

INTERIORS

Glass and *glamour*

Bespoke storage, mirrors and internal glazing have been combined to create an opulent London home.

This Victorian terraced house in Chelsea was originally built for the owners of the local apple and pear orchard, and had great potential to become a spacious family home.

A basement was added to provide a cinema room, gym, wine storage area and laundry room, and the ground floor was also extended across the rear to create a more generously sized kitchen/dining/living space. Internal dividing walls were removed to maximise the open feel on the ground floor and the first floor was reconfigured to create a master suite by converting an unused bedroom into an en suite bathroom. The building work provided around 3,300 sq ft of additional space that is now filled with high-end furnishings and an abundance of natural light.

Barbara Genda was commissioned to design stylish storage for the entire property to ensure the space was used to its full potential.

Kathryn and Dan Bricken moved to London from the USA nine years ago, with a desire to create a welcoming space with lots of natural light, an open feel and easy access to the garden, so they can spill outside on warm days.

The couple entertain regularly and Kathryn loves to cook, and so the kitchen design was particularly important. She

BAKING CENTRE

Tall white cupboard doors open to reveal a bakery centre, used to devise cookie dough recipes.



has since founded award-winning gourmet cookie dough company Doughlicious in the stylish, contemporary space.

Having taken away the solid dividing walls, Crittall-style doors were installed between the cooking and living spaces, so the kitchen can be closed off without obstructing the flow of light. By using the same parquet flooring and similar colours throughout the ground floor, they have been able to achieve an easy link between the different areas. The combination of cool marble, polished steel and white creates a sense of industrial glamour that Kathryn loves, and it accentuates the light and bright feel of the space.

Storage and appliances are plentiful in the busy family kitchen but the design is carefully streamlined and sleek to avoid feeling busy or overcrowded. Cabinetry and built-in appliances run the length of one wall, balanced by a marble-wrapped island, which is Kathryn's main workstation in the room. Opposite is a unit that functions as a bakery centre, which fits perfectly beneath Velux windows. This area houses all of Kathryn's baking equipment for when she's developing cookie recipes, while a row of shallow cupboards within the side of the island store dry ingredients, making them easy to access.

To create a serene mood in the master bedroom, Barbara Genda designed an entire wall of wardrobes so clothes



Suppliers

KITCHEN

Bespoke baking centre Barbara Genda Furniture: barbara-genda.com

Kitchen Matrix Kitchens: matrixkitchens.co.uk

Builder DSB General Building: dsbgeneralbuilding.co.uk

Home automation ING Home Solutions: inghomesolutions.co.uk

Appliances Miele: miele.co.uk

Integrated fridge, freezer and wine storage Gaggenau: gaggenau.com/gb

Gas and induction hob and extractor Bora: bora.com/en

Taps and sink Blanco: blanco-germany.com/uk

Hydotap boiling and chilled water tap Zip: zipindustries.co.uk

Pendant lights Melt by Tom Dixon: tomdixon.net

Flooring herringbone parquet Cheville Parquet: cheville.co.uk

Dining table and chairs The Conran Shop: conranshop.co.uk

Sofa and ottoman Bubble, Roche Bobois: roche-bobois.com

Paintings (above sofa) by Dominique Gerolini, Art Bastion: artbastion.com

Crittall-style metal windows Monk Metal Windows: monkmetalwindows.co.uk

LIVING/DINER

Wine storage Barbara Genda Furniture

Cushions Trina Turk, Culow: culow.com/uk

Wall lights Brass Single Cone, Birgit Israel: birgitisrael.com

Chest of drawers for similar try Lombok: lombok.co.uk

Dining table for similar try BoConcept: boconcept.com

Dining chairs Louis Ghost The Conran Shop: conranshop.co.uk

MASTER BEDROOM

Wardrobes and fitted furniture Barbara Genda Furniture

Flooring herringbone parquet Cheville Parquet

Wall lights Astro Lighting: astrolighting.com

En suite brassware Pura Vida collection, Hansgrohe: hansgrohe.co.uk

COST

Kitchens from Matrix Kitchens start from £40,000. A similar bakery centre by Barbara Genda Furniture would cost around £5,000, similar bedroom furniture around £9,000 and similar bathroom furniture around £3,500.



