

# CHANGING SPACES

An interior designer has made an unwelcoming room into a multi-functional space for this family of four

## *The owners*

Richard and Anne Jones live in this six-bedroom detached house in Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire with their son Thomas and their new arrival Anna



An increasing family can be the deciding factor for a home refurbishment, as was the case for Richard and Anne Jones. When they planned their family they decided refurbishing the kitchen of their six-bedroomed home was a priority, mainly due to the fact that any refurbishment can be very disruptive. As the family has a kidney-shaped swimming pool and pool house with a bar – a fabulous kitchen is a must for entertaining in the summer months.

Richard and Anne wanted a contemporary look for their kitchen but at the same time needed it to be functional, hardwearing and as they have children, it had to be easy to keep clean. "The Bulthaup b3 system in laminate white offers this," Anne says, continuing "we felt the simplicity of its design suited our need

for a functional easy to live with space. We don't like anything flashy or too 'out there'. The design we chose seems to us to be timeless because of its overall simplicity." Features such as the function box for knives are perfect for keeping little hands from touching things they shouldn't plus the system also includes integrated power sockets to ensure the streamlined look of the kitchen is not interrupted.

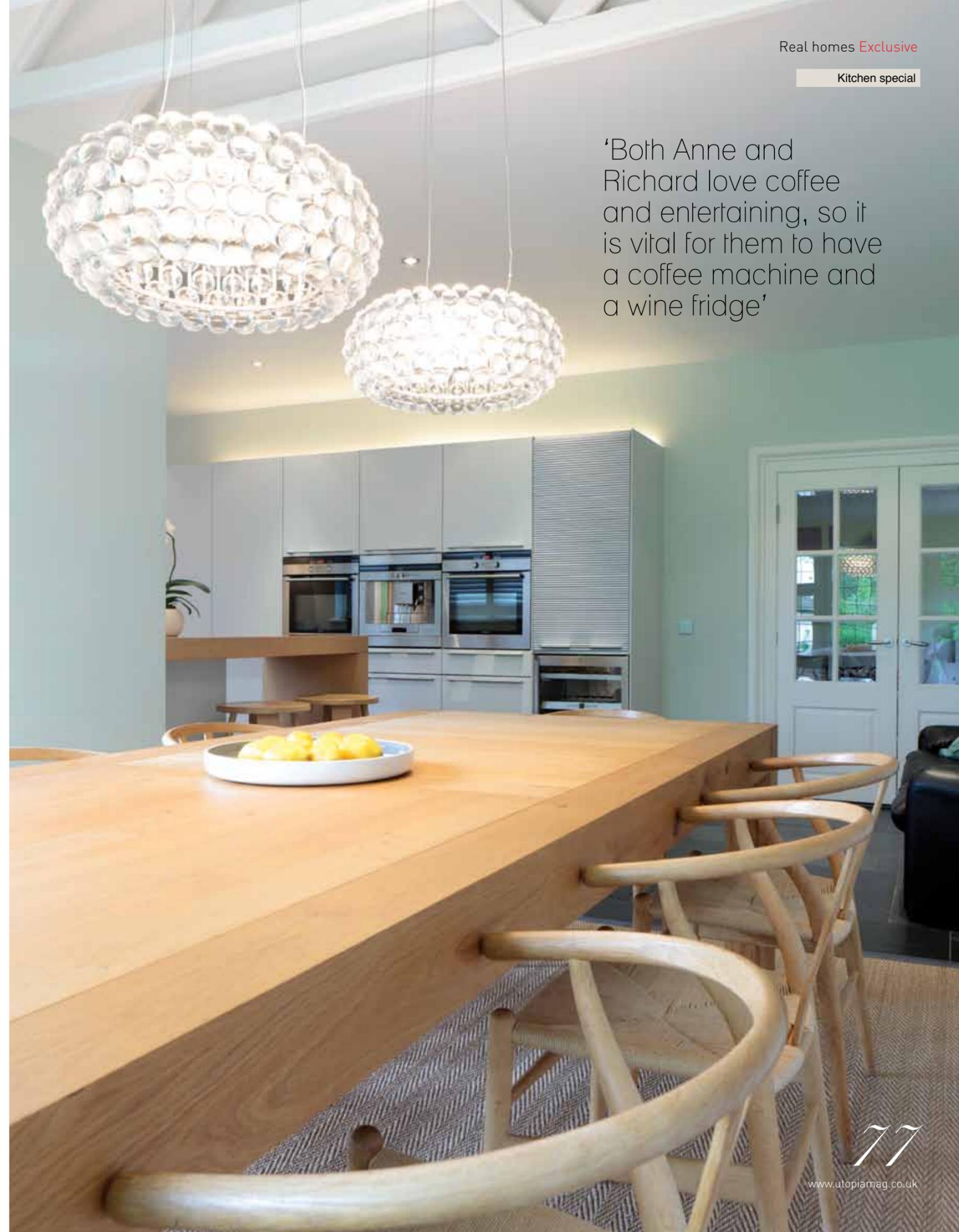
In a kitchen the worktop is without doubt the most used area, as it has to withstand many elements such as pressure, acidity and heat plus it must be easy to clean. The worktops are seam free, here composite stone in matt grey quartz has been used.

