

Feature by **Natalie Flaum** Photography by **Darren Chung**

a family affair

With a flair for contemporary design and a passion for bold colour, the Baileys have transformed an ordinary 1930's property into a fresh, stylish and practical home.



A strong monochrome scheme, vibrant accent pieces and every essential appliance a modern household needs are perfectly fused in this spacious cook zone.



design profile

By introducing a two-storey rear extension, this contemporary Hertfordshire home exudes a spacious feel that is enhanced by the use of glossy surfaces throughout, streamlined fittings and fresh citrus shades. In the open-plan kitchen, dining and living space, white lacquer units are teamed with gleaming chrome and black accents while the coffee-toned bedroom and practical family bathroom complete this luxury property. The carefully chosen decorations are the work of designers, MiCasa Interiors.

MiCasa Interior Furnishings, The Old Forge, Rickmansworth Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 2QN. Tel: 01923 827070. www.micasagroup.co.uk



below Linda found these lime-green bar stools long before work began but knew she had to have them.



above An expanse of glass across the ceiling and two big windows allow light to flood into the room.



When Linda Bailey and her husband, Mark, discovered their dream home they had no idea of the upheaval that lay in store for the family. "The house is in the perfect location in a street that we had longed to live in for years," Linda reflects. "Five years ago we attempted to purchase a house a few doors down but it fell through and, so, when this property came on the market we didn't hesitate," she adds.

The whole family – Linda, Mark, their three children, Benjamin, 22, Emma, 20, and Danen, 19, plus Baloo, the dog – lived in the house for three years before making any changes. They made a conscious decision to keep the exterior the same but modernise the interior. Linda explains, "We needed some more kitchen and bathroom space and were really excited by the prospects of extending the property and the opportunity it presented in investing in it."

The couple had inherited planning permission from the previous owners and had toyed with the idea of going ahead, but it wasn't until Linda showed the plans to a friend with property design experience that ideas became reality. "Instead of what we had originally anticipated, the project ended up being a total rebuild," Linda admits of the two-storey extension her friend suggested.

The final plans unveiled five revised bedrooms, four bathrooms, a kitchen/diner, a home cinema, a study and a spacious living room, so the family moved into rented accommodation for 16 months while the building work was underway. "I remember feeling shocked that within two weeks the rear and side walls were demolished, the ceilings had come down and the roof was off. There we all were standing in the middle of the house looking up at the sky!" Linda laughs.

below Polished to a high sheen, durable composite worktops make a practical addition in the wet zone.



above Thanks to the open-plan layout, Baloo is free to roam the kitchen, dining and living spaces.

right The fresh theme continues into the relaxation area with its modern sofa and fluffy cushions.

below A high tech wine chiller keeps bottles at perfect temperatures for impromptu house guests.





above State-of-the-art appliances are housed within an almost symmetrically designed bank of units, allowing tasty treats to be created with ease.

Mark spotted a Poggenpohl kitchen in a local showroom whilst sitting in traffic and told Linda to meet him there later that day. "We had been searching for quite a while but couldn't find one that we both liked," Linda admits. "I was so excited when Mark rang to say that our search was finally over! We knew Norman Glenn had an excellent reputation. The only thing I was keen on adapting was the cream stone floor that I had seen in the showroom, which didn't look punchy enough. After much thought we chose polished black porcelain tiles instead," she adds.

With an appreciation for wide, open spaces and plenty of room for preparation surfaces, Linda and Mark opted for an island with white lacquered units and contrasting black composite worktops. "It breaks up the space really well and offers a great deal of storage plus somewhere for guests to perch with a drink or snack," explains Linda. Plus, lime-green stools add a touch of vibrancy and are the exact ones shown in and torn out of a magazine long before the project had even got off the ground.

