

'It was worth the wait'

After 20 years dreaming of a spacious kitchen-diner, Fiona and Graham Sanderson have finally got a space they can happily cook and entertain in

For where to buy items on these pages, turn the page

Take the 60-second tour



Before

Spent

£17,194

After



The large island unit is directly below the glass ceiling, giving plenty of natural light – ideal for preparing food

The property

A four-bed Victorian terrace in Hackney, East London.

What it cost

Units	£6,000
Worktop	£3,400
Flooring	£1,100
Splashback	£900
Sink & tap	£757
Appliances	£5,037
TOTAL	£17,194

Who lives here

Fiona and Graham Sanderson bought the house in 1985.

What they did

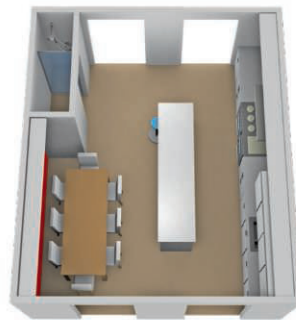
The couple extended at the back and side of their house to create a bright kitchen almost double the size of the old one, with space for a breakfast bar and separate dining area.

Lessons learned

Never expect building work to keep to the timetable agreed – even if you double it, you could still be disappointed. Have a weekly meeting with the builders and architect, and if you have a big setback – as we did when we had to dig very deep footings – be realistic about the knock-on effect it will have.

The look

Ultra-contemporary, with handle-free white units and an ice-blue splashback across one wall. Two sets of French windows and a glazed roof over the side-return extension let natural light pour in.



THE NEW LAYOUT There's a run of units across one wall opposite the dining area, with an island unit in the centre

It wasn't until Fiona and Graham Sanderson's sons had grown up and left home that the couple could afford to take the plunge and extend their Victorian house in Hackney, East London, to create a spacious and contemporary kitchen-diner.

'Our lives revolve around the kitchen, so making it big enough to cook and entertain in was something we'd always wanted to do,' says Fiona. 'The old kitchen was small and dark with no view out to the garden at the back of the house – instead it looked out into the small side return. That had always seemed like a dead space, so it made sense to build across to the party wall to make way for a bigger, brighter kitchen.'

Fiona and Graham's neighbours were planning a similar extension, so the two households made a joint application for planning permission so that any potential conflict over design could be sorted out early.

The finished room is a huge success. 'Now we have a much bigger space, which is great when our sons come to stay,' says Fiona.



LOVE THE LOOK?

Fiona's units are from Funktional Kitchens **££**. For similar, try Magnet's Studio White **£££** or IKEA's Applåd/Faktum **£**

An extension with glazed roof has given the Sandersons a bright space with plenty of room for cooking and entertaining. 'The light is amazing – it's so bright that I sometimes have to go back to check that I haven't left the lights on,' says Fiona

Want to know more?

Turn over to find out how Fiona and Graham created their striking new kitchen

Originally the whole room was painted white but the couple found it too cold, so they decided to define the dining area by painting the wall behind it a rich red



ABOVE Deep drawers are a practical solution – it's easy to see what's in them so nothing gets lost at the back of cupboards. 'The only trouble is that now I need to label the tops of all my jars,' says Fiona



How we did it

A friend recommended an architect who drew up the plans for the extension, got quotes and found the builders. We lived on site during the work, which was cramped but meant we were always able to keep on top of what was happening. The work was part of a much larger project (adding an extra bedroom and bathroom upstairs), which cost around £60,000, including laying the limestone floor and underfloor heating, and took about six months. Our kitchen supplier fitted the units for around £2,700.

Address book

For stockist details, turn to page 167

Systemat SM2031 UNITS in Antique White, £391 for a 600mm base unit, Funktional Kitchens. Iceberg Anticato quartzone WORKTOP, from £190 per linear m, Verona Marble. SPLASHBACK, from £60 per sq m, Kingsland Glass. SINK AND TAP, £757, Franke. Classic medium Travertine FLOOR TILES, from £26.45 per sq m, The Natural Slate Company. Dynasty XI10XG6-DL-S COOKER, £3,591; K7088A-10 CHIMNEY HOOD, £759; both Britannia. TABLE, £156; CHAIRS, £58.72 each; all IKEA. DINING WALL painted in Hot Paprika 4 matt emulsion, £17.99 for 2.5ltr, both Dulux. BAR STOOLS, £130 each, Little Book of Furniture

FEATURE AND STYLING CLARE STEEL PHOTOGRAPHS JAMIE MASON PLAN PERSONA-ID

View our kitchen gallery at idealthomemagazine.co.uk/kitchen