

'THE RECLAIMED FLOOR IS SO US!'

Desperate for a fun, quirky kitchen, Jackie and Phil Jenkins turned a drab design into a modern masterpiece

Feature **SALLY SMITH** Photographer **RACHEL SMITH**

Fact file...

Meet the renovators

Jackie Jenkins, who runs an ultrasound company, and husband Phil, a Trading Standards officer

Makeover brief

To replace the kitchen of their four-bedroom Victorian terraced home in Surrey

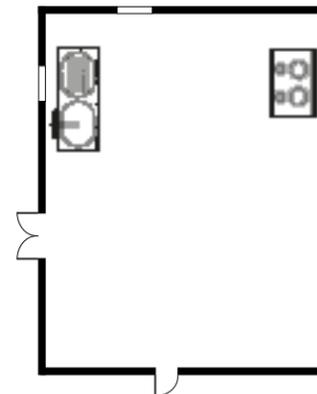
Project costs

Cabinetry & worktops £16,000

Sink & taps £600 **Flooring**

£3,500 **Appliances** £1,300

Total spend £21,400



Dimensions W3m x L4m

WHY DID YOU DISLIKE YOUR OLD KITCHEN? It was everything I didn't want – there were eye-level units everywhere with white Shaker-style doors and the most awful gold hexagonal handles. A chimney breast dominated the room, and I was washing up in a yellowing white sink.

WHAT WERE YOUR MUST-HAVE FEATURES? Although we didn't have a huge space to work with, we wanted the new kitchen to have a high-end, designer look. We loved handleless styles with a colourful finish, so we opted for a mix of exposed oak and blue painted cabinetry.

WERE THERE ANY DISASTERS ALONG THE WAY? We did have a bit of a shock when we lifted the old laminate flooring at the start of the project. The original floor joists in the kitchen were completely rotten, so we had no choice but to replace them all first before we could safely lay the reclaimed flooring we had chosen.

WHAT WAS THE BEST BARGAIN YOU FOUND? My husband Phil found our red range cooker by chance when he was working in Brixton, and it has been sitting in our dining room for over two years waiting for its new home. It was only £599, and I'm so glad Phil bought it when he saw it, as we wouldn't have been able to afford a full-price version. ▶

◀ *Picture window* A galley layout has left space at the end of the kitchen to incorporate a vertical panel window that's a great alternative to French doors, giving the room a contemporary feel and a view out to the garden

BEFORE





WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST LESSON YOU LEARNED? Don't think that you can't afford a project manager. Phil and I couldn't agree on how to mix our styles, so made the decision to work with NK Living, whose expertise was invaluable – their attention to detail really brought the design together.

DID YOU STICK TO THE ORIGINAL BUDGET? We have two dishwashers, which we hadn't accounted for in the initial budget, but we were persuaded that it would be a better use of space than a cupboard, and now I wouldn't be without them. We use one to store our cutlery!

HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW IT'S ALL FINISHED? The new kitchen never fails to make me smile each morning. It's a great space and I wouldn't change a thing. We always get comments on the reclaimed gym flooring, though – friends either love it or hate it! It's what makes our kitchen unique. 🍷

Shopping basket **Cabinetry** Frameless kitchen in Farrow & Ball's Stiffkey Blue, £14,000, Naked Kitchens **Worktops** Lucerne Quartz worktop, £1,400, with a solid-oak worktop, £400, both Town & Country **Sink & tap** Subline 500-U Anthracite sink, £329; Culina mini stainless-steel finish tap, £305, both Blanco **Wall tiles** Sage Metro tiles, £29.50 per sqm, Topps Tiles **Flooring** Reclaimed Junckers solid-beech sports flooring, £32.49 per sqm, McKay Flooring **Appliances** For a similar range, try the Rangemaster Nexus 90, £1,920, John Lewis. Extractor hood, £299, Rangemaster **Lighting** For similar filament lights, try the Sleek Edison 1-wire pendant in Pewter, £29; for similar large pendant lights, try the Brooklyn Dome flush mount 13-inch pendant in Light Pewter, £69 each, both Industville

◀ **Colour contrast** Jackie's gloss metro tiles tone in well with the blue hues of the wall and cabinetry, while the bargain range cooker makes a bold statement while picking out the red in the old gym flooring

3
of the
best
**HANDLELESS
DESIGNS**



1. Milano Ultra Camel & Bianco kitchen, from £2,400, Wren Kitchens **2.** Roma kitchen in Oxford Blue, Terracotta Sunset and Scots Grey, from £7,500, Masterclass Kitchens **3.** Urbo matt lacquer kitchen in Little Greene Basalt 221 with a driftwood veneer island, from £35,000, Round House Design