

‘This layout is so much better’

Merge rooms to make the kitchen part of your living space – the Hedemanns can recommend it

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

For two years, Jessica and Dirk Hedemann dined in an old lean-to just off their kitchen. ‘We actually had to step out of the kitchen door and cross a patio to get in there,’ says Jessica. Fed up with the setup, they decided to take action in 2011. ‘We simply replaced the lean-to and patio area with a single-storey extension connected to the old kitchen and the living room,’ explains Jessica. ‘Although the extension is quite small, the impact it has made has been huge. The kitchen, dining and living room are now open plan, but the individual spaces each have a different feel.’

Cooking is a passion for Jessica and Dirk, so when it came to choosing new units and worktops for the kitchen, they wanted something that was practical, but also stylish. The solution? High-gloss units and hard-wearing quartz worktops that are both easy to wipe down. ‘The kitchen is in constant use because I love cooking and Dirk is a keen baker, but it still looks neat most of the time because it’s so simple to keep clean,’ says Jessica. The couple are thrilled with everything about the makeover. ‘We’ve worked hard on every tiny detail to make sure the kitchen and the new downstairs layout works for us,’ says Jessica. ‘Now it’s finished, we absolutely love it.’



BEFORE



Glass splashback
‘It’s so easy to clean, with no grout lines to worry about,’ says Jessica



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, Thirties, semi-detached house in St Albans, Hertfordshire, bought in 2009.

WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£13,000
Worktops.....	£2,700
Splashbacks.....	£1,000
Sink and tap.....	£610
Appliances.....	£3,435
Flooring.....	£900
Blind.....	£85
TOTAL.....	£21,730

WHO LIVES HERE

Jessica and Dirk Hedemann.

WHAT THEY DID

Removed a lean-to from the back of the house and replaced it with a single-storey extension to create space for a dining area. Kept the new extension open plan to the house’s living room. Fitted bifold doors leading out to the garden, plus two Velux windows to flood the space with light. Replaced

the roof on the original part of the kitchen to raise the height of the ceiling. Installed another Velux window and replaced a large window over the sink. Had new units and appliances fitted.

THE LOOK

Sleek and stylish, with high-gloss units in taupe.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Dirk was able to take time off to project manage the work, which meant that any problems were resolved immediately.”



THE LAYOUT The dining area of the kitchen is in the extension and is open plan to the living room. In the kitchen section, a bank of wall units houses the ovens and the fridge-freezer. Next to that is the hob, with the sink under the window



Love their
STYLE?

THE SCHÜLLER SYSTEM 78
HANDLELESS UNITS IN TRUFFLE
BROWN GLOSS ARE FROM KDCUK.
£££. FOR SIMILAR, TRY HOWDENS
JOINERY'S BURFORD GLOSS FLINT
GREY £ OR WREN KITCHENS'
AUTOGRAPH STONE
GREY GLOSS ££

Super sleek

Jessica and Dirk liked the idea of streamlined, handleless units as the kitchen is now part of a big, open-plan living area. Jessica chose a taupe colourway to add warmth to the white walls and floors

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Jessica and Dirk created their kitchen



Dining space
The couple replaced an old lean-to with this extension to make room for a table in the kitchen

GET READY FOR
Christmas
Create a table centrepiece by filling a plate or vase with baubles and surrounding it with tealights



Easy access
Looking for ingredients is simple with this slimline pull-out larder

Where to buy
ITEMS SHOWN

Schüller System 78 handleless **units** in Truffle Brown Gloss and Natural Walnut, from £260 for a 600mm base unit; Quartz Absolute Blanc **worktop**, £450 per m; Blanco Zerox **sink and tap** pack, £610; Neff Series 3 B45E52N3GB single **oven**, £740; Neff Series 3 C54L60N3GB **microwave**, £420; Neff Series 3 T63R46SO gas **hob**, £490; Neff Series 4 D79M55NOGB **chimney hood**, £520; all KDCUK. Opti-White 6mm glass **splashback** in Quartz Grey, £200 per sq m, The GlassSmith. Casalgrande Padana Botticino **floor tiles**, from £40.72 per sq m, Verulam Tile Warehouse. Banik Light Grey **blind**, £85, Hillarys. Henry **table**, £799; Henry **benches**, £325 each; all John Lewis. Orlando **bar stools**, £99.50 each, Atlantic Shopping. XXL floor **lamp base**, £64.98, B&Q. For a similar **shade**, try the Gemma, £25, John Lewis. Triangle **tea towel**, £9.95, Cloudberry Living. **Table runner**, £5.99, Purple spectrum collection; **wine glasses**, £2.49 each, Conical collection; all Dunelm. **Canisters**, from £6.75 each, Brabantia

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PLAN PERSONA-ID



Zone out
A breakfast bar divides the cooking and eating areas – it was made by installing a worktop on the end of a run of units



How we did it

“ We didn’t need to get an architect in to advise us on a new downstairs layout because we’d been living in the house for two years and could see exactly how the space could be maximised and changed to make it flow better. EasyPlan Building Solutions did the kitchen extension for us and we went to KDCUK for the units. They were great and suggested that we add a few walnut units and worktops to warm up the room. All the work took about three months to complete and cost around £13,000, but we saved quite a bit of money because Dirk installed the kitchen and laid the floor himself. ”