

BEFORE



Love
MARIAM'S
STORAGE?

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to shop the look

**ADD-ON
SURFACE**
Creates a mini
breakfast bar
or serving area

'This bright, modern kitchen feels cosy, too'

The drawback of glass-wall extensions is that they can look cold and clinical, but the Boutorabi-Cookes made clever choices to keep theirs feeling homely and welcoming



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
TOTAL.....	£30,350

'The existing kitchen needed to be larger, which meant extending 3m to the rear and 7m to the side. Creating a space filled with natural light was one of our priorities, but it also had to be a layout that lent itself to socialising,' says Mariam. Rotpunkt Ergo units, from £432 for a 60cm base unit, Kitchen Revolutions; painted in Prague flat eggshell, £87.50 for 2.5L. Icon at Ray Munn

"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, Pamoto. Bespoke banquette, price on request, Lotus Craft Upholstery



IDEAL HOME loves

Banquette seating
'We had it made bespoke – it makes such a difference when friends and family are here'

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



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

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



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'

