

Kbbreview Industry Awards 2007

CATEGORY: Designer Award for Kitchens - project cost up to £25k

FINALIST: Susan Quirke

What was the full brief from the client?

The initial kitchen was the original kitchen to the property, which was a very small & narrow galley kitchen size 2.15 x 3.05m with the only lighting as under unit lighting. The property was an old factory conversion that had been developed 15 years ago.

The client who was a Banker in his 40's & single wanted to make better use of the overall space as the kitchen was set along side a very dark (no natural light) gloomy dining area. He also felt that the kitchen was anti-social & so wanted to open up the space if possible to create more storage & create a wow factor.

He wanted to work with dramatic materials to create a very modern feel, which was also practical to maintain. He wanted the kitchen materials to fit in with the rest of the space also & therefore have a wood finish to the units.

What was the overall budget, including installation, and how did you manage it?

Overall Budget £19,800. The kitchen works formed part of an overall refurbishment to a two bedroom loft style flat. The works were designed and the tendered the general building works were negotiated with a preferred main contractor and specialist works were negotiated directly with the appropriate trades. In the case of the kitchen the direct orders included the kitchen units, glass splash back and the granite worktop.

I also acted as project manager co-ordinating the different trades on site ie kitchen fitters, glass fitters, worktop fitters, plumber, electrician, tiler, Contractor as well as commissioning all trades, inspecting the works, issuing instructions and recommending payments & agreeing final accounts (including closing out snagging). I liaised with all the trades involved re glass, kitchen fittings, stone & general works re plumbing & electrics to co-ordinate & programme each one.

Describe the final design and, in detail, the design process

The initial kitchen we were faced with was the original kitchen to the property, which was a very small & narrow galley kitchen size 2.15 x 3.05m. I decided to open up the space by taking down the wall between the kitchen & dining to open the space up and extend the kitchen to the underside of the mezzanine. I also created a long breakfast bar area facing into the living room for a more social experience as well as having an open dining space.

The effective kitchen size is now 2.53m x 3.75m. The extractor is a mini-OM which sits on the sidewall to the hob as to have an extractor sitting over the hob (due to very low floor to ceiling heights) would have ruined the view into the living room area. The hob faces into the dining room so the client can now cook while still talking to his guests. All appliances (Siemens & Miele) are hidden behind the dark wooden units so the kitchen is not cluttered. We also ran the granite worktops to the brick wall at the end of the room, which ties into the brick walls throughout the property (old warehouse).

I used dark wood (tabac oak veneer) from Alternative Plans & 600x600mm midnight black slate tiles as well as Nero Zimbabwe granite to create a rich & moody kitchen to suit the client who was a single male Banker in his 40's. The wall linings and pipe casings were removed to expose the

brick walls; the rainwater pipe was replaced with a cast iron pipe to allow this to be exposed. A red glass splash back lightens the dark wood & the lighting set into the units create a beautiful jewel like glow from same.

I maximised the task lighting to the space with undermounted lighting to the red glass splash back & large task lights to the ceiling. Hints of colour are added with blue LED lighting over the extractor & in the brick wall area which link the mood to the dining room area also. All the lighting is on different circuits to allow different moods to be created.

In order to fully realise the design I carried out investigations on site to ensure that existing walls could be removed (i.e. wall were not load bearing).

