

Before



# Light and contemporary

This reworked kitchen and dining area has a colour scheme inspired by the garden

**What it cost...** Units £10,976; worktops £1596; tiles £248; appliances £1830; sink and taps £539; flooring £1275; radiator £250; paint £19.98. **Total £16,733.98**



**Walls**  
White walls and ceiling make the dark brown units really stand out

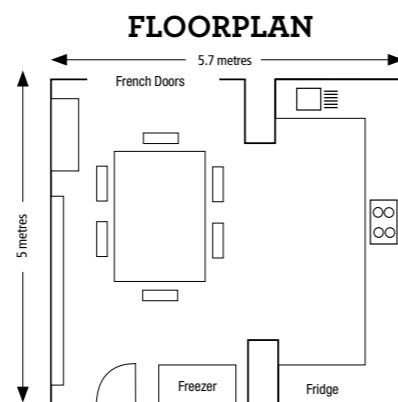
**Tiles**  
Pale green glass tiles lift the room and bring subtle natural colour into the scheme

**Table**  
The modern white glass table links with the tiled splashback

**Good IDEA**  
Metal kick plates add a stylish finish and match the appliances



**Units**  
The sleek units are handle-free to create a streamlined look



**Who lives here...**  
Joyce Moseley, 64, chief executive of young peoples' charity Catch 22, (catch-22.org.uk), and her husband Tony Allen, 66, an actor and artist, in their five-bedroom Victorian terraced house in east London

**How long have you lived here?**  
We moved here in 1995, and about 13 years ago we made a start on the kitchen. Originally it was upstairs, so it had no access to the garden, and downstairs was a granny annexe, dining room and larder. We knocked the wall down between those two areas to make one large kitchen and dining area, and kept the original French doors and windows. We also put in plain wooden units.

**So why did you decide to change it?**  
It worked well for more than 10 years but the room began to look a bit tired and the appliances started to fail. Tony and I had a serious discussion about moving, but we decided to stay as we love the area and

we've got the garden as we like it. I decided if we were staying, I wanted a new kitchen.

**What did you have in mind?**  
Something very different from what we had – a contemporary design with clean, simple lines. We started looking but one company came up with a grand price, which scared us off a bit.

**How did you start again?**  
On a visit to a local kitchen showroom last spring we saw units we really liked, and this time round it was a different story. They listened to what we said, respected what we wanted to spend, made lots of clever

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*Get the look for less*

**£79** Faux leather Loop leg chair, Dwell

**£189** Bjursta white extending table, Ikea

The bi-fold doors provide brilliant views of the garden



**Lesson LEARNED**

Use a local company so you can talk face to face. We were able to discuss our ideas without feeling rushed

suggestions and, best of all, came in under our budget of £20,000. It was also useful knowing that they were only up the road if we wanted to check anything.

**Did you have a set view on the colour of the units?**

Not really, we ended up with dark brown as it just seemed to fit. We were thinking of something pale, but it's such a light kitchen that we can use a dark colour.

**Tell us about the flooring and doors**

We knew that we wanted solid oak flooring throughout, and certainly not the laminate we'd put down previously, which didn't last. It was an expense to replace the French doors with bi-folding ones but, as they fold right back, we can watch the garden wildlife more easily.

**Do you have enough storage?**

Yes, there are tall pull-out storage units, full-height cupboards and drawers, and a dresser unit that stores all our tableware.

**What about finishing touches?**

I remembered that we had some pendant lights in the loft with a green glass band, so fitted them and they tie everything together.

● **Joyce and Tony used Amberth Kitchens, 311 Essex Road, London N1 2YG. Call 020 7354 8958 or visit amberth.eu**



This pull-out larder keeps dry goods and spices neatly stored and easy to access

**Shopping list**

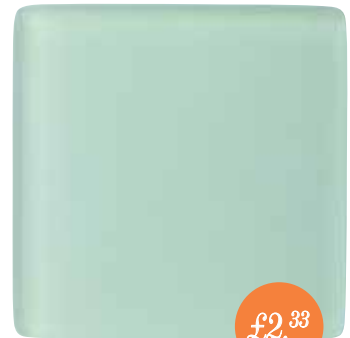
**Walls** painted in Pure Brilliant white matt emulsion, £9.99 for 2.5L, Dulux. Solid oak white oiled floorboards, £50 a square metre; Dark Legno laminated and Blanco Rosato matt lacquered units, £10,976; **worktops** in Wharf Simple B005 acrylic finish, about £250 a square metre; integrated **dishwasher**, £399; **larder fridge**, £782; **under-counter freezer**, £357; **built-in microwave**, £292; Blanco Supreme **sink**, £289; **glass tiles** from the Saint Gobain Feeling range, £99 a square metre; **folding doors**, £4800; all Amberth. **Tap**, £250, The Plumbing Place. **White radiator**, £250, Screwfix. **Glass-topped dining table**, £2000; **tea towel hooks**, £5 each; **clock**, £100; all Heal's. **Spotty mugs**, £1.50 each, Waitrose. **Wall-mounted wine racks**, £15 each, John Lewis. **Stone heads**, £10 each, Columbia Road Flower Market. **Summer Fete tea towel**, £4.95, Burgon and Ball HB

*3 of the best*  
**GLASS TILES**



£19.<sup>40</sup>

*Piece perfect*  
**Angelina random pattern clear and frosted mosaic tiles (30cm x 30cm), Mosaics Collection Original Style**



£2.<sup>33</sup>

*Cool as ice*  
**Liquid Glass tiles in Ice and Frosted Ice (11cm x 11cm) Fired Earth**



£18.<sup>15</sup>

*Very Venetian*  
**Murano Glass Beige/Mink 4 Mosaic (30cm x 26cm sheet), Renaissance Collection Craven Dunnill**

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**FOR STORE DETAILS SEE 'WHERE TO BUY' PAGE AT BACK OF ISSUE**