

VERSATILE DESIGN

A large multifunctional island might be the dream, but it's important to keep it in proportion with the size of the kitchen. This extension features a compact unit and a separate dining table that can be moved to suit the occasion. Systemat Art Handleless kitchen in cashmere gloss lacquer and standard white matt lacquer by Häcker, with brushed stainless-steel, granite and white-oiled wood worktops, from £20,000, Laurence Pidgeon (020 7610 6166; laurencepidgeon.com)

Step-by-step guide to

kitchen extensions

Make relaxed, multifunctional living a reality with a sociable and spacious open-plan addition

Words Rachel Ogden

The kitchen is probably the busiest room in your house, so it's no wonder that creating a family friendly, multifunctional space is high on the agenda for plenty of homeowners. Faced with a warren of rooms or a lack of space, the best way for many of us to achieve this is with an extension. Open-plan kitchens don't just provide a more sociable area for families to spend time together, they're also more versatile, and can be adapted to suit changing needs. However, with a fluid variety of functions, the design of a kitchen extension is vital to its success. Planning the build in tandem with the kitchen is key, to ensure that essential services are in the right place and that you won't have to make compromises on the layout further down the line.

COOL AND CLUTTER-FREE

Factoring in enough storage can be tricky if one wall is fully glazed. Here, tall cupboards and a capacious island minimise the need for multiple wall units. Urbo kitchen in matt lacquer in plummet by Farrow & Ball with walnut breakfast bar and Quartzstone grey worktops, from £35,000, Roundhouse (020 7297 6220; roundhousedesign.com)

MATERIALS MATTER

Use different worktops to help define the space, such as stone for preparation surfaces and timber on a breakfast bar. Diamant in natural oak by Effeti with Tebe worktops, total cost £36,000 including installation, Michael Wright Kitchens and Interiors (050 6539; michaelwrightfurniture.com)