

Friendly advice

The Metaxas family struggled to find someone to interpret their ideas until a pal pointed them in the right direction

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“My favourite design element is the splashback. At first I thought the curved granite would look too unusual, but it echoes the shape of the extractor beautifully”
Georgina Metaxas



Georgina and George Metaxas' rich walnut cabinetry fits the elegant design beautifully. The French windows flood the room with light, while providing easy access to the garden and extending their entertaining space when they have guests

“I told Peter that I wanted a design that had the “wow factor” and now I’ve got it”





'I never thought three teenagers and granite worktops would be a good combination but I was proved wrong,' laughs Georgina. The cool Star Galaxy granite continues as an upstand and forms a sunrise-curve splashback behind the induction hob



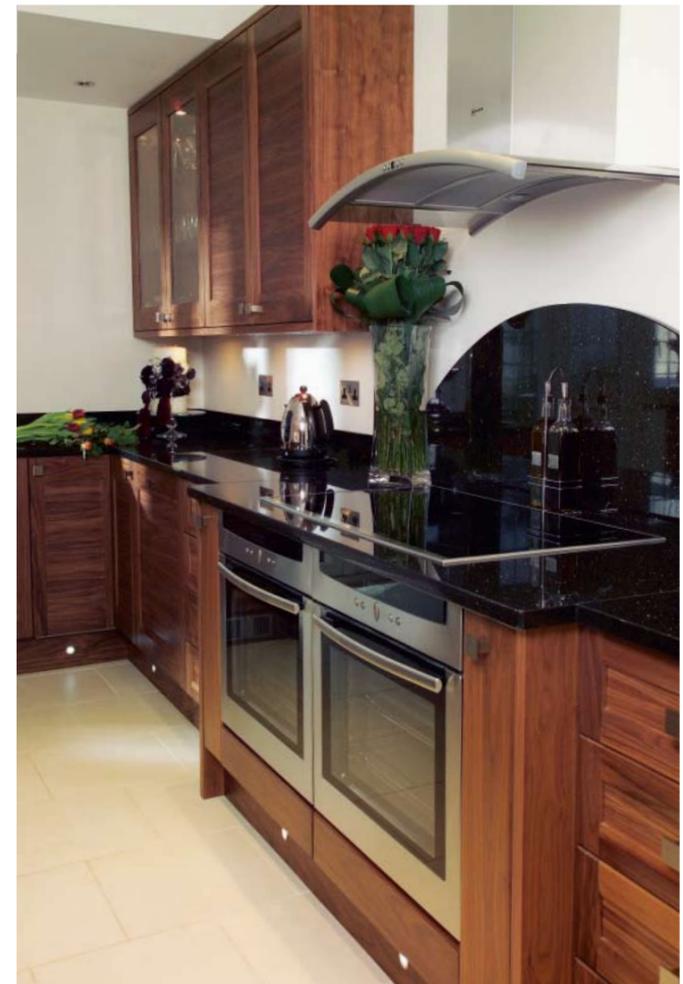
The central island incorporates plenty of drawer storage as well as two fridges, so Georgina doesn't have far to go to reach pots and pans or ingredients when she's cooking. As well as doubling as a breakfast bar on the opposite side, the island also provides extra worktop space for preparing meals. Plinth spotlights in the walnut kickplates create a subtle hint of mood lighting when the family are entertaining

The dark graphite sink from Kohler tones with the deep colour of the granite worktop, while an elegant, chrome monobloc tap provides a contemporary feel to the wet area of Georgina's kitchen



These built-in Neff ovens are self-cleaning and use a combination of Circotherm and bottom heat, which is ideal for crisping pizzas, proving bread and eliminates the need for baking pastry blind. 'We love to entertain so we needed two ovens, and it's a bonus that they clean themselves,' says Georgina

The column cupboards, flanking the pair of ovens, house racks of herbs, spices and oils. They are finished with small stainless-steel effect square knobs, supplied by PWS. As the cabinetry and surfaces are dark, Georgina chose Perla Avorio matt porcelain floor tiles from Tiles on Broadway, which make the couple's kitchen feel lighter



Georgina and George Metaxas were delighted when they bought their home in north London that it came with a brand new mahogany kitchen, so they could redecorate other areas of the house. However, 20 years later Georgina, George and their three daughters, Andrea, 19, Daniella, 16, and Marianne, 14, decided that their old kitchen had served them for long enough. 'Finally we could have a kitchen of our choice that fulfilled all our needs,' says Georgina, who was keen to extend the room and add French windows to lead out to their garden.

