



PROJECT NOTES
 Opting for a metal-framed screen on the rear wall of the scheme gives this project a sophisticated, urban look as well as blurring the lines between indoor and outside space

‘Our home needed more light and space’

An ambitious, open-plan extension has maximised the potential of Camilla and Kyle Sanderson’s Victorian property

FEATURE BETH MURTON PHOTOGRAPHER WILLIAM ECKERSLEY

When Camilla and Kyle Sanderson went to see their current home for the first time, it was little more

than an empty shell, as the previous owner had put it on the market not long after starting to renovate the entire property. However, far from deterring the couple, the unfinished interior proved to be one of its biggest selling points. ‘Most of the rooms had already been stripped out and we were excited by the prospect of transforming what was a blank canvas,’ Camilla recalls. ‘It was clear to us that the house had fantastic potential.’

Having worked abroad for a number of years, this was to be the couple’s first residence in the UK since having their three children, so they wanted to be sure they got the design of the space right for their growing family. In addition to completing the renovation of the entire building, redesigning the first-floor layout and converting the loft to create an extra

bedroom, the couple wanted to increase the size of the cooking area at the rear of the structure. ‘I trained as a chef, so preparing food and entertaining are really important to me,’ Camilla explains.

After extensive online research to find pictures of similar projects that inspired them, Camilla and Kyle came across Simon Whitehead Architects and immediately liked the look of what they saw. ‘We knew we didn’t want a formulaic side extension and every one of Simon’s designs felt really individual,’ says Camilla. ‘We also knew we would benefit from having an expert to guide us through the process from beginning to end.’

The couple’s brief was for an airy, open-plan look, with plenty of room for a large kitchen area. ‘We also needed to maximise the natural light,’ Kyle adds, ‘as the rear of the house is north-facing.’ To achieve this, Simon’s vision for the new L-shaped addition includes a glazed back wall with metal-framed windows and a set of double doors, creating a statement feature that sets the tone for the modern ▶



EXTENSION DETAILS

Homeowners Camilla Sanderson and her husband, Kyle **Family** Three young children, all under 6
Location South-east London
Property Four-bedroom, semi-detached Victorian house

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Build cost (including work to the rest of the ground floor) £165,000 **Glazing** £25,000
Kitchen & worktops £17,000
Flooring £3,500

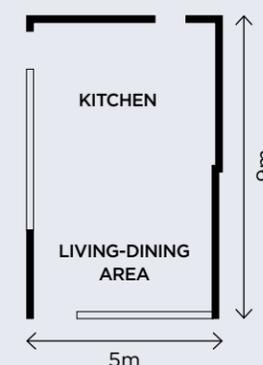
TOTAL SPEND

£210,500

THE BRIEF

To extend out to the side and across the rear of the house to create an open-plan kitchen, dining and living space

THE FLOORPLAN





GOOD IDEA
 In a light kitchen, two tones of cabinetry make feature pieces out of the darker-coloured units