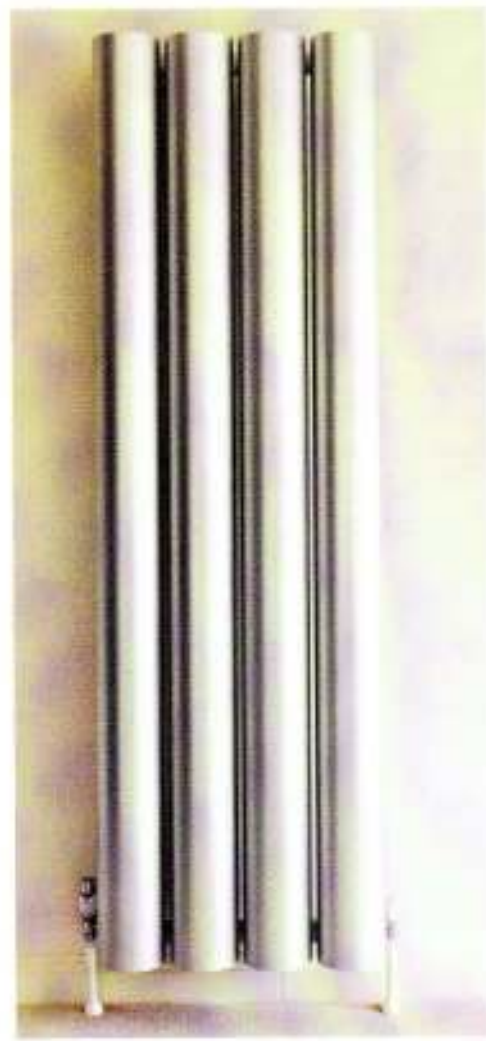
below In the Italian-inspired dining area, a smart glass-topped table is teamed with slim white and chrome chairs for special family mealtimes.



Both Linda and her daughter, Emma, share a passion for interior design and spent a great deal of time finding various solutions together, along with MICasa Interiors who were on hand to develop and source window dressing and soft furnishings. "Our weekends were taken up by researching all sorts of items and we would go on long dog walks to look at ideas for windows, drives, front doors and even guttering. We also visited showhomes to see new trends. I even kept a folder subdivided into sections for each room and a sample box full of paint tester pots, tiles and fabric swatches," Linda admits. "The team at MICasa were really fantastic. They made all the bespoke curtains, headboards and blinds, as well as helping me bring to life concepts that I had of my own," she enthuses.

As well as the careful attention to detail that went into the décor, the plans for the large master bedroom also included a vaulted ceiling with views of the surrounding countryside, an en-suite bathroom and two sliding glass doors which unveil a discreet his 'n' hers dressing room;

below Standing tall and proud, the Big One radiator is powerful enough to fill the room with heat yet retains a smart look due to its tubular form.





above A vaulted ceiling and windows that invite views of the countryside were the orders of the day in the spacious master bedroom that's dressed in cozy chocolate tones to prevent a cold feel.

right Well-researched touches, such as this glamorous chandelier, complete the welcoming interior that shouts luxury and attention to detail.

far right Concealed behind frosted glass sliding doors, a his 'n' hers dressing area offers ample space for the couple's clothes, ensuring a clutter-free boudoir in which to retreat and totally unwind.





With the help of Daksha Bhudia, Colourwash's design consultant, the four bathrooms, plus the downstairs cloakroom, were fitted with products that complemented one another. The couple had various meetings to familiarise themselves with the choices and to discover what they were particularly suited to. Reflects Linda, "Daksha pieces scale drawings and suggested products that she felt we would like and appreciate in our bathrooms. In the family suite, a once unused bedroom, we chose wall-hung fixtures to create a feeling of space.

We also included an exceptionally large, flush-fit shower tray to offer an elite spa-like appeal."