Even though the kitchen is modern the couple still wanted the space to feel welcoming and cosy. To achieve this they called in interior designer Christine

May Lewsey of Christine May Interiors to add touches to really make the space feel like home.

As Richard and Anne prefer a more neutral colour scheme it was a challenge for Christine to introduce colour. She says, "I originally proposed Farrow and Ball's Green Blue for the walls but eventually we agreed on Pale Powder, which is a much paler shade of the same colour. I added more colour with cushions in teal and chartreuse on the sofa."

Above the dining table is a vaulted ceiling which Anne and Richard were keen to board up as they felt the space echoed and was cold. As it was such an interesting space Christine felt it would be a shame and came up with an alternative option, she explains, "I had it lined with insulating material before plaster boarding the ●●●



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sloping sides. The kitchen was definitely cold and draughty so we had the double French doors and the windows replaced by triple glazed hardwood frames that matched the original windows." In the room there is only one radiator so under-floor heating has been installed under the natural slate floor.

Both Anne and Richard love coffee and entertaining, so it is vital for them to have a coffee machine and a wine fridge. Recycling also is important to them so there is a waste disposal unit and an integrated waste system for recycling under the worktop.

In any kitchen good lighting is key, and Anne felt the original wall-mounted lighting wasn't enough, so fittings that illuminate both above and below have been used to give ambience in the room. Two Caboche pendant lights by Foscarini have been included above the dining table to add glitz and glamour.

The kitchen now feels like a completely different space, Christine says, "I am pleased that a room nobody wanted to sit in, let alone linger in over a drink and the newspaper, is now a fully functioning kitchen and informal dining space that everyone wants to be in." Anne is so happy with the way in which the function of the room has changed and the way the family now lives. She concludes, "I love the kitchen because it functions well, it's a pleasure to cook here and there is plenty of room for informal entertaining and for the children to sit where I can keep an eye on them while they read and draw. The table is the first place Richard gravitates to as soon as he comes in from work, we sit and have a coffee and chat while preparing meals. We spend time together as a family here. If it wasn't for this multi-functional space we would probably all be in separate rooms. Our kitchen is now much more inviting and usable." ●



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#### Details

Bulthaup b3 kitchen, sink, tap, aluminium wall panels  
01536 275 020 [www.bulthaup.com](http://www.bulthaup.com)

Interior Design, Christine May Lewsey,  
interior designer, Christine May Interiors  
020 8498 0950 [www.christinemayinteriors.co.uk](http://www.christinemayinteriors.co.uk)

Fredereck Sage, main contractor  
01992 782 300 [www.frederecksage.co.uk](http://www.frederecksage.co.uk)

Siemens extractor, oven, fridge, freezer, hob,  
microwave, wine fridge, coffee machine  
0844 892 9044 [www.siemens-home.co.uk](http://www.siemens-home.co.uk)

Miele dishwasher, washing machine, tumble dryer  
0845 365 6600 [www.miele.co.uk](http://www.miele.co.uk)

Farrow & Ball Pale Powder paint  
01202 876 141 [www.farrow-ball.com](http://www.farrow-ball.com)

Carl Hansen Nemus light oak bar stools, C2 light oak  
dining table, CH24 light oak, natural rush weave seats  
+45 6612 4040 [www.carlhansen.com](http://www.carlhansen.com)

Foscarini Caboche lights  
+39 041 595 3811 [www.foscarini.com](http://www.foscarini.com)

The Shutter Shop painted shutters  
020 7751 0937 [www.shuttershop.co.uk](http://www.shuttershop.co.uk)

Mumford and Wood hardwood windows  
and French doors  
01621 818 155 [www.mumfordwood.com](http://www.mumfordwood.com)

## ADVICE FROM THE DESIGNER

"The beauty of having a sizeable kitchen like this one is that there's no need to have high wall units. Everything can be stored in deep drawers, which can be pulled out so that you can see everything – even those items lurking at the back! I would always advise fitting internal organizers. Being able to see at a glance whatever is stored within makes the kitchen far more functional. If you like a streamlined, minimal look, hidden storage and integrated appliances are essential. These days even plug sockets can 'disappear'. Finally, spend as much as you can on hard wearing worktops."

Christine May Lewsey, interior designer,  
Christine May Interiors