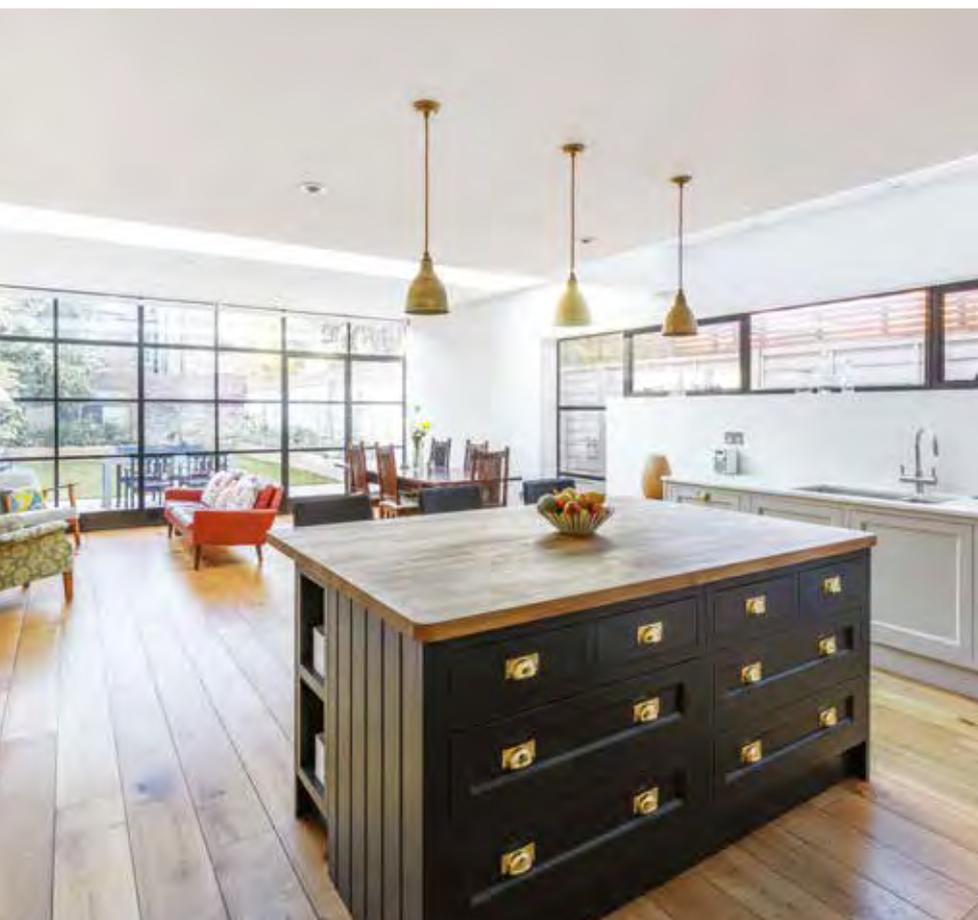
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industrial feel of the interiors, which is continued with the exposed brick on one side of the extension. Matching glazing on the opposite side wall allows even more daylight into the kitchen area at the back, while two contemporary frameless roof windows – one running across the width of the ceiling and a second above the freshly created side-return space – flood the airy space with natural light.

Although the couple rented the house next door for four months at the beginning of the renovation when the loft was being converted, the family moved back into their home before the ground-floor work began. ‘With three young children, it was far from ideal lacking somewhere to cook, and living in a house full of dust, but our builders, Norkey Services, were fantastic at making it as easy as possible for us,’ says Camilla. ‘It was also so exciting to see the extension taking shape on a daily basis, as we soon got a sense of just how big the finished project was going to be.’

A few stressful months aside, Camilla and Kyle are thrilled with the results of their renovation and extension. The solid-wood painted kitchen they chose for the food-preparation zone is a classic choice, with the two complementary colours and brass feature handles adding interest to the scheme. The layout is ▶



← **AIRY SCHEME**

The new extension provides generous dining, cooking and living areas for the family and their friends, as well as garden views

^ **WOOD WORKS**

Hardwearing and good looking, solid-oak flooring is an excellent choice for a room that sees plenty of foot traffic



designed around the central island unit, which has quickly become the focal point. 'We all seem to sit or stand around it, whether that's for breakfast as a family or chatting with friends when they come over to visit,' says Kyle. And for Camilla, the completion of the work has allowed her to rediscover her passion for cooking; delicious, weekly Sunday roasts are now back on the menu.

The refurbishment and expansion of their property has added significant value to it, but Camilla and Kyle have no imminent plans to leave their beautifully conceived family home. 'We learned so much from this process, however, that it seems a waste not to put that to use by taking on another enterprise in the future,' says Camilla, 'so watch this space.' **GH**

↑ **STYLISH COMBINATION**

Units are painted in French grey, the island in lamp black, both by Little Greene

→ **STRIKING FEATURE**

Outside, the garden was excavated to flow from the house on one level and then landscaped for a modern look



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SHOPPING BASKET

GLAZING Windows and doors, £19,000, Clement Windows. Frameless roof lights, £6,000, Cantifix **KITCHEN** Bespoke kitchen units painted in Little Greene's French grey and lamp black, with oak and Minerva worktops, £17,000, all Yew Tree Designs **APPLIANCES** For a similar fridge-freezer, try three-door Fisher & Paykel RF610ADX4, £1,799; for a similar cooker, try Smeg SY93 Symphony dual-fuel range, £1,600; for a similar cookerhood, try Smeg KD120XE chimney hood, £569; Franke Omni 4-in-1 instant boiling-water tap, £1,442, all John Lewis **FLOORING** Solid-oak flooring, £3,500, Broadleaf Timber **LIGHTING** Barbican pendant lights in antiqued brass, £64.40 each, Jim Lawrence **FURNITURE** For a similar grey armchair, try Ekenäset armchair in Isunda grey, £170, Ikea. For a similar vintage leather sofa, try eBay. For similar bar stools, try Cadiz brushed-steel stool in black, £139 each, Atlantic Shopping