

Inside Out

There's no greater use of a garden than bringing it seamlessly into the house. This modern kitchen becomes one with its outdoor space

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“I always want a kitchen to feel as good as it looks”
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When David Nossiter architects and their client wanted to create a ‘practical, yet modern space that was rich for entertaining’ in a new high-quality extension, they commissioned Rousseau Design to come up with the solution.

It was a project that Creative Director Ben Rousseau enjoyed since the challenges were many and varied: “Perhaps the biggest challenge was to maximise the use of storage and space either side of what was the old fireplace,” he says. “These alcoves were really shallow - only about 200mm deep - but we designed some lovely cabinetry that houses a scissor action set of doors over a flatscreen TV, some really short through drawers and lots of shelving for spice racks, pasta storage and anything else that fits nicely into tall slim spaces, such as vases, wine bottles, and candle sticks.” ▶

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The doors all sit flush to the wall but when open reveal the mandarin coloured bespoke carcasses. “These really work well with the exposed original orange bricks on the opposite wall,” says Rousseau. “I think it also helps it not take itself too seriously as it adds an element of fun and friendliness against the four white ‘power’ surfaces of the white Corian worktops, white Parapan doors, white painted glass and white emulsion walls and ceiling.”

The polished grey concrete floor completes the colour palette and collection of complimentary textures.

The kitchen was kitted out with high spec components. With a Wolf hob, Miele ovens, Franke tap and Elica hood. Orange stools from Ligne Roset and dining chairs from Calligaris completed the look – along with a family heirloom table which Rousseau refurbished for the client.

Once again, this project provides a good example of the importance of a good client/designer partnership. “Client relationships are always important,” says Rousseau. “This kitchen was the second we had done for the client, the first being a more traditional design with an amazing wane-edge oak worktop, which was truly stunning. It had huge amounts of detail and character but was also very tactile, which is something I always factor

into our work. I want it to feel as good as it looks. I like the fact you can’t walk past it without running your hands over the silky surface or over the huge polished knot.

“The work we do is always very personal, we are creating something especially for this person. They will live there, use it every day and then entertain and show off there as well. I’d want nothing less than my client to be able to have his best friends and family round proudly showing off his new space, demonstrating the new appliances and showing off the details we’ve planned meticulously.”

In order to deliver this kind of end result, Rousseau believes that a thorough understanding of the client’s needs and tastes is vital: “For this project, we did discuss it all before the architect was even commissioned, so the idea of the minimal design and huge slab of Corian was always part of the dream for both client and myself.

“When I first saw David’s drawings I knew the project was going to be as I imagined it to be right in the beginning. I think it’s good to involve clients in the designs by really understanding them - what they want and how they use the space. That way, the creative solution is the correct solution and saves any wasted design time and energy.”