

# Ideal Home

EST. 1920

BRITAIN'S BESTSELLING HOMES MAGAZINE

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- ◆ Nifty ways to sort your kitchen
- ◆ Clutter-busting must-haves
- ◆ Inspiring built-in solutions



# 'Extending gave us a spacious new kitchen'

After eight years, Arleta and Mike Cloud decided it was high time to enlarge their kitchen for a more practical layout

With sons Max and Phillip having moved out to go to university and just 14-year-old Oscar still living at home, expanding the kitchen was by no means essential for Arleta and Mike. However, the couple were keen to establish a more ergonomic layout that would allow the family to move freely throughout the space.

**SMOOTH SAILING** Arleta took a practical approach when it came to the plans. 'I would imagine myself taking something out of the oven and having a clear surface to place it down on,' she says, 'so a kitchen island was one of my must-haves.' The couple brought in Plus Rooms (plusrooms.co.uk) to handle the design and construction. The plans were soon given the green light under Permitted Development and works progressed without a hitch, too, thanks in large part to Plus Rooms' organised approach. 'The builders stuck to the schedule,' says Arleta, 'and it was finished bang on time.'

**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED** Despite adding just 12sq m, flow in the kitchen-diner has dramatically improved. The extra space came in especially handy when Max and Phillip moved home again in March 2020. Arleta has no regrets about adding the kitchen island, either. 'We can't imagine the kitchen without it.'



Arleta and Mike used to take a chair outside to enjoy the 'dead' space in the side return

Now the couple benefit from extra space in the kitchen, as well as a seamless link to the garden



## Welcome to our home



Arleta and Mike Cloud, a teacher and banker, live here with their three sons, Max and Phillip, both 20, and Oscar, 14.

### THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom Victorian property, situated in South London

### THE VALUE

Bought in 2012 for £905,000; now worth around £1,650,000.

### WHAT IT COST

Professional fees & miscellaneous costs.....£17,000

Construction....£50,000  
Plumbing & electrics.....£9,000  
Kitchen & other finishes.....£35,000  
Rooflight & glass valley.....£10,000  
TOTAL.....£121,000

**“Every day when I come home it hits me how much I love the new space”**



The island, one of Arleta's must-have features, is topped with a hard-wearing quartz surface



#### 5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT...

## LARGE FLOOR TILES

James Barnard, director at Plus Rooms ([plusrooms.co.uk](http://plusrooms.co.uk)) shares his top tips

### 1 THEY CAN MAKE A ROOM FEEL MORE SPACIOUS

Used cleverly, large-format tiles make narrow areas look wider.

### 2 THEY COME IN A WIDE RANGE OF MATERIALS

Consider the desired result, cost and what most suits the space.

### 3 THEY'RE EASY TO MAINTAIN

There are fewer grout lines for dust and dirt to get stuck in.

### 4 INSTALLATION IS OFTEN QUICKER

However, heavier tiles may need additional manpower.

### 5 THEY'RE GREAT FOR UNDERFLOOR HEATING

With anti-fracture matting, they are suitable for older homes, too.

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

*“If you have your heart set on an idea, you shouldn't give up on it. For me, that was the kitchen island. I may not be a professional designer, but I knew that was something I needed to incorporate”*



A rooflight channels light into the space and through a glazed door into the living room