

# ‘It’s full of amazing details’

Get designer style on a budget by opting for a bespoke kitchen, like Lucy and Will Houston did

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Love their **STYLE?**

THE HOUSTONS' CONTUR KITCHEN IS FROM MARKUS SCHMID ££. FOR SIMILAR, TRY B&Q'S COOKE & LEWIS APPLEBY £ OR THE BROOKLYN GLOSS BY SYMPHONY £££

**Floor show**  
The couple had the units made to complement the patterned floor tiles

Abbey Fountains floor tiles, £89.70 per sq m, Fired Earth



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**THE PROPERTY**

A two-bedroom, Georgian townhouse in southwest London.

**WHO LIVES HERE**

Lucy and Will Houston live here.

**WHAT THEY DID**

The old galley kitchen was ripped out and the room was extended into the side return and the back garden to create a spacious open-plan kitchen and dining area.

**THE LOOK**

Fresh and contemporary, with clean lines, on-trend copper accents and striking patterned flooring.

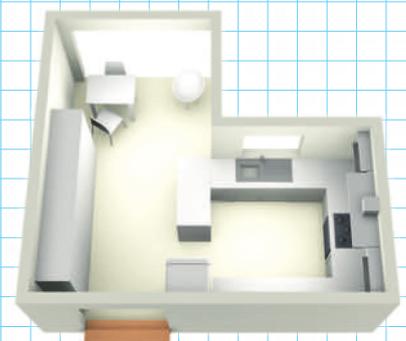
**LESSONS LEARNED**

“Don't set pressing deadlines for yourself, such as getting your new kitchen fitted two weeks before your wedding, which is exactly what we did!”

**WHAT IT COST**

Units.....	£9,000
Worktop.....	£3,000
Sink and tap.....	£400
Appliances.....	£1,850
Floor tiles.....	£1,200
Lighting.....	£80
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£15,530</b>

**TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW**  
*Lucy and Will created their new kitchen*



**THE LAYOUT** The units are arranged in a U-shape, with the sink beneath a window. A bank of tall cupboards along the opposite wall provides storage and conceals appliances



With their wedding approaching, Lucy and Will Houston wanted a new kitchen to start married life with. Their existing kitchen was long and narrow, and looked a little tired, with tatty lino and bright red gloss doors – not ideal for a couple who love entertaining. ‘Our new kitchen needed to be a practical space where Will could test out his cookery skills and we could relax with friends,’ says Lucy.

They started by calling in a team of builders, who extended the property into the garden and side return. ‘We wanted the space to flow outdoors,’ says Lucy. Top of the wish list were large bifolding doors opening onto the garden, plus patterned flooring. ‘We spent ages looking for exactly the right floor tile,’ says Lucy. ‘When

I spotted these, they became the focus of the room design and we wanted a plain and simple kitchen to complement them.’

An internet search led the couple to a small family company, Markus Schmid Kitchens, which didn’t even have a showroom. ‘When we met the designer at his house, Will and I saw his kitchen and changed our minds about what we wanted,’ says Lucy. ‘We scrapped the idea of a wooden worktop in favour of a white stone one, and added grey base units to pick out the colours in the floor tiles.’

Within weeks of the building work finishing, the couple’s kitchen was fitted. ‘If we were going to have something bespoke, then we wanted it to look different,’ says Lucy. ‘Our designer was a perfectionist, and our kitchen is full of amazing details that make all the difference. Everything is beautifully designed and well made.’ →

#### ▲ Sleek look

**‘The door fronts are foil wrapped to get that perfect matt finish,’ says Lucy. ‘It’s details like this that make our kitchen that little bit special’**

Contur units, £300 for a W600mm base unit; Hi-Macs Alpine White worktop, £3,000 for L7m; built-in oven, £350, Constructa range; all Markus Schmid Kitchens. For similar copper pans, try the three-piece saucepan set, £80, George Home



▲ *Let in light*

The couple increased the size of their kitchen by building into the side return and back garden. A large window above the sink ensures the room feels light and bright  
Blanco tap, £150; Blanco double sink, £250; both Markus Schmid Kitchens

◀ *Head outside*

Bifold doors open the dining area out to the garden in summer  
Bjursta extendable table, £150; Janinge chairs, £45 each; all Ikea. Acapulco chair, £105, Voga



*Hidden storage*

Floor-to-ceiling units make good use of space and house an oven at eyelevel

Combination oven, £350. Constructa range, Markus Schmid Kitchens



## How we did it

“ In October 2014, our builders began knocking out the old kitchen and external walls, and building an extension with a big skylight above the new U-shaped kitchen. Various issues meant the build took a lot longer than anticipated, dragging on for five months in total, during which time we lived with my friends. With the building work finished, the kitchen took a day to install, just in time for our wedding two weeks later. We paid £2,300 for the installation. Our friend cleaned our house from top to bottom while we were on our honeymoon, so we could move straight in on our return. ”