



SOCIAL SPACE

A new extension gave the Phelps an open-plan kitchen and dining area ideal for dinner parties



Fiona and Tim Phelps's 1930s detached family home in West Sussex

KITCHEN FILE

Design

- Rob Tewkesbury at **Tewkesbury Kitchens**, 74 West Green Drive, West Green, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 7EA (01293 533596) www.tewkesburykitchens.co.uk

Worksurfaces

- **Galaxy Black granite**, £440 per linear m, supplied by Tewkesbury Kitchens

Flooring

- **Keramia Cerámicas Creta Dorado porcelain tiles**, approx £45 per sq m, Euroservices

Appliances

- **SI-10T6-SL-S range cooker**, £2,200
- **K20L75100SS extractor hood**, £410 Both Britannia
- **K4664 integrated fridge**, £800, Neff
- **BE811 integrated fridge freezer**, £470, Belling
- **G653SCVIP integrated dishwasher**, £780, Miele

Sink & tap

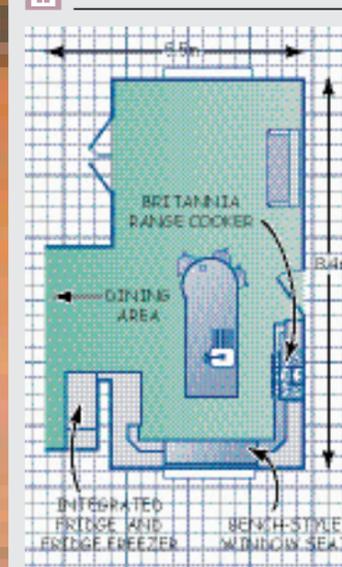
- **SVX11045 undermounted sink**, £160
- **MD Fuji tap in Silksteel**, £170 Both Franke

PRICE GUIDE

£27,000

Excluding floor and building work

KITCHEN LAYOUT



FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID GADSEY



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1 Fiona wanted plenty of places for children and guests to sit, so Rob designed this inviting window seat in beech. It also has a deep drawer underneath providing additional storage space

2 The undermounted sink in the island is large, deep and very practical. The cool granite worktop is an ideal surface for Fiona to make her bread

Designer tip

'Fiona and Tim wanted a kitchen design that wouldn't date – the mixture of pale wood and black granite is a timeless combination and we added some sleek chrome and glass elements to lift the scheme and reflect light around the room.'

■ Rob Tewkesbury



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'We wanted a space where we could cook, socialise and eat'

Four years after moving into their West Sussex home, Fiona and Tim Phelps had an extension built so that they could create a spacious and open-plan new kitchen and dining area perfect for entertaining. 'We wanted a welcoming space where we could cook, socialise and eat,' explains Fiona. 'With the old layout, the kitchen and dining room were separate. We entertain a lot and found that there was always a part of the evening when Tim, who does most of the cooking, was shut away in the kitchen, missing out on the conversation.'

When they were ready to think about the design of the room, the couple consulted Rob Tewkesbury of Tewkesbury Kitchens. 'We explained that we wanted a classic, open style that was practical but also very sociable,' says Fiona.

Quite early on in the process, Fiona and Tim fell in love with a black granite worksurface featuring striking quartz fragments, but choosing the cabinetry took much longer. They finally opted for the Citadel range from The Ultimate Collection by William Ball, with alder door frames and stained fox maple veneer centre panels. 'I don't know how many samples we looked at with Rob,' confesses Fiona. 'All we knew was that we wanted a pale timber and a clean-lined, simple design.'

Fiona was adamant that she wanted a generous island. 'It was important for the whole social aspect of the room,' she explains. 'Our children Hugh and Grace, who are nine and seven respectively, love sitting at the breakfast bar after school, as do guests when they're having a drink while we're cooking.'

Rob catered for the Phelps' request for a clutter-free kitchen by incorporating lots of storage space into the design, including plenty of tall cabinets wrapping around into the dining area and two vast larder cabinets in the heart of the cooking zone.

Scores of dinner parties later, the new kitchen has been properly tried and tested. 'Rob asked me if there was anything I would have done differently,' says Fiona, 'and I had to say no.'

WHERE TO BUY Belling 0870 444 9929 **Britannia** 01253 471111 **Euroservices** 020 8744 1122 **Franke** 0161 436 6280 **Miele** 01235 554455 **Neff** 0870 513 3090 **Salter** 01732 354828 **Sofas UK** 020 7580 8444 **What-Not Antiques** 01483 306358 **William Ball** 0800 581107



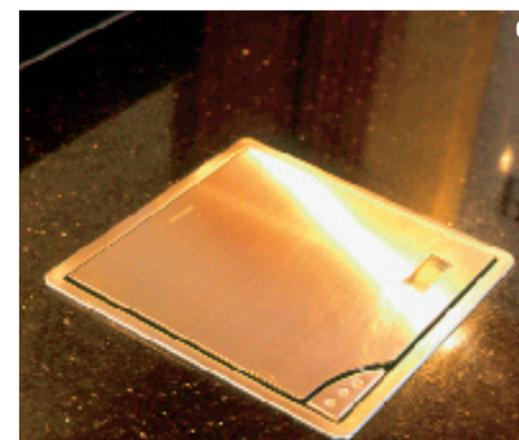
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3 The Bois Massif oak dining table came from What-Not Antiques in Guildford, while the black leather chairs came from Sofas UK. Tall storage cabinets wrap around the end of an arch into the dining area

4 Fiona loves the tandem wire storage system used for the larder cupboards as she can locate ingredients in a matter of seconds

5 The large, sophisticated range cooker copes easily with all of Fiona and Tim's dinner parties

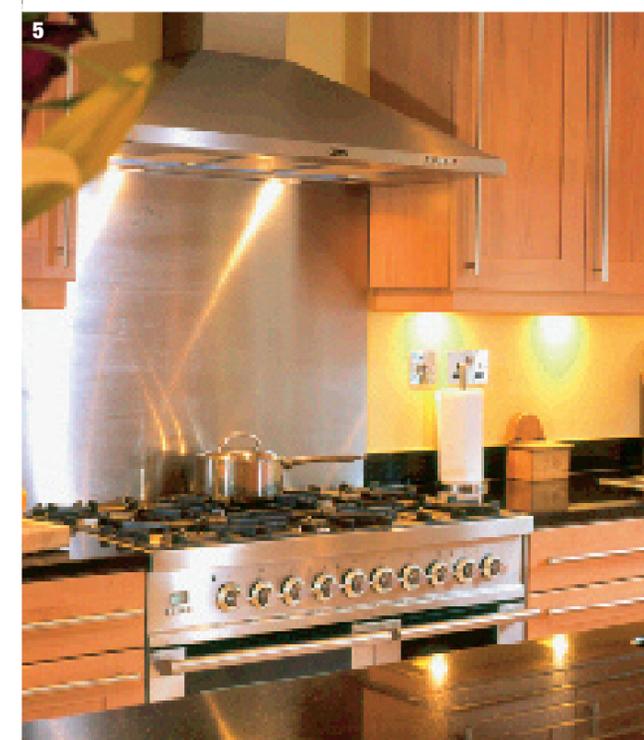
6 & 7 Several useful items have been built into the worksurface, including these hi-tech Salter kitchen scales and a rubbish bin with a stainless-steel lid. 'It's brilliant,' says Fiona. 'I peel the veg, then just tip the waste down the chute'



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