



*Welcome to my home*

Mariam Boutorabi-Cooke lives here with her husband Matt and their daughter Ara, five.

**THE PROPERTY**  
A four-bed flat in a Victorian terrace in southwest London.

**WHAT IT COST**

Kitchen units.....	£11,500
Appliances.....	£6,500
Taps.....	£1,600
Worktops.....	£1,000
Splashback.....	£400
Island and sinks.....	£4,500
Flooring.....	£4,200
Lighting.....	£650
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£30,350</b>

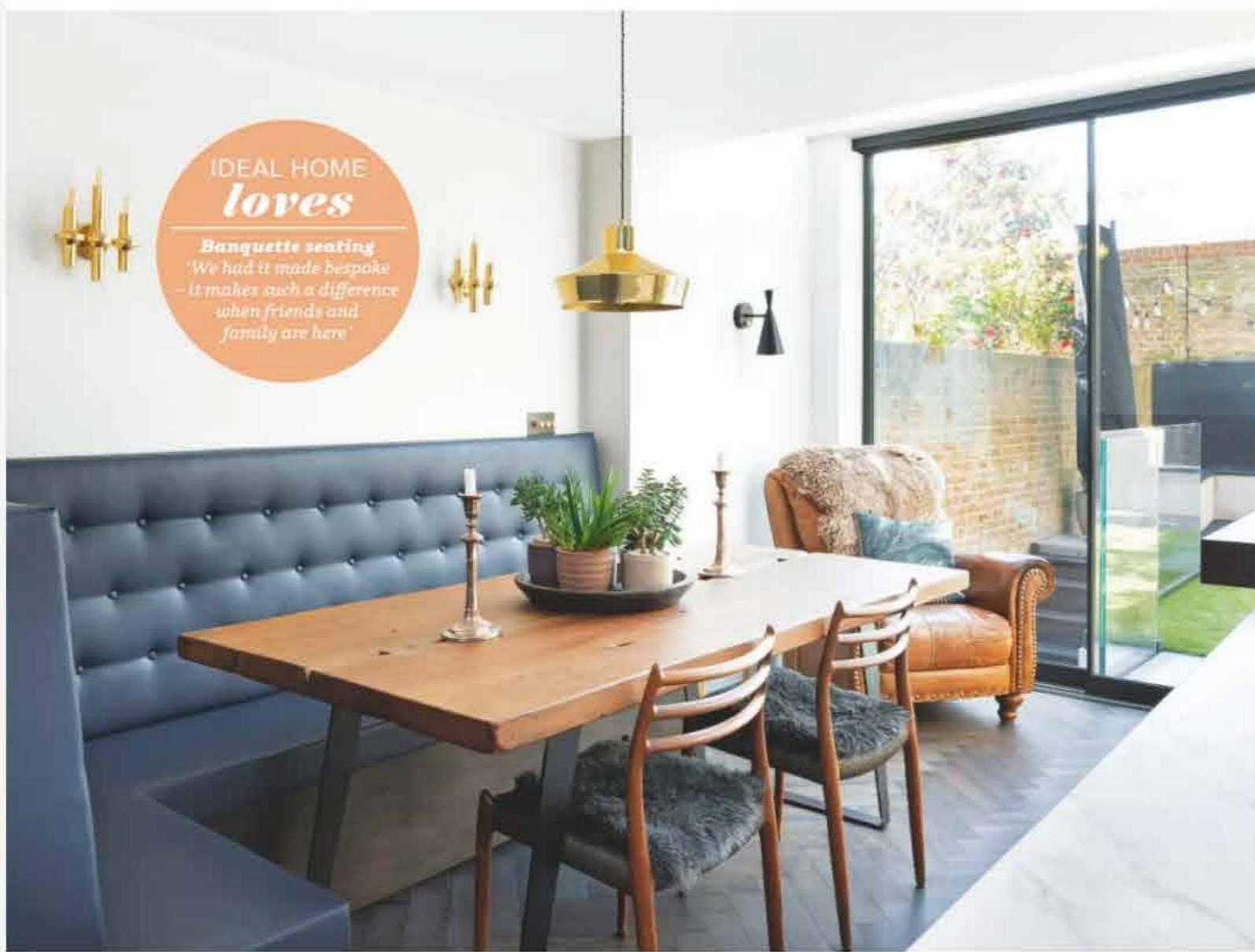
*“It has a warm, homely feel, which is down to both the layout and the natural materials we've used”*

## HOW MARIAM AND MATT DID IT

'This room was a dark space running along the back of the house, with the sink at the rear wall and a small window above it overlooking the garden, so the amount of natural light was limited. We planned a new layout and had an architect draw up our ideas. Our main aim was to open up the whole space and bring in more light, so we included a long skylight down the side, where we built into the side return, and sliding glass rear doors. We allowed £80,000 for the work, which was done by Waltons Construction, and the doors cost £4,500. When it came to the interior, we got help from **Miriam Prada** at Tenorite Interiors. We love having friends and family over, so we wanted to create a sociable seating space with a home-and-hearth feeling. I love the room because it suits us, as well as being so practical.'

**BELOW** 'We loved the idea of having a wall of glass, so we had sliding 2.6m-high doors fitted, which open onto the garden. It's almost like not having doors, just a gap that's open to the elements,' says Mariam. Erling Torvits dining chairs, £282 each, Pamono. Bespoke banquette, price on request, Lotus Craft Upholstery

FEATURE: SEAN O'CONNELL; PHOTOGRAPHS: VEROICA RODRIGUEZ



**BRASS HANDLES**  
Upgrade simple Shaker cabinets

**ABOVE** 'Matt loves the warmth that natural materials bring, so we have leather furniture, wooden flooring, marble and brass fittings – all tactile finishes that knit well together.'

Hay bar stools, £195 each, Amara. Brass handles, from £35 each, Buster + Punch



**WHAT I'VE LEARNED**  
‘Be patient! There are bound to be small frustrations and compromises along the way on a project like this. And you can always tweak things at a later date’

## KITCHEN PROJECT



**ABOVE** 'We love the shape of the tap, which is the first thing you see as you walk in. It's like a piece of art!' says Mariam. The marble-look surfaces are actually Neolith. 'It has all the pluses of marble but none of the minuses.'

Lefroy Brooks Ten Ten tap, £625, Original Bathrooms



**RIGHT** Glazed doors and open racks for cookbooks and spices break up the heavy run of wall units and give the couple a chance to display favourite items.

Custom brass splashback, price on request, Metalworx. Smeg Opera range cooker, £3,149, John Lewis & Partners