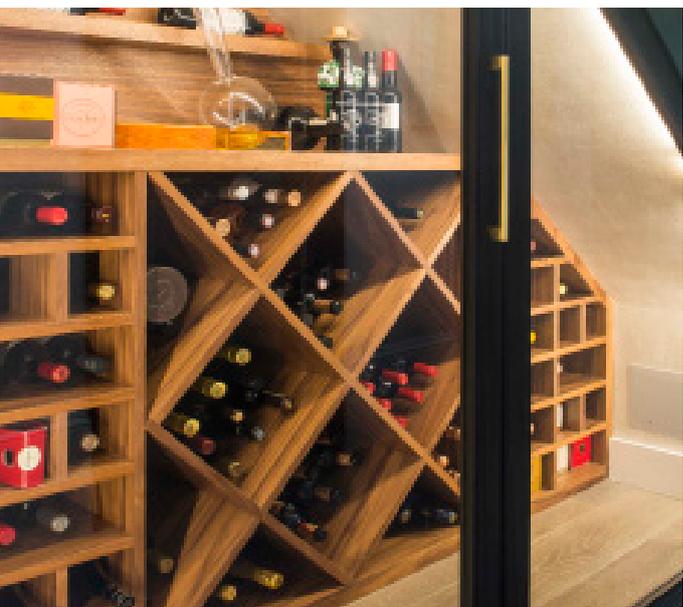
FAMILY ROOM

A bank of full-height mirrored cupboards and open shelving in the family room houses the TV, books and photos. A pool table and arcade games have also been installed, enhanced with feature ceilings and lighting.



KITCHEN

Pure white high-gloss lacquer framed in polished steel is used for the kitchen cabinets, with glass and polished steel wall units. Worktops and splashback are honed Carrara marble.



STORAGE SOLUTION

Custom-made walnut shelves and cubby holes tucked behind a glass panel provide valuable storage space for wine in an otherwise unused space in the corridor.

and clutter can be kept out of sight. The ugly chimney breast was also hidden with a fitted design incorporating a beautiful fretwork finish, and mirrored doors to boost the sense of space and light.

A former nursery bedroom has been turned into an en suite, using Kathryn's favourite marble to add a sense of luxury and serenity. Here too, lots of clever storage hides towels and toiletries out of sight, designed and made by Barbara with a contemporary flat-fronted finish. Crystal drawer handles, which Kathryn bought in America, add a glamorous finishing touch to the vanity unit.

To make good use of the space under the stairs, custom-made walnut shelves and cubby holes store an extensive wine collection, tucked behind a glass panel and door. It is a practical way to keep wine ready for drinking and adds a good-looking feature in an otherwise unused space in the corridor leading to the cinema room.

The owners paid £1.95m for the property, and spent just under another £1m on the project. The property is now worth around £3.3m, which shows that the makeover has been a good investment too.

MASTER BEDROOM

Mirrored cupboards with a fretwork finish are used to conceal clutter, while space-saving pocket doors leading to the bathroom slide into the wall.



GLASS
Mirrors and glass are used to ensure open, light, glamorous spaces.

THE right FIT



Barbara Genda is founder and principal designer at Barbara Genda Bespoke Furniture. Here she answers questions on getting the best from fitted storage.

What needs to be considered when designing built-in storage?

Built-in storage or fitted furniture should never be the aim in itself. Consider what you need to store and accommodate, and only then decide what solutions would be appropriate. Don't get stuck on fitted storage – also consider cupboards, under-stairs space, cloakrooms, loft space etc.

Why choose fitted storage?

You will get on average 30 to 40 per cent more storage from a fitted piece of furniture than from a free-standing one. Fitted pieces also prevent dust gathering on top and on the underside, and also do away with gaps between the wall, ceilings and the furniture. Uneven walls and floors can be scribed to create a neat finish too.

Is there a minimum or maximum size for fitted fixtures?

Wardrobe doors should not exceed 2.4m in height as they tend to warp or bow. With very high doors, door tensioners are required. Generally, it's good practice for hinged doors not to exceed 650mm width as they become too wide to open, forcing you to move back too far – it's not very ergonomic.

How long should a built-in solution last?

Good-quality, properly-built furniture that is well looked after and maintained should last for decades, but changing fashions often lead to furniture being updated every 10 to 15 years.

Will fitted options work for a small space?

Yes, always. The added value of fitted furniture per square foot in small places is much greater than in larger rooms. Mess is avoided where things have their own place.