The house has almost doubled in size and has brought about a positive change to all the family. "I learned so much project managing this build that it has fuelled my interest in property design," says Linda. "You have to be well organised and prepared to put yourself out – at times, I was on site up to four times a day. We fully intend to enjoy ourselves here and will use every room in the house to maximise its potential," she adds.



above left Continuing the sophisticated appeal chosen for the kitchen, black porcelain tiles add contrast to the crisp white sanitaryware.

above In the family bathroom, a flush-fitting, anti-slip tray and frameless glass panel give the streamlined shower zone elite, spa-like quality.

useful information

Kitchen

Kitchen **design** by Yogesh Dhokia, price on request, at Norman Glenn Kitchens. **Tel:** 020 7794 7801. www.norman-glenn-kitchens.co.uk

LW340 **cabinetry**, around £40,000, at Poggenpohl. **Tel:** 020 7435 5427. www.poggenpohl.de

Appliances

KM454 ceramic **hob**, £900; H4900B 90cm **oven**, £1834; H4020BM combination **microwave oven**, £1045; DG4000 **steamer**, £1299; CVA620-2 **coffee machine**, £960; EGIW4060-29 **warming drawer**, £359; G1270SCVi integrated **dishwasher**, £639, at Miele. **Tel:** 01235 554455. www.miele.co.uk

KA58NP90 **fridge freezer**, £2000, at Siemens. **Tel:** 0870 840 3300. www.siemensappliances.co.uk

Stainless steel and glass Antartica **extractor**, £800, at Elica. **Tel:** 01252 351111. www.elica.co.uk

RW404-260 **wine chiller**, £1175, at Gaggenau. **Tel:** 0870 125 4500. www.gaggenau.com

Fixtures & furnishings

Under-floor **heating**, priced on request; polished black porcelain floor **tiles**, around £26 per sq. m., at Tiles & Baths Direct. **Tel:** 020 8202 2223. www.tilesandbathsdirect.co.uk

Metallic painted glass **splashback**; black composite **worktops**, both priced on request, at Norman Glenn Kitchens. **Details as before.**

Stainless steel GAX 120 **sink**, £2000, at Franke. **Tel:** 0161 436 6280. www.franke.co.uk

Alegra pull-out spray **tap**, £250, at Hansgrohe. **Tel:** 0870 770 1972. www.hansgrohe.co.uk

Dining **table** and **chairs**, black and white **sliding blind panels**; scatter **cushions**, salad **bowl** and tube **candles**, all priced on request, at MiCasa Interiors. **See design profile for details.**

Green Bombo breakfast **bar stools**, £356 each, at Aram. **Tel:** 020 7557 7557. www.aram.co.uk

Lima suede Nexus **sofa**, £3500, at Espacio. **Tel:** 020 7637 1932. www.espacio.co.uk

Dandelion **artwork**, from £95, at Acrylicize. **Tel:** 020 8861 6640. www.acrylicize.com

Bedroom

Similar Jacopo **bed**, price on request, at Mobileffe. **Tel:** 0039 0362 52941. www.mobileffe.com

Similar **bed linen**, from £30 for a double duvet, at BHS. **Tel:** 0845 198 0000. www.bhs.co.uk

Bespoke **headboard**, prices on request, at MiCasa Interiors. **See design profile for details.**

Bo Concept Crystal **light**, around £450, at Heal's. **Tel:** 020 7636 1666. www.heals.co.uk

Big Cine **radiator**, £425, at RadiatorShowroom.com. **Tel:** 0845 580540. www.radiatorshowroom.com

Bathroom

Total **design**, £6000, at Colourwash Bathrooms. **Tel:** 020 7586 1441. www.colourwash.co.uk

Fixtures & furnishings

Kaldewei Classic **bath**, £595; Dornbracht Waterfall **bath mixer**, £399; Hansgrohe Starck deck-mounted **hand-shower**, £179; Form manual **shower valve**, £569; Kaldewei Superplan **shower tray**, £627; Hansgrohe Starck **hand-shower**, £189; Hansgrohe Raindance fixed **rose**, £231; Hansgrohe Citterio **thermostatic valve**, £569; Majestic Showers bespoke **glass panel**, £850; Mastella **basin** with Nero Pepper **console** and **towel rail**, £1140; Form **mixer**, £328; Chelsea heated **towel rail**, £612; Mastella **mirror**, £130, at Colourwash. **Details as before.**

Under-floor **heating**, priced on request; polished black porcelain wall **tiles**, around £26 per sq. m.; white ceramic wall **tiles**, around £24 per sq. m., at Tiles & Baths Direct. **Details as before.**