

Real life case study



“We wanted to create

a true family kitchen”



*Andy Briggs is a professor at Glasgow University and Eleanor is a director in the NHS. They share their Glasgow city centre Georgian townhouse with their children, eight year old Ethan and six year old Amelie, and their cats Captain and Betty. Their Charles Yorke kitchen was designed and installed by West End Kitchens in Glasgow.*

*When did you buy your property? How soon after moving in did you renovate your kitchen?*  
We bought the house in May 2006, nine months after moving to Glasgow from Oxford. It took a long time to find the right house and then even longer to find the right kitchen for the house within the right budget. Having done other property development projects in Oxford, we hadn't had a decent, usable kitchen since 2003. We started work on the kitchen in at the beginning of 2008.

*What was the kitchen like before you renovated it?*  
It wasn't a kitchen – it was an empty room. The kitchen was located in a room that was too small given the scale of the house.

*What effect were you looking to achieve with your design?*  
We wanted to create a true family kitchen – hence the TV and computer. Somewhere we could all hang out together as a family, but that was also sympathetic to the period of the house. We thought about putting the kitchen in the basement but, because it is a kitchen/ family/ homework/ TV/ entertaining room and we knew we would use it a lot, it seemed a shame not to use a big, high ceilinged, detailed room. And we love the black wallpaper and black glass splashback – it's a traditionally designed kitchen with a modern accent. We had 100% input into the design in terms



of the layout and tried many different configurations before settling on this design.

*What made you choose Charles Yorke to design and build your kitchen? Did you visit many other retailers before deciding on them?*

We visited lots of kitchen companies – modern and traditional. Originally we had thought that we would mix a very contemporary kitchen with the traditional feel of the room. But it was the oak and black glass fridge unit that attracted us to the Charles Yorke showroom. The mix of oak and sleek black, along with the height and drama of the fridge unit was perfect and it was still within acceptable costs. We also love the feel that, although a fitted kitchen, each unit is like a custom built piece of furniture.

*Can you talk us through the appliances in your kitchen? Do you have any gadgets or appliances that you have found particularly useful?*

I love the fridge. And the Falcon stove is great, although we are still experimenting with it. The pop up plugs are fantastic and the island unit is such great work space and so easy to clear up because of the integrated dishwasher.

Dettol surface cleaner and an e-cloth are my secret weapons for cleaning granite – especially with kids and cats around! We also recently bought a Francis Francis coffee machine which is fantastic and Andy got some Sabatier V chefs knives for Christmas which are great.

*Do you spend a lot of time in your kitchen? If so, is this all focussed around cooking or do you use it as living space also?*

We spend almost all of our time in the kitchen – it really is a flexible space. It's great for entertaining but it was primarily designed as a living space. The computer is great – it's not really where Andy or I work, but it's good for the kids' homework, checking e-mail, internet shopping etc. We also play music through it – we installed concealed speakers above the units, which are fantastic.

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