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A mixture of carefully selected antique items, bespoke furniture, and modern designer pieces from across the globe give this hybrid interior a truly diverse feel

Report: Katie Gregory Photography: Alison Hammond
Styling: Victoria Metcalf Illustrations: Peter Davies





To optimise storage space, a ladder provides access to the upper shelves of ceiling-high kitchen cupboards

The words that came to interior designer Anlyn Bax's mind when she first viewed what is now her home in Putney, South West London, were, 'That kitchen has to go'. Indeed, the small, boxed-in galley kitchen that previously divided the room has well and truly left the building, to make way for a single open, airy and bright space that serves as a kitchen, dining and living area.

Built in 1890, the Victorian building has been converted into flats, and Anlyn and her partner own what was marketed to them as the ballroom of the original property. In fact, the surveyor later came to the conclusion that it was more likely to have been the billiard room, due to the 'lantern' – the stained-glass, raised ceiling area in the centre of the space.

"It was a funny little bachelor pad and the kitchen was basically just for warming up TV dinners"

After spending some time gathering inspiration for the design – with Anlyn travelling between the UK and South Africa for work, using her industry knowledge to her advantage to source products – the couple decided to enlist the expertise of designer Dominic Ash to help them put their ideas into practice. "The brief from the owners was to form a kitchen that was discreet, as it is an open-plan room with the living space at the other end," Dominic explains.

Anlyn elaborates, "When we first arrived it was a funny little bachelor pad and the kitchen was basically just for warming up TV dinners. The first thing we did was rip out all of the dry walls and throw them through the front windows straight into the skip." By removing the interior walls and opening up the space the impact of the high ceiling is maximised, and the sash windows at either end of the room as well as the lantern above allow natural light in from every angle.

Dominic's impressive bespoke kitchen units extend right up to the





Left: The large windows, glass banister and stained-glass lantern allow natural light to permeate the entire space **Above:** As a result of careful planning, the single, open-plan room serves multiple functions with ease **Below left:** Discreet storage units are incorporated throughout to maintain an uncluttered feel **Below right:** With clean yet quirky lines, the Vola tap epitomises this living space



Q&A: HOMEOWNER

What is your favourite feature of the kitchen?

"The Miele dishwasher is amazing – our friends come round and try to load it when it's in the middle of washing because it is so quiet you can't tell it's on!"

What would you do differently if you could do it again?

"I regret not putting in a swivel tap on the bath. If we had more time I would have realised how annoying it would be."

What advice would you give to people embarking on a similar project?

"You really need to have time on your side. Nothing happened quickly – you just can't do it in a rush. We had some building problems that set us back, and we did get frustrated at times because we wanted to finish."

ceiling, thus providing a vast storage space, the top shelves of which are accessible by a ladder that hangs on the wall when not in use. A fridge-freezer and dishwasher are concealed behind matching matt-finish doors in cream, complemented by the American black walnut work surface and splashback. There is a pull-out section for waste in the floating island unit, which also houses a basin, and further storage drawers, and doubles as a breakfast bar with stools from Heal's.

The main lighting in the room is operated by remote control, with various settings that each create a different atmosphere. Two antique chandeliers are cross-lit so that flecks of light are caught and reflected, and the stained-glass ceiling is

