

# Black and deco

The Robinsons have injected a feeling of space into their American black walnut scheme with 1930s-style cabinetry and steel accents

To contrast with the warmth of the walnut furniture, Vivian and Andrew chose wall cabinetry hand-sprayed in a specially mixed shade of cream. The walls are painted in Fired Earth's Lime White to maintain the fresh look





▲ A Sub-Zero American side-by-side fridge freezer and a pull-out larder that offers clever storage for bottles and jars are both located next to a worktop, so Vivian is able to access chilled and dry goods easily when preparing meals

▶ Precision-cut Kashmir Gold granite worktops continue as elegant upstands throughout Vivian's kitchen as she wanted the look to be continuous. At this sink area, the granite also forms the windowsill and is complemented by a swan-necked tap and rinse in chrome by Perrin & Rowe



Vivian and Andrew Robinson moved into their five-bedroom home in 2002 and soon discovered that the existing kitchen wasn't as practical as they'd first thought. 'There was hardly any storage space in the cabinetry,' says full-time mum Vivian. With three boys in the house, Oliver, nine, Toby, seven, and Harry, six, the family was in desperate need of more room.

Vivian and her husband Andrew, a surgeon, decided to have a two-storey extension built across the back of their house, and knocked down a wall that divided the kitchen and dining room to create enough space for a utility room. The couple's architect recommended Martin and Alison Rowe at The Cupboard Shop, and after seeing their work, the Robinsons knew they would be able to create their dream scheme.

'I wasn't sure what finish I wanted for our cabinetry,' recalls Vivian. 'We were looking for something a bit different to the materials we'd used for our previous kitchens and Alison suggested walnut. I was worried it would be too dark, but then she showed me some cream-painted furniture with small, opaque glass insets to contrast with the tone of the wood. When I saw the two designs together, I knew the scheme was right for our home,' she continues. Alison also found some square, pewter handles to echo the shape of the glass and complete the art deco look.

The family went on holiday for two weeks while their design was being fitted to minimise disruption and returned to find their stunning new room waiting for them. 'We are absolutely thrilled with our kitchen,' smiles Vivian. 'Alison and Martin made the whole process a pleasure, not a chore, and we think the result is really quite outstanding.' **BK**

“My top tip for successful planning is to use builders and designers who come recommended by friends or family. Our kitchen fitters were so neat and tidy that everything went without a hitch”

VIVIAN ROBINSON

▼ The built-in coffee machine is Vivian's favourite appliance. 'I really like it,' she smiles. 'It has so many options and you can pre-programme it, too. We love sitting at our breakfast bar in the mornings with a freshly brewed coffee'



CLASSIC

The Wolf dual-fuel range cooker features a stylish stainless-steel exterior. 'Our huge oven is great,' says Vivian. 'It's ideal if we need to cater for a large party.' Above, an extractor with integrated halogen lights is flanked either side by identical cabinets, which introduce a feeling of symmetry to the room





◀ This extra-wide, handmade cutlery drawer insert is made of solid beech. The square, pewter handles echo the stainless steel of the range cooker and match the opaque glass insets

Vivian wanted an island that would provide extra worktop space and easy access to her appliances located around the room. An undermounted prep sink and tap with a rinse is invaluable when she prepares food. The granite worktop extends to create a curved seating area where the couple can sit to eat informal meals together



“Our walnut kitchen is outstanding”

# THE KITCHEN FILE

## DESIGN & CABINERY

- Martin and Alison Rowe at **The Cupboard Shop**, 21 Lordsbury Field, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9PE (020 8669 7905) [www.cupboardshop.co.uk](http://www.cupboardshop.co.uk)
- Shaker-style, solid American Black walnut furniture and hand-sprayed MDF cabinetry with frosted glass

## WORKTOPS

- Kashmir Gold granite, World of Stone.  
Total cost **£7,692**

## SINKS & TAPS

- KBX16045-20 Kubus undermounted one-and-a-half-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke **£366**
- KBX11055 Kubus undermounted single-bowl prep sink in stainless steel, Franke **£292**
- 4866CP Oberon monobloc mixer tap with rinse in chrome, Perrin & Rowe **£342**
- Doric Triflow monobloc mixer tap with rinse in chrome, Franke **£608**
- ISE78 waste disposal unit, In-Sink-Erator **£358**

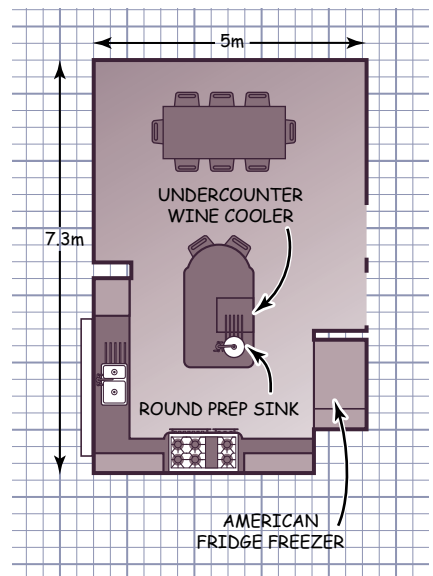
## APPLIANCES (shown)

- DF486G dual-fuel range cooker, Wolf **£10,522**
- H4060BM built-in combination oven, Miele **£1,410**
- DA422-4 chimney extractor hood, Miele **£1,605**
- CVA4085 built-in coffee machine, Miele **£1,312**
- EGW4060-29 built-in warming drawer, Miele **£430**
- 695S American fridge freezer, Sub-Zero **£7,900**
- WTUes1653 built-under wine cooler, Liebherr **£959**

## APPLIANCES (not shown)

- KBX11045 Kubus undermounted single-bowl sink in stainless steel, Franke **£208**
- 4861CP Oberon monobloc mixer tap in chrome, Perrin & Rowe **£250**
- Semi-integrated dishwasher, Miele **£1,090**
- Fully integrated washing machine, Miele **£1,083**
- Fully integrated tumble dryer, Miele **£862**

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## GUIDE PRICE

- Total cost, excluding building work **£55,250**