

Best of both worlds

ANTIQUe PIECES SIT HAPPILY ALONGSIDE CONCRETE SURFACES IN HENRIETTE VON STOCKHAUSEN'S STRIKINGLY ECLECTIC SCHEME

Feature ALIX O'NEILL
Photography MARK BOLTON & ALEXANDER JAMES

Project profile

THE OWNERS Henriette von Stockhausen, an interior architect, her husband, Mark, and their children, Ben, 12, Henry, 6, and Lily, 4

THEIR HOME An 18th-century stable block in Dorset

THE PROJECT A whole house renovation, including extending and remodelling the kitchen

ROOM SIZE 12 x 8.5m

DESIGNER Henriette von Stockhausen, VSP Interiors

CABINETRY Urban Linear in white lacquer, Magnet. For similar try Integra White, £412 for a 600mm base unit

BUDGET Around £15,000, excluding building work



Light and shade

The combination of poured and polished concrete against a dark grey palette creates a dramatic look

Renovating an entire property in less than three months is a challenge for even the most cool-headed professional, especially when the house is theirs. But interior architect Henriette von Stockhausen was unfazed by the task of transforming an 18th-century Dorset stable block into a modern home for herself, her husband, Mark and their children. In fact, the project came at the right time. 'Our last house was an old cottage with low ceilings, too tiny for growing children,' says Henriette. 'Our kitchen was also quite small, with an Aga that was constantly on, even in summer, as it was our only cooking option, so it was unbearably hot.'

The couple didn't have long to contemplate their move. 'There was a lot of interest in the property, so we had to act quickly,' says Henriette. 'As

we were living with friends, we had only 11 weeks to finish the job.' The walls separating four rooms were removed to create a large space opening on to an outside dining area and terrace. For the design, Henriette preferred contemporary over classic. 'I didn't want yet another Shaker-style country kitchen,' she says. 'I was looking for something more suited to the modern, open-plan space I was after.'

She chose simple white, streamlined cabinetry from Magnet and, as the room benefits from plenty of light, Henriette felt she could opt for bold grey walls. Treasured paintings and antiques provided the finishing touches, softening the industrial nature of the scheme. The result is the harmonious mix of old and new that Henriette was determined to achieve. 'I love my kitchen,' she says. 'It's exactly what I had in my head.'

'The concrete for the worktops was pumped in through the window into crates and cast in situ by my builder'

Art of glass

Open shelving around the cooking area allows Henriette to display her striking glassware collection



Curio corner

A collection of African woven baskets and various decorative objects add interest to this area



Into the light

Pendants suspended at different levels draw the eye to the centre of the kitchen



Feathered feature

A dark wall can take a brightly coloured artwork, drawing the eye and adding contrast to the scheme

DESIGN SOLUTION *Henriette explains...*

What did you want most from your new kitchen?

I knew I wanted to have lots of light and at least a 3m table for informal entertaining. I didn't want to see the appliances, hence the wall of units behind which everything is discreetly housed.

How did you decide on a design scheme and colour palette?

It was in my head and, as I was my own designer, it worked out very quickly and easily. I particularly like the dark grey paint – it gives the scheme character and impact. I didn't want any cupboards, just drawers, as I find it much easier to access and store things. Magnet provided the best drawers I could find – everything seemed to line up nicely.

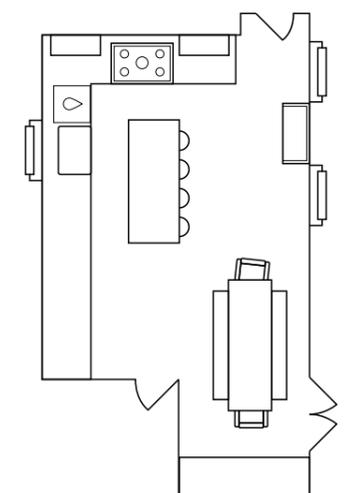
Tell us about the finishes you used

I've always loved concrete and wanted to try this concrete worktop that I'd seen all over the place in America. I opted for a rough, stony texture on top of the units, then a polished concrete floor, with underfloor heating, for contrast. People think concrete is really harsh and grey, but it has so many different nuances. Hi-gloss lacquer units were chosen, again, to provide contrast.

What makes this scheme special?

I think it's to do with the juxtaposition of old and new. I've got some really great antiques, which are balanced by the industrial feel of the concrete worktops and flooring, and the dark colour on the walls.

The layout





On display

The antique tapestry, rustic wooden table and mismatched seating stop the dining area looking too formal

'I've used two very different antique chairs for the dining area, which helps create a really striking look'

The details

CABINETS Urban Linear units in white lacquer – for similar try Integra White, £412 for a 600mm base unit, Magnet

SURFACES Polished concrete **worktop**, from £300m; poured concrete **flooring**, from £250sq m, both VSP Interiors

APPLIANCES Cluny 100cm-wide **range cooker**, from £3,970, Lacanche. All other **appliances** (not seen), Miele

SINKS AND TAPS Classic Butler sink 600, £387, Shaws of Darwen, is similar. Also try the Zeus kitchen **tap**, £199, Optima Bathroom Solutions

FINISHING TOUCHES **Wall paint**, Dark Lead intelligent matt emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. For similar **setting** try the Refectory 10-seater **dining table**, £1,850; **Refectory bench**, £550, both Frank Hudson at John Lewis. The metal

adjustable swivel **bar stools** are similar, £99 each; black distressed warehouse **wall lights**, £37.50 each, all Rockett St George. Schtu-Moon **pendants**, £285.60 each, Catellani & Smith at Made in Design. Bench and cushion **fabrics**, Window Rock in turquoise, £235m, Ralph Lauren Home. Similar **baskets**, from £97 each, Africa Direct. **Painting**, price on application, Rory Nugent. Similar **settle bench**, from £365, sellingantiques.co.uk. Lascelles Glasgow Station **wall clock**, £37.95, John Lewis, is similar. Take a look at Verdure Fontainebleau original French Aubusson **tapestry**, £15,800, Hines of Oxford. Sandown **Roman blind**, £144 for 100cm sq, The Natural Curtain Company is comparable. Similar **pendants** (over dining table), Studio in satin steel, £69 each, Made. Similar **armchair** (right of dining table) Taynton wing chair in Stone fabric, from £1,455, Wesley-Barrell. Weathered **oak armchair**, £523, La Maison Chic, is a match