.co.uk](http://www.blanco.co.uk)

G3 and G6 in Natural Finish porcelain floor,  
priced around £161 per m., at Bibliotheque.  
Tel: 020 8365 2084. [www.bibliotheque.co.uk](http://www.bibliotheque.co.uk)

Similar lights, Foscarini Allegro, £1494, at Mac & Mac.  
Tel: 01252 717771. [www.macandmacinteriors.com](http://www.macandmacinteriors.com)

Toco bar stools, £137 each, at Bo Concept.  
Tel: 0845 605 0565. [www.boconcept.co.uk](http://www.boconcept.co.uk)

Bespoke dining table, from £3500, at  
Pennington Phillips. Details as before.

Kartell Crystal Louis Ghost chairs, expect to  
pay around £162 each, at Graham & Green.  
Tel: 0845 130 6622. [www.grahamandgreen.co.uk](http://www.grahamandgreen.co.uk)