

Lesley-Anne has combined sumptuous American Black walnut cabinetry with a variety of tactile materials to create a classic design with a modern twist. To one side of the kitchen, a glass-topped table creates a café-style area for coffee and is partnered by green leather and chrome bar stools from Hush Interiors

GRAND CENTRAL

American Black walnut furniture is accented with steel and glass to turn the Stevensons' kitchen into a dramatic showpiece

RIGHT Integrated pull-out bins have been included for household recycling in the central workstation, with a useful accessory drawer above to store spare bags



I love... the way my kitchen is functional and everything in the room has a purpose. The circular banquette is my favourite feature. I like the curve of the bench, plus it looks like it belongs in here and isn't just an afterthought'

LESLEY-ANNE STEVENSON



TOP LEFT As she has a passion for cooking, Lesley-Anne wanted her two microwaves, ovens and a warming drawer positioned in one unit. Designer Howard made a stainless-steel front below the left-hand stack of the couple wanted to position another warming drawer elsewhere

ABOVE Concealed behind a frosted glass and walnut trimmed door, another warming drawer, this time fully integrated, has been handily located near to the dining area. It includes a six-piece container set that can be removed to serve food straight to the table

RIGHT The circular dining area softens the overall look of the angular kitchen. 'I used wood veneer to create the semi-circular shape and the backs of the chairs are also curved to match the banquette,' says designer Howard. A tall housing was built behind the seating area to store Lesley-Anne's small appliances. The fridge freezer from Amana boasts a freezer drawer and plenty of room for chilled food

South Africans Lesley-Anne and Alex were keen to include a barbecue-style grill to recreate their love of cooking outdoors. It is supplemented by three domino hobs and two powerful extractors above



Downsizing for Lesley-Anne and Alex Stevenson meant selling their Cotswold farmhouse to buy a smaller property with the potential to develop. 'We wanted less land and more house, simply because we spent more time in our home than we did outdoors,' explains Lesley-Anne. After a lengthy search, the couple, who are originally from South Africa, were lucky enough to find a house in a little village. 'We were so excited because it's a lovely area,' recalls Lesley-Anne. 'Even though the house itself was horrible, we fell in love with the stunning views and quiet setting.'

Once they'd bought the property, Lesley-Anne, a childcare supervisor, and Alex, a retired engineer, moved into temporary accommodation with their two children, Cameron, 14, and Savannah, six, while the renovation work commenced. After consulting

with an architect, they decided to add on an extension. 'This was to house the new kitchen, and at more than 950 sq ft, it was six times the size of my old one,' smiles Lesley-Anne. 'I wanted it to have sliding glass doors and a large atrium to let in lots of light.'

Lesley-Anne and Alex approached several companies about creating their dream room before choosing Heaven & Stubbs, a kitchen company they'd used before. 'Howard Stubbs, the chief designer, is very professional and I liked the way he drew up plans that incorporated my ideas,' says Lesley-Anne.

Initially, the Stevensons thought about having light-coloured maple cabinetry but Howard persuaded them to opt for American Black walnut instead. 'The darker colour is much more dramatic,' he explains. When it came to the furniture, Lesley-Anne wanted separate pieces with clean, angular lines ▶



A dresser stores the Stevensons' glasses and has two wine coolers and a dishwasher below, while a steel drawer finishes the look

My top tip... is to go and look at working kitchens in people's homes to see what they look like after a couple of years of family life'

and lots of storage. Her only concession to curves was the banquette at the end of the island. To break up the expanse of walnut, designer Howard suggested adding some glass units with a blue tinge, while a metallic splashback and plinths around the seating area give the kitchen a contemporary feel.

To keep the room cool in the summer, the roof atrium windows can be opened easily by remote control. 'It's wonderful on a sunny day but I like autumn days, too, when I can hear the rain splashing down above me as I cook,' smiles Lesley-Anne.

'I believe that food brings families together,' she continues. 'Now that the room is complete, I think I'm going overboard making pasta, bread and preserves from scratch. My husband is enjoying all the fabulous meals and I never have a problem getting the children to sit up at the table.' **BK**



Two roomy fridge drawers in the island store perishable food and are an invaluable addition to the kitchen

DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Howard Stubbs at **Heaven & Stubbs**, Units 1 & 2 Glebe Farm, Farthinghoe, Brackley NN13 6DN (01280 702514) www.heavenandstubbs.com
- Bespoke American Black walnut furniture and glass cabinetry

WORKTOPS

- Nero Impala granite, Algarve Granite. Price per sq m **£360**
- Toughened glass, Watsons Glass. Price per sq m **£500**
- Stainless steel, Direct Fabrications. Price per sq m **£410**

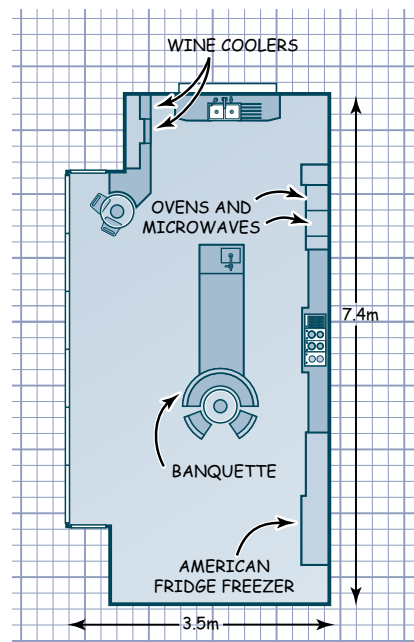
SINKS & TAPS

- Double-bowl sink, Heaven & Stubbs **£1,240**
- Bespoke single-bowl sink, Pland Stainless **£900**
- AT1119 Indus single-lever tap, Abode **£250**
- AT1138 Gino top-lever tap, Abode **£220**
- HCl100 Hot & Cold tap, In-Sink-Erator **£445**
- AT1107 Axel pull-out handspray, Abode **£75**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- 2 x built-in single ovens, for similar try B41015, AEG-Electrolux, each **£535**
- 2 x built-in microwaves, for similar try MCD2660EM, AEG-Electrolux, each **£480**
- 2 x FM4513KAN domino ceramic hobs, AEG-Electrolux, each **£450**
- FM4803KAN domino induction hob, AEG-Electrolux **£550**
- FM4500GR barbecue grill, AEG-Electrolux **£700**
- 2 x HD8760 hoods, AEG-Electrolux, each **£750**
- ICBWVD30 warming drawer, Wolf **£1,500**
- KD82903EM warming drawer, AEG **£420**
- DEF320FNRS fridge freezer, Amana **£2,850**
- NCD1911 double fridge drawers, Hotpoint **£899**
- Wi6222 integrated wine cooler, Caple **£594**
- MG-150ECSE wine cooler, Gamko **£740**
- Refreshment centre **Discontinued**
- DS605FDH dishwasher, Fisher & Paykel **£472**

For stockists, see page 144



GUIDE PRICE

- Cabinetry only **£50,000**