



PROJECT PLANNER

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“The clever choice of materials is the main reason this kitchen stands out. Almost every element is black.”

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IN SHORT



Words: Georgina Townshend Photography: Darren Chung

BLACK OUT

When the owners of this penthouse apartment asked Gary Moor of DesignSpace London to create an ultra-modern, seamless kitchen in an open-plan space, he had to think outside the box to produce a scheme that was both practical and visually striking

↑ The tall run of handleless units has been countersunk in a purpose-built central column, which acts as an effective room divider. Within it, the black ovens and integrated fridge are sited either side of the sink to create a towered, framed design that blends with the décor and results in an almost hidden kitchen.

The slatted solid oak table extends seamlessly out of the island and adds to the drama of the streamlined design.



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The kitchen sits between a hallway, living, and a television room, so it had to be as clutter free and streamlined as possible.



After 10 years of owning the top floor of a period warehouse overlooking a west London canal, the owners – a professional couple – felt it was time for a complete change. After taking the property right back to its four walls, they contacted DesignSpace London's Gary Moor and asked him to come up with a unique kitchen. "When we started on the project, the apartment had already been completely gutted – so we had no idea what the previous kitchen, or even the assigned space, looked like," he says. "However, the clients' brief was for a contemporary black scheme with a marble splashback. The rest was up to me." According to Gary, the main challenge was to retain as much storage as possible in an aesthetically driven, streamlined design. "The kitchen sits in the middle of an open-plan space, with the living room at one end, a television room to the other, and a corridor running alongside, so it was important the scheme was kept as clutter free as possible," he explains. To accomplish this, Gary created the slick, tall run of handleless units, which is countersunk in a purpose-built central column of the

open-plan floor area and acts as a room divider. The black ovens and integrated fridge located either side of the sink create a towered, framed design that blends in with the décor, creating an almost hidden scheme. "This also makes the island and table stand out and gives a more natural flow to the kitchen area," says Gary. The island's monolithic block effect was achieved by wrapping DesignSpace London's Fly range of furniture in a stone worktop reaching down to both sides to the floor. The slatted solid-oak table extends seamlessly from the piece and adds to the drama of the island. In terms of appliances, the kitchen has two ovens, a flush-fit induction hob, fully integrated larder, fridge, dishwasher, and ceiling extractor. The hob was sited on the island to boost interaction with guests while entertaining and throwing dinner parties. "In terms of décor, we were asked to be as bold as it could possibly be," remembers Gary. "The clients' main brief was for a black kitchen and, to add real interest to the scheme, we used the colour in different materials – aluminium and a veneered oak on the cabinetry and Nero Assoluto granite on the work surface. I'd say the clever choice of materials is the main reason the kitchen stands out. Every element – with the exception of the Statuario marble and Glacier White Corian frame – is black. But due to the five different finishes and textures, it's far from flat or bland." **KBB**

← Gaggenau appliances have been chosen for their streamlined look which blends into the bold décor.

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