

Homeowners Emmanuelle and David Cadji-Newby transformed an outdated dining room into a striking family kitchen reflecting their passion for colour and interior design ▶

Words and styling: Sally Smith Photography: Malcolm Menzies

CONFIDENCE IS KEY

"I grew up in a 16th-century house in the Champagne region in France and I've always loved antiques and interior design. The Kitchen is my favourite room in the house."

THE FACTS

Who: Emmanuelle and David Cadji-Newby with their son Elias, 11, and their Leonberger dog Cagney

What: Kitchen renovation in a three-bedroom Edwardian semi-detached house

Where: Upminster

Cost: Devol Shaker-style kitchens start from £12,000

Time: Six months



"I'm a big advocate of using bold colour and pattern, and so is Emmanuelle. The biggest challenge was creating an eye-catching, contemporary kitchen while being respectful to the house's heritage. If you want to do something similar, don't be afraid to move things - it opens up new ways of using your space. Get a full quote before setting your heart on a design, in case any practical considerations make it difficult."

Sophie van Winden,
director and co-founder
of Owl Design

"When we decided to build the new kitchen in what was the dining room, I knew it would be a big job and I would need an interior designer", says Emmanuelle. **Table**, for similar, The Conran Shop.

With strict instructions to stay away from Emmanuelle Cadji-Newby's favourite colour – pink – due to its abundance elsewhere in the property, the bold teal of Fired Earth's South Bank was the shade of choice for this kitchen renovation. And with the added confidence instilled through hiring interior designer Sophie van Winden, Emmanuelle and husband David went bold. The couple moved into the Edwardian semi-detached house in quiet, leafy Upminster in 2012, along with their son Elias, now 11, and their Leonberger dog Cagney, to find a more leisurely lifestyle. There was a lot to do in their new property: all the ceilings were falling in, the walls needed re-plastering, and every room had to be modernised. Finally, five years after moving in, it was the kitchen's turn. Here, Emmanuelle explains how the striking design came together...

What was your vision for the new kitchen?

"We decided to put the units in what was originally the dining room because it's a beautiful space, complete with original features, and has a great view of the garden. It also fitted with our idea of a warm and friendly living space where we could socialise with family and friends, instead of a room that looked too much like a kitchen. Most importantly, it had to have a unique design with a wow factor."

Why did you choose to work with an interior designer?

I needed someone to give me the confidence to go for design decisions I wouldn't have made on my own. I found Sophie, co-founder of Owl Design, online and was impressed with her reviews. I knew after our first meeting we were on the same wavelength. It was great working with a designer who was able to interpret my ideas and make them even better than I could have imagined. Sophie suggested painting the cupboards and the walls the same colour – genius!

How did you come up with the layout?

While we rewired and replaced the lead pipes throughout the entire house when we moved in, because we were converting the dining room into a kitchen, we had to redo the standard fixes for plumbing and electrics – which was, thankfully, relatively straightforward. We initially thought of having one run of units along the back wall, with a freestanding dresser for a more traditional look. But planning the design with Sophie, we decided this was going to be too small and limit storage. Instead, we agreed to take the fireplace out – an ideal spot for the range cooker – and went for a U-shaped layout with cabinetry from Devol instead. Floor-to-ceiling larder cupboards give me the extra storage needed for all the crockery we don't use on a daily basis. They also house the freezer, with the fridge placed to the side. ▶

DESIGN EDIT

↓ Emmanuelle wanted floor-to-ceiling cupboards which would offer extra storage to house the crockery and glasses she uses more for entertaining than everyday cooking. **Ladder**, for similar try Out There Interiors.

→ The dining table is a vintage farmhouse style Emmanuelle and David had in their old house. It suits the style of their new kitchen. **Dining chairs**, The Peanut Vendor; **paint**, Fired Earth; **range cooker**, Lacanche.



1 Canton intelligent matt emulsion, £48.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. littlegreene.com
2 Tom Dixon Beat wall light in black, £325, Nest. nest.co.uk **3** Amtico Form Barrel Oak Trestle flooring, £125 per 3.25 sq m pack, Amtico. amtico.com
4 Cubist tile in green, £9.07 per tile, Bert & May. bertandmay.com **5** Rangemaster Elise 110 dual fuel range cooker in cream, £2279, John Lewis. johnlewis.com



Mixing traditional elements, such as the swan neck tap, for similar, try Victorian Plumbing, with modern accents and bold colours allows Emmanuelle and David to show off their personalities.

