

# K&H Design

ELIZABETH METCALFE meets Katie Glaister and Henry Miller-Robinson to discuss their work on the kitchen of a London house, which reveals the duo's incredible attention to detail



The interior decorators Henry Miller-Robinson and Katie Glaister of K&H Design created a bold look for this open-plan space, including burr walnut cladding for the four-metre-long island and the tall cupboard doors (on the right) that conceal a desk area. The wall units are painted in complementary

'Tanner's Brown' by Farrow & Ball. Calacatta Caldia marble was used for the island worktop and splashback. The leather-covered 'Captain's Bar Stool' is from Howe

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don't have a prescriptive look,' says Katie Glaister, who co-founded K&H Design with Henry Miller-Robinson in 2015. Instead, the pair create elegant, hard-working interiors that make people feel comfortable. This might explain the diversity of their projects (from a Stockholm apartment to a large rectory in Oxfordshire), the broad age range of their clients and why so many of them have worked with the firm again and again. 'We've had repeat business from all our clients,' says Katie.

The duo came to interiors through different routes: Katie had worked for high-end developers on the sales and marketing side for 20 years, while Henry was involved in his family's commercial construction business in Derbyshire until 2011. By the time they met, Henry had completed an interior-design course at KLC, while Katie – having gutted and renovated several of her own houses – decided she wanted to flex her own creative muscles and make a job out of what was once a hobby.

Like many small businesses, this one started at a kitchen table, but K&H Design now has a team of nine and a studio in Fulham. Current projects include two houses in west London and a flat in Knightsbridge, and the company has recently designed a 67-bedroom hotel in Richmond. Much of what they do is completely bespoke. 'We often experiment with materials that are not commonly used,' says Henry.

This large kitchen and dining area is on the ground floor of Katie and Henry's first project together – a Victorian family house in west London. The owners had lived there for 18 years and it needed reconfiguring to create more usable space. A tired conservatory was replaced by a brick extension and Crittall doors.

The room had to work hard. The husband is a keen cook, so wanted space for his specialist equipment, but it also had to be an inviting room for the rest of the family. 'The client didn't want it to feel like a kitchen,' explains Henry. As a solution, they integrated professional-standard cooking appliances into the central four-metre-long island and clad it in bookmatched burr walnut so it would resemble a smart piece of furniture. They also added a small workstation outside the main cooking area, so the family could make tea and coffee without getting in the chef's way.

Running parallel to the island, an extendable walnut table from Benchmark seats up to 14 people. 'It had to work for both family breakfasts and dinner parties,' says Katie. Josef Frank dining chairs, upholstered in a selection of the designer's colourful fabrics, tie in well with an abstract painting by Lydia Mammes. At the far end of the room, a desk area is concealed behind burr walnut doors on the kitchen side. An oak and burr walnut unit in the dining area hides the television behind a sliding panel.

The level of detail is impressive – Katie and Henry designed the handles on the island so the owner could use them with just two fingers if he was in the middle of cooking. Units painted in a dark brown by Farrow & Ball were designed around the exact measurements of the owners' china, pans and cutlery. 'We wanted to create a logical space for everything,' explains Katie. [kandhdesign.co.uk](http://kandhdesign.co.uk)



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### GED KENNETT

'We've commissioned Ged to make handles for several projects – from slender bronze to robust stainless steel. He enjoys collaborating on bespoke commissions.' [gedkennett.co.uk](http://gedkennett.co.uk)

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FROM TOP The island, which incorporates a bespoke range cooker and hob, was raised off the floor to make it less imposing. Rocky Mountain Hardware made the patinated bronze handles.

In the dining room, an oak and burr walnut shelving unit provides storage for cookbooks.

The vase was made by Tom Kemp. Rose Uniacke's 'Plaster Cone' pendant lights hang above the walnut table, which is surrounded by Josef Frank dining chairs from Svenskt Tenn