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A kitchen with white cabinetry, a marble countertop, a wooden ladder, and a wooden stool. The kitchen features a white wall with a wooden ladder leaning against it. The cabinetry is white with silver handles. The countertop is made of light-colored marble. On the countertop, there is a white stand mixer, a wooden box labeled 'HUILE D'OLIVE', a glass bottle, and some fruit. A wooden stool is in the foreground. The floor is made of light-colored wood in a herringbone pattern. The text 'Room to GROW' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Room to GROW

For designer Charlie Kingham, it was essential to create a kitchen that would evolve as this family grows, providing plenty of practical elements as well as character, charm and natural beauty

PICTURES RICHARD GADSBY WORDS HAYLEY GILBERT

PALE AND INTERESTING

The bespoke cabinetry is hand-painted in Farrow & Ball's Pavilion Gray and teamed with luxurious Carrara marble worktops





**LET THERE
BE LIGHT**

The property benefits from a glazed side return, which allows plenty of natural light to flood in

T

he most successful kitchen schemes are the result of a close working relationship between a designer and their client, and for kitchen designer Charlie Kingham there was plenty of client input when it came to mapping out this brief.

'Like all modern households, this family live a very energetic and fun-packed lifestyle,' he explains, 'which required a multipurpose living space within an intercity heritage property.'

The Victorian home nestled in a leafy West London suburb belongs to a professional couple with two young children. Above all, the kitchen had to be practical, and while they had the luxury of a certain amount of space, it was important that every inch was used to its maximum potential with ceiling-height cabinets and stacks of hidden storage. 'The design also had to be flexible and adaptable with time and the changing needs of the family,' adds Charlie. 'And of course the aesthetic also needed to be beautiful and timeless.'

The solution was a classic Shaker design, a concept that originated in the 19th century but is open to a modern perspective. 'We played with symmetry and strong, tall lines by taking all the cabinetry to the full ceiling height' says Charlie. 'We used bespoke cupboards and created a unique ladder system.'

One of the focal points of the room is a bespoke French range cooker by Lacanche with an antique mirrored splashback above. Carrara marble work surfaces create an uncluttered workspace and the Miele appliances are cleverly integrated into the furniture in order to enhance the seamless look. 'We tucked the microwave inside the larder cupboard,' he explains, 'and once the doors are closed, you would never know it was there.'

Taking centre stage is the generously sized island unit which is topped with the same Carrara marble and fitted with a double bowl ceramic sink and boiling water tap. As well as providing additional storage space in the cupboards below, it's also the perfect spot for family breakfasts, catching up with friends over coffee or chatting to guests as the couple cook.

'The clients were overwhelmed with the final outcome,' reveals Charlie. 'They were amazed at the accessibility of all the new storage and by keeping the worktops free from things like the kettle and microwave, they could see how easy it will be to keep their kitchen looking good as new.' *EKBB*

Kitchen profile

This bespoke cabinetry by Charlie Kingham is hand-painted in Farrow & Ball's Pavilion Gray. The design is a hardwood Shaker style with tailor-made handles, knobs and stainless steel hinges. The kitchen is finished with granite worktops and an antique mirrored splashback, while the parquet wooden floor and vintage stools introduce an element of old world charm to this West London home.

CHARLIE KINGHAM

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Cabinetry for this kitchen cost £28,800.



BESPOKE DETAILS

As well as designing bespoke cabinetry, Charlie Kingham also provided bespoke handles, knobs and hinges



NOW YOU SEE IT

The Miele microwave is concealed within the larder unit, providing a neat area for making snacks

GOING UP
A unique ladder system enables the homeowners to access the top cabinets more easily





UTILITY CHIC

A series of three industrial looking pendant lamps hang over the island unit, highlighting the workspace below



CLEVER STORAGE

Behind the closed doors of the larder cupboard, a pull-out spice drawer is flanked by wine racks either side



CHARLIE KINGHAM
OWNER, CHARLIE KINGHAM

What was your starting point for the project?

The concept of creating an adaptable and functional layout that is proportionate to such a large space. Although we had the flexibility of a large unobstructed room, we had the challenge of making sure we utilised all the available space into a practical, modern family orientated working and living environment. We found that using the full height of the room was a great way to maximise storage without compromising the floor space.

Can you tell us about your favourite elements of the design?

The hidden larder unit. Once opened it reveals a

fantastic cupboard containing a Miele integrated microwave, solid oak door-mounted spice racks, wine storage, integrated drawers and a beautiful oak countertop. We find creating these small gems a real treat in all our kitchens, as they are used to hide all those essential appliances that take up far too much room on our worktops. Larder cabinets can be the solution for your toaster, kettle, coffee machine and so on.

How did you choose the materials? All Charlie Kingham cabinetry is made from solid hardwood frames with oak interiors, meticulously hand-painted by our team of experts. Our clients for this

project chose a neutral shade. The interior of their larder and drawers were kept in the same style as the cabinets by using European oak throughout.

How would you describe the style of this kitchen?

The kitchen is inspired and adapted around Shaker cabinetry which was originally designed to focus on the functionality and symmetry of the furniture. As it's stripped of decorative features, it allows clients to personalise their kitchen through their own aesthetic, for example, with the colours they choose or whether they have an industrial handle or even the option of a decorative cabinet latch.



‘Although we had the flexibility of a large unobstructed room, we also had the challenge of making sure we utilised all of the available space’



HIDE AND SEEK

With plenty of nooks and crannies for storage, Charlie has made the most of all of the space

Stockists

APPLIANCES

Cluny **range cooker**, £4,050, Lacanche.
M6022 SC **microwave**, £799; DA2250
integrated **cooker hood**, £675; K37222 iD tall
integrated **larder fridge**, £1,225; FNS 37402 I
tall integrated **freezer**, £1,925; G 6260 SCVi
fully integrated **dishwasher**, £1,150, all Miele.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Shaker 900 double bowl ceramic **sink**,
£518; Phoenician **mixer tap** with lever
handles and rinse, £264, both Perrin &
Rowe. **Boiling water tap**, £653, Quooker.
Bianca Eclipsia Carrara marble **worktops**,
£660 per sq. m; Antique mirror **splashback**,
£800, both from Charlie Kingham.

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 152

READING CORNER

The bespoke furniture continues into a cosy corner, which is ideal for relaxing with a good book