Architect Chris Georgiou from CG Architects designed the extension, which took nine months to complete, and involved commandeering part of the garage for a utility room. While all the structural work was being carried out, Georgina spent hours reading interior magazines before finally spotting the walnut kitchen of her dreams. However, when the couple visited the designer they were left feeling unimpressed. 'I found him quite patronising, and we didn't want to pay lots of money and end up unhappy with the result,' explains Georgina, 'so feeling very disappointed we went home to think again.'

Luckily for the Metaxases, a friend who'd just had a new kitchen installed invited them over and recommended his designer Peter Huberman from Kitchens Kitchens. 'We decided to go and see Peter and when I told him I wanted a design that was "easy to clean and had the wow factor" he laughed and I knew we'd get on,' recalls Georgina.

Peter then created the couple a design in rich American walnut, featuring doors they had designed themselves. 'I did panic a bit when Peter showed me the cabinet doors, as the grain was different on each one, but then I fell in love with their unique style,' laughs Georgina. Storage is well catered for in the kitchen with a capacious island and glass-fronted wall cabinets that create a feeling of spaciousness.

The Metaxas family are certainly pleased with their rich and sophisticated design, as with three teenage daughters and a large extended Greek family who love to come round, the kitchen had to work well. 'It's made everything so much easier and I had my wish granted – it's really simple to clean,' smiles Georgina.





◀ The space in Georgina's kitchen has been thoughtfully planned around the family's lifestyle. A large glazed walnut cupboard contains everyday glassware, while an L-shaped corner unit is topped with granite, providing a useful worktop space to mix drinks when the adjacent patio area is being used for barbecues. The walls are painted in Dulux's Natural Calico, which adds to the room's light feel and doesn't detract from the rich cabinetry

The freestanding glazed cupboard containing Georgina's glass and tableware has recessed spotlights to illuminate the display. 'Although we love the character of the walnut wood, we didn't want to see old-fashioned, heavy wall cabinetry. I think the glass creates a much more spacious feel,' explains Georgina. The glass table and the chairs were from Ikea



THE KITCHEN FILE

DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Peter Huberman at **Kitchens Kitchens**
75 Haverstock Hill, Belsize Park, London NW3 4SL
(020 7483 0201) www.kitchenskitchens.co.uk
- Bespoke solid walnut furniture

WORKTOPS

- Star Galaxy granite. Price per linear m **£450**

SINK & TAP

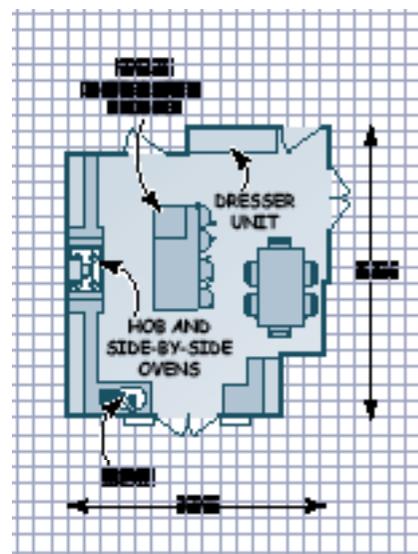
- 19938W Modultop undermounted large single-bowl sink in graphite, Kohler **£285**
- AT1139 Media single-lever tap in chrome, Abode **£339**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- 2 x B4540 single ovens with Pyrolytic cleaning, Neff, each **£850**
- T4593 induction hob, Neff **£1,050**
- D99M5 chimney extractor, Neff **£500**
- K4336 built-under fridge with ice box, Neff **£390**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Built-under larder fridge, Neff **£290**
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Neff **£420**



GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a Kitchens Kitchens design approx **£20,000**

Where to buy Abode 01226 283434 CG Architects 020 8449 5100 Dulux 0870 444 1111 Ikea 0845 358 3364 Kohler 0870 850 5551 Neff 0870 513 3090 PWS 01325 505588 Tiles on Broadway 020 8364 1839