

# Cool & calm

From a dark, dingy basement to a bright family kitchen, **Lucy** has created a chilled-out haven at the heart of their home...

When Lucy and Mark first moved into their elegant Victorian house, it was in dire need of some T.L.C. Having been divided up into several bedsits and a flat for many years, their challenge was to restore it to its former glory as a family home. Perhaps the biggest part of this challenge was to transform the basement into a kitchen and dining area.

"It was originally a flat down here," Lucy remembers, "and where the kitchen is now used to be a bedroom. It was all really disgusting and everything had to be ripped out

to create a blank space in which to work."

When it came to filling the blank space, Lucy had a clear idea of how things should look.

"I used to work on interiors magazines and I still work in that area for TV, so I pretty much knew what I wanted, then Funktional Kitchens helped me to make the most of the space."

One of the challenges the designers at Funktional had to deal with was a chimney-breast along the main wall which, for structural reasons, couldn't be removed.

"They suggested we put half-depth storage units in front of it so that we could have a flat-

"I wanted to make the room as light as possible, so white was the obvious choice."

fronted run of units the entire length of the room," explains Lucy. "It means the chimney-breast disappears, which for this style of kitchen works well. If I'd wanted a more traditional kitchen then it might have been nice to feature the chimney-breast, but for the contemporary design it was better to disguise it."

With this problem solved, the next priority for Lucy's new kitchen was to incorporate as much storage as possible.

"The house we lived in before had a really small kitchen and I was fed up with having nowhere to put anything. Now I've actually got a



PHOTOS: MARTIN BLACK



cupboard that just has plastic bags in it! It makes it really easy to keep the room looking neat – a quick wipe over and it looks great because everything can be stored out of the way."

Being a north-facing basement space, when it came to colour choices for the kitchen and walls, Lucy realised there was only one way to go.

"I wanted to make it feel as light as possible, so white was the obvious choice." ►



The table and chairs are hand-me-downs and a bit scruffy now, but I like the mix of old and new.

I love the vibrant colours of this poster and the fact that it adds a bit of character and humour to the room.

## FINISHING TOUCH: DESIGNER EXTRACTOR

"I'm not keen on big solid hoods, especially over an island because they interrupt the flow of the kitchen and block out quite a lot of light, so I chose this one as it works as both a light and a recycling extractor. It's by Elica, the same company who make the big crystal ones but this is the simplest one that they do. It has different light settings on it which can change the mood of the kitchen and has proved to be one of my favourite things in here."

Another successful design feature of the finished kitchen happened pretty much by accident.

"I couldn't decide what kind of splash-back to have and then I realised that we had some floor tiles left over," Lucy explains. "Using four of these on the wall seemed like the cheapest and most effective solution, and because the light hits it in a different way to the floor it doesn't look exactly the same."

The mirrors above the wall units were then introduced to throw some light around the room, add some depth and make the ceiling appear a bit higher.

"Originally the idea was to have colour up there because we do have a lot of colour elsewhere in the house, but I was keen to keep this room neutral and calm."

The only exception to this plan was the



I knew I wanted an island with a breakfast bar because I knew it would make life so much easier being able to feed the kids up here

introduction of a bold colour to the dining room wall along with the vibrant framed poster.

"I tend to change the dining room wall colour fairly regularly," says Lucy. "It allows me to update the look of the room quickly and easily. If I fancy a change or fall for a new colour it's so easy to paint - in an hour or so it's done which is very satisfying." 🏠



### SEEN SOMETHING YOU LIKE? HERE'S WHERE TO BUY

**Kitchen design** Funktional Kitchens using Hacker Systemat kitchen in Antique white with inset handle M200 **Worktops** Silestone Blanco Zeus. **Extractor**

Elica platinum pendant **Appliances** Siemens **Sink and tap** Blanco Subline silgranit sink with Blanco eye BM5300 tap in brushed steel **Flooring and splashback:** 80cm polished limestone from Checkalow **Poster** from Little Paris, Crouch End *For stockists see page 57*