

“The design uses every inch brilliantly and looks amazing

— we spend even more time here than we did before”

The Isaacsons' house is surrounded by woods that inspired the mix of natural materials they chose for their kitchen. Technoquartz Silver ceramic floor tiles from Hatch End Tile Centre are the perfect partner for oak cabinetry and an end-grain maple chopping board on the drum unit. The walls are painted in Cornish Clay by Dulux

Rose hip

Pale wood and a striking splash of fuchsia has turned the Isaacsons' kitchen into a stunning family room





Lesley's vivid pink drum cabinet, painted in Russian Velvet 3 from Dulux, is what provides the design's 'wow' factor. Its colour was inspired by the couple's desire to move away from a traditional-style kitchen scheme, while the unusual curvy shape draws attention into the room

While some people hanker after a traditional scheme, this was the last thing on the mind of homeopath Lesley Isaacson when she was re-designing her kitchen. Having lived with a clutter of unimpressive wall and base units for more than 20 years, she felt it was time for a change and the replacement scheme had to look fantastic. 'The only problem I had was finding a designer who was able to interpret my idea of "fantastic",' explains Lesley. 'I have a vibrant personality and I really wanted to reflect this in the layout of my kitchen.'

Traipsing around various companies, Lesley became frustrated as designer after designer suggested reproducing what she already had. While she and her husband Robert, an accountant, were open to suggestion, the couple did have precise requirements. The room had to have a dining area, to accommodate their grown-up children, Jeremy, Adam and Ronee, but they didn't want to reduce their kitchen space and have to resort to barstools. When Lesley spoke to local designer Mark Collins of Orca Design, she immediately knew that her search had ended. 'The layout he came up with used every inch of the room and looked amazing,' she enthuses.

The new kitchen has been influenced by the style of the Isaacsons' 1950s Middlesex home. 'It's not a modern property so we felt it needed something classic

To avoid breaking up the symmetry of the cabinetry, a large drawer, which was needed for cutlery and kitchen tools, has been designed to look like two drawers to match the ones next to it. These are all located close to the hob so they are within easy reach when Lesley is preparing meals. Stainless-steel bar handles add a modern touch and echo the finish of the appliances in the room



For more smart sink ideas see our kitchen kit feature on page 140

Designer Mark Collins created this cabinet for the kitchen as an alternative to a pull-out larder. It has trays of different sizes, ideal for keeping foodstuffs together

The couple opted for a one-and-a-third-bowl sink, so a waste disposal unit could be fitted below the smaller section. As they live in a hard water area, the tap supplies filtered water



without being unnatural,' says Lesley. 'In the end, we took inspiration from the woods that surround the house and chose a mixture of warm oak and maple.'

As the design progressed, it became a combination of ideas from both Lesley and Mark, inspiring features such as the chunky granite worktops and unusually shaped dining table. 'We specifically wanted the table to be integrated so that it flowed from the cabinetry rather than looking like it'd been tagged on, but we also needed something large enough to seat everyone,' Lesley says. 'It was Mark, though, who came up with the idea of a granite pillar base.' The River White granite was also a major inspiration for the drum cupboard as the glinting raspberry chips and swirls within it influenced the deep pink colour used to paint the unit, and it is now arguably the focal point of the kitchen.

Lesley admits the new design has left her with slightly reduced storage space as there are fewer wall units, but she is now a convert to the open feel it has created. 'One designer told me to throw out everything that I haven't used for the past year to make the best use of my space. So out went the fondue set, juicer and five flasks and I've more than enough room now,' she laughs. 'Our kitchen is incredibly efficient and perfect for a keen cook like myself. We spend even more time in here than we did before – in fact, we have half a house that we rarely use these days!'

BK

Rather than fit the kitchen to the galley proportions of the room, its cleverly arranged angles create a feeling of width without losing space. The long run of units and appliances reinforce this illusion

▼ The large dining table is crafted from maple and oak with a chunky granite base to match the worktops. Muted leather chairs, chosen to complement the stone, came from Chaplins. For similar wooden bowls try the Hevea range from Salt Pepper



The drum cupboard has been a real boon

to Lesley, who is a keen cook. It stores everything she needs to prepare and serve food and is accessible from the kitchen or dining area. To one side are small drawers, which are perfect for odds and ends, with an integrated wine rack below that faces the table



“My favourite appliance is the induction hob. It’s really efficient

and so quick to cook on. We were even given a set of pans to go with it – perfect!”

LESLEY ISAACSON

The integrated Häfele recycling bin sits neatly under the waste disposal unit and sink. In this position it is ideally placed for discarding kitchen scraps and peelings, then simply slides out of sight



THE KITCHEN FILE

DESIGN & CABINERY

- Mark Collins at **Orca Design**, 158 Links Way, Croxley Green, Herts WD3 3RN (01923 219290) www.orcadesignltd.co.uk
- Oak furniture with hand-painted tulipwood cabinetry

WORKTOPS

- River White granite. Price per sq m **£500**
- End-grain maple. Total cost, approx **£450**

SINK & TAP

- PCX 160 Prestige undermounted one-and-a-third bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke **£315**
- Doric Triflow tap in brushed stainless steel, Franke **£460**
- ISE65 waste disposal unit, In-Sink-Erator **£321**

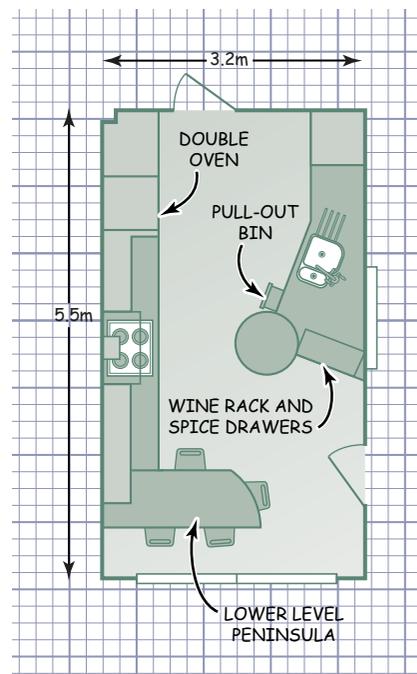
APPLIANCES (shown)

- CircoTherm built-in double oven in stainless steel, for similar try U1644NOGB, Neff **£1,250**
- EH775501E four-zone, touch-control induction hob, Siemens **£560**
- Chimney hood in stainless steel, for similar try LC57950, Siemens **£650**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated larder fridge, Siemens **£545**
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Siemens **£430**

☎ For stockists, see page 147



GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for an Orca Design kitchen **£30,000**