

CASE STUDY 1

When Jonathan and Jeannie Straker bought their five bedroom Edwardian villa in Croydon, one of their first decisions was to combine the kitchen and breakfast room. The area was taken back to the brick walls and the adjoining doorway was widened. New French doors were introduced, whilst the original metal windows were replaced with aluminium framed units. Once the walls were re-plastered, a false ceiling was constructed to create a void and allow air to circulate above the low voltage halogen light fittings and prevent them from overheating.

DeVol, a company specialising in handmade kitchen furniture, was used for its traditional style cabinets which perfectly reflected the age and style of the house.

"We went to see quite a number of modern kitchen suppliers and didn't really like any of them," says Jeannie.

The kitchen area is relatively narrow with windows down the long wall opposite the breakfast area. This left the uninterrupted short end for a cooking area which, at 2.7m, was large enough for the Aga Jeannie had coveted, while the double Belfast sink cabinet was centred beneath the largest window.

When it came to choosing a colour scheme for the kitchen, DeVol recommended David Oliver's Paint & Paper Library for a colour advisory service, which suggested the architectural shade 'Chalk 1' for the kitchen walls. The worktops are a combination of honed South African black granite and hand-crafted American maple. The golden tones of the wood work surfaces contrast with the pale floor and black granite, and the room is now so inviting that the Strakers tend to spend most of their time in here.

"The room is now so inviting that the Strakers tend to spend most of their time here."

BELOW: Cool and Calm

The couple used architectural shade 'Chalk 1' for their walls.



Project Profile

OWNERS: Jeannie & Jonathan Straker

PROFESSIONS: Retired

PROJECT: Kitchen remodel

BUILD ROUTE: Self-managed subcontractors

DATES: July – Oct '03

COST OF PROJECT: £36,000

COST PER M²: £896

ORIGINAL VALUATION:

£695,000

ESTIMATE VALUE NOW:

£850,000

VALUE ADDED: £35,000

Words: Debbie Jeffrey Pictures: Courtesy of DeVol



ABOVE: Room with a View

The ceramic farmhouse sink came from Villeroy & Boch.



ABOVE: Hint of Mint

American Maple worktops from DeVol warm up the traditional-style units.



ABOVE: Oak and Aga Laura Ashley provided the heavy oak table and the Strakers couldn't resist the AGA.

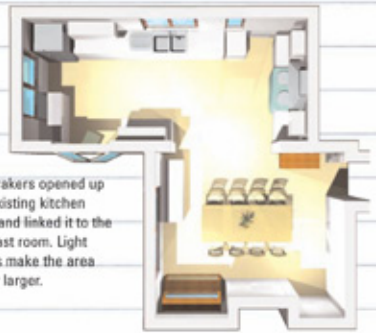


JONATHAN & JEANNIE'S ADDRESS BOOK

Kitchen – DeVol: 01509 620 620; www.devolkitchens.co.uk
Interior design – Nest Interior Styling Limited: 020 8667 9791
Colour advisory service/paints – Paint & Paper Library: 020 7823 7755
Oak table and benches – Laura Ashley: 0871 9835 999; **Aga cooker** – Aga-Rayburn: 0845 712 5207
Waste disposal – In-Sink-Erator: www.insinkerator.com
Integrated extractor – Elica: www.elica.co.uk
Integrated dishwasher – Kuppersbusch: 01235 821 288
Ionian crosshead mixer tap in nickel – Perrin and Rowe: 01708 526 361
Floor and wall tiles – Versatile: 020 8397 6363
Decorative wall tiles above Aga – Fired Earth: 01295 814 300
Ceramic farmhouse sink – Villeroy & Boch: 020 8871 4028
Coving Multicast – 0208 684 1061

£ Project Costs

Wall demolition/RSJ	£1,000
Doors and windows	£3,000
Building work	£3,500
Kitchen (inc. sink, taps and appliances)	£17,632
Table and chairs	£750
Aga	£5,900
Flooring and tiles	£5,000
Total cost	£36,032



The Strakers opened up their existing kitchen space and linked it to the breakfast room. Light colours make the area appear larger.