What about the other appliances?

After some deliberating, we decided a classic range cooker would be more in keeping with the house's character and period – likewise with the traditional butler sink and vintage brass-finished taps. We also opted for a more professional extractor, which has been cleverly housed in the old chimneybreast.

How long did the design process take?

Around six months. We agreed the basics in terms of cabinets and colours in about four weeks, then spent the next couple of months working through the designs – giving us plenty of time to consider all the different ideas until I was sure I was happy. We came up with the bold colour after deciding quite early on that a green shade was the way to go and built the scheme from there. After looking at several palettes, we decided on Fired Earth's exciting and impactful South Bank. It took us a while to decide on the tiles, too – we considered coppersheeting or black and white tiles, but then Sophie found the geometric designs, which David and I agreed would be ideal.

Did you make any changes?

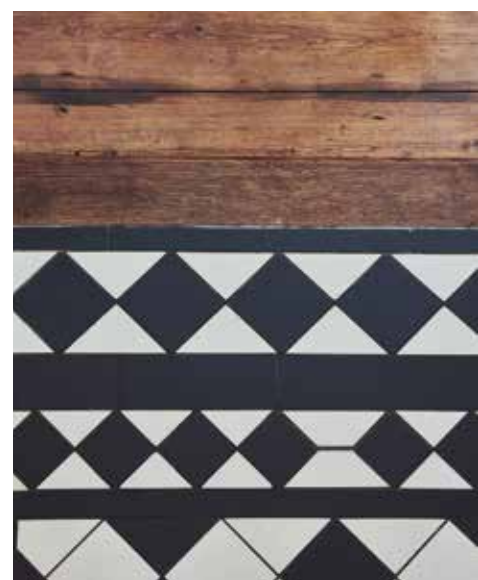
We had originally agreed with Devol to build an island with three stools as the layout's focal point and have the dining area in the conservatory. I gave the go-ahead to start making the kitchen, but then had a lightbulb moment and knew a table would suit our lifestyle much better. We didn't need two places to eat, as there are only three of us here in the week. Plus, as we are always entertaining at the weekends, we knew we'd prefer to use our old farmhouse-style table in the room's centre, giving it a more eclectic and homely feel. Luckily, it wasn't a problem. It was such a relief and definitely the right decision. It's the perfect kitchen for us, it feels and looks great – I don't think you could get any more wow if you tried!"



The traditional French patio doors open out to the garden and let the light flood in, adding another dimension to the bold colours.



↑ The butler sink and vintage brass-finished taps were picked for their traditional style, which fitted with the property's character.

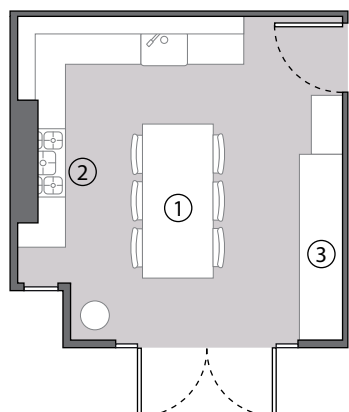


↑ Victorian floor tiles in the hall contrast dark stained original oak floorboards in the kitchen.



Discover the latest colourful kitchen ideas on pinterest.co.uk/kbbmagazine

THE PLANS



The initial plans incorporated an island with barstools, but the couple decided it made more sense to design a U-shaped layout, with a dining table in the middle for better flexibility.

- 1 Dining table** Emmanuelle decided the existing farmhouse-style table would suit the family's lifestyle better than an island.
- 2 Appliances** A range cooker and extractor were installed inside the property's original chimneybreast.
- 3 Storage** Floor-to-ceiling cabinets on the back wall create space to house less frequently used items.

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design Sophie van Winden at Owl Design 07470 003642, owldesign.co.uk
Cabinetry and worktops Devol 020 3837 5900, devolkitchens.co.uk
Wall paint Fired Earth 01295 814365, firedearth.com
Wall tiles Domus 020 8481 9500, domustiles.co.uk
Range cooker Lacanche 01202 733011, lacanche.co.uk

For full stockist information, see page 154 **KBB**

The antique handles are from the Devol Bella Brass hardware collection and blend perfectly with the bespoke painted doors.