

AS SEEN IN
Beautiful
KITCHENS

Glass ceiling

The kitchen itself may have no windows but its position next to the dramatic atrium ensures there's plenty of light. Jenny and Nic's choice of materials provides a boost to brightness levels, too

OUT OF OFFICE

Jenny and Nic Marsay's home has gone from commercial property to architect's dream – and at its heart is a gorgeous contemporary kitchen

Feature **CAROLINE FOSTER** Photography **DAVID PARMITER**



Green pieces

Although the kitchen is predominately white, zingy accents enliven the finished result. Alongside a painted splashback and vibrant bar stools, metallic pendant lights conceal pale green interiors for a cohesive look

Converting a building from commercial to residential use isn't for the faint-hearted, as Jenny and Nic Marsay discovered when they took on a derelict Grade II listed property. 'The building had been a book shop, a garage and offices,' recalls Jenny. 'When we viewed it, it was covered in black mould, caused by burst water pipes. It wasn't love at first sight!'

Despite first impressions, the Marsays agreed there was potential. 'So we bought the building in 2010,' says Jenny. 'We appointed architect Stephen Burland and applied for change of use, from commercial to residential. Stephen drew up plans that reused an industrial steel frame at the rear of the building and included a new glass atrium that would allow the historic part of the house, dating back to the 1700s, to remain visible.'

Plans were approved and building work began in June 2011. But the Marsays changed their minds several times about where to site the kitchen. 'We toyed with putting it in the new space, but decided to locate it in the old part,' says Jenny. 'We removed an exterior PVC window to form a large entrance way into the kitchen. This made the room central to the house, but located within its own area and a focal point within the interior.' With its setting resolved, the couple began to search for the right cabinetry...

Project profile

THE OWNERS Jenny Marsay, a weight loss consultant, and her husband Nic, an oil rig site controller, plus their daughter Natasha, 21

THEIR HOME A 17th-century Grade II listed conversion with contemporary glass atrium in East Yorkshire

THE PROJECT The couple renovated a former commercial property to create a family home with a focal-point kitchen

ROOM SIZE 4.8 x 4.1m

DESIGNER Eddie Grant at Rational GB Kitchens

CABINETRY Atmos units by Rational GB Kitchens, around £18,000, cabinetry only

BUDGET Undisclosed



Grain store

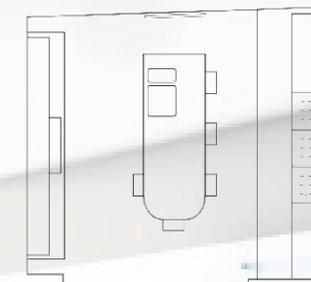
Bookmatched oak veneer gives a luxurious look to the wall-hung units, which were a feat of engineering. Its rich finish is the perfect counterpart to the fresh greens and pure whites



Seamless design

The chunky Corian worktop includes a moulded one-and-a-half-bowl sink and drainer groove for a smooth result

The layout



DESIGN SOLUTION *Jenny explains...*

Did you have a specific look in mind?

Nic and I agreed that it would have to be a contemporary design, but we also had to stick to a budget. We were drawn to Rational GB Kitchens because it offered German quality at a reasonable price. We visited the Sheffield branch and met with designer Eddie Grant. After we gave him our budget of £20,000 for cabinetry, he made numerous site visits, advising us on materials, units and the best layout.

What happened next?

After several recesses, Eddie came up with a modern design with statement floating cabinetry and a bank of built-in Miele appliances within a tall housing unit. We selected a mix of hi-gloss white laminate and bookmatched oak veneer.

Was it useful having a kitchen designer?

Eddie went above and beyond our expectations. He produced very detailed plans for where the veneered units were to hang, advised us on lighting and worked out where drainage should be connected to the nearest millimetre.

Were there any problems?

We had a few challenges as we had to install electrics before we fitted the kitchen. That meant working out where to locate the pendant lights, which had to line up precisely with the island. Nic cut out a huge cardboard template of the unit top to use as a guide. Also, the kitchen was designed and built in Germany, and when it was shipped over for installation, Nic spotted that one unit for the appliance bank was 500mm, rather than

600mm. Eddie sorted it out immediately and we just had to wait for another one to be built.

Are you pleased with the appliances?

On the whole, yes. We love the Franke Minerva tap, which supplies hot, cold and boiling filtered water, and we shopped around online to get the best price. The induction hob, on the other hand, isn't for me. I can't get used to how quickly it reacts and we may change it in the future.

What are you most pleased with?

We've taken a historic house that was on the brink of collapse and preserved it for the future. The kitchen is central to the success of our project and we love the way it opens onto this glass atrium – guests are dazzled by the design. **BK**

‘TO ALLOW FLOATING UNITS TO BE ADDED, DESIGNER EDDIE HAD TO PRODUCE DRAWINGS SHOWING THE BUILDERS HOW TO CONSTRUCT AND REINFORCE THE WALL SO IT WAS STRONG ENOUGH’

The details

CABINETRY Mixture of hi-gloss Polar White laminate and bookmatched oak-veneer units from the Atmos range at Rational GB Kitchens. A similar design, cabinetry only, costs £18,000, with fitting priced at £1,032

SURFACES 60mm Corian worktop, around £540lin m; Green back-painted glass splashback, £120m, both Rational GB Kitchens. 600 x 600mm Mono White porcelain floor tiles, £28sq m, Studio Ceramics. Feature wall paint, Mojito matt emulsion by Crown, £24.99 for 2.5 litres, Homebase

APPLIANCES Built-in single oven, £1,300; built-in steam oven, £1,020; four-zone induction hob, £1,300;

chimney extractor, £672; two warming drawers, £720 each; fully integrated fridge, £1,100; fully integrated freezer, £600, all Miele. Integrated DishDrawer dishwasher, £885, Fisher & Paykel

SINK AND TAP Corian moulded one-and-a-half-bowl sink, £560, Rational GB Kitchens. Minerva Three In One boiling-water tap, £1,070, Franke

FINISHING TOUCHES Fusion bar stools in lime green, £60 each, Constantino Bar Stools. Bright Inside steel pendant lights, from £53 each, Lighting Styles. Coffee machine, for similar try Russell Hobbs, £40