INTERIORS SHOPPING ADVICE FOOD TRENDS EXPERTS INSPIRATION

HOMES & GARDENS®

JUNE 2010 £3.7

A beautiful summer

RELAXED LIVING IN LONDON, OXFORDSHIRE & CORNWALL

DESIGN IDEAS

- STYLISH FRENCH WINDOWS
- **ANIMAL PRINTS**
- PLANNING A SOCIABLE KITCHEN

WHERE TO FIND

OUTDOOR FURNITURE PICNICWARE & KITCHEN APPLIANCES

GARDEN INSPIRATION

20 PAGES OF CREATIVE IDEAS

- **WILD FLOWER MEADOWS**
- **WISTERIA**
- **TRADITIONAL ROSES**

RECALL: 02/0

HOW TO MAKE IT WORK

■ **An island unit or peninsula will ensure the chef isn't left out of the party. Install hobs and sinks facing into the room.**

■ Large, open-plan kitchens provide space for a separate dining table as well as an island unit. Non-supporting walls can often be removed without planning permission, but consult a structural engineer.

■ **Kitchen cabinets in luxurious materials will create a glamorous space. Explore dark timbers such as wenge and Macassar ebony, plus mirrored glass, marble tops and decorative lighting.**

■ Different flooring marks out zones, with hardwearing stone or ceramic in the kitchen area, running into softer woods in the dining zone and softer still carpet in the living space.

■ **It's hard to relax with dirty dishes on show. A walk-in larder/utility space offers a place to stack them behind closed doors.**

■ Finally, don't forget the music. For minimal disruption, try a self-contained wireless system with integral speakers such as the new Sonos ZonePlayer S5, from £350 at HiFix, 02476 525200, hifix.co.uk.

FACT FILE

DESIGNER Carolyn Trevor, Trevor Lahiff Architects, 020 7737 6181, tlastudio.co.uk. **THE BRIEF** To create a great family kitchen with a dining table that can be moved aside for bigger events. Maximise wall height since the space is rather narrow. **BUDGET** £48,000. **SOURCES Cabinets**, Hacker from Anthony Downes, 020 7349 7064, anthonydownes.com. **Marble splashbacks**, Marmi & Granito, 020 7622 0438, marmi.co.uk. **Taps**, Newform from Alternative Plans, 020 7228 6460, alternative-plans.co.uk. **Dishwasher**, Gaggenau, 0870 125 4500, gaggenau.com. **Pendant light**, Flos, 020 3328 5140, flos.com. **Dining table and chairs**, SCP, 020 7739 1869, scp.co.uk.

TALL ORDER

Architects Carolyn Trevor and Patrick Lahiff used their professional skills to remodel their Camberwell home, moving the kitchen from the basement to the airier ground floor. The new room is blessed with high ceilings, so Carolyn has used the height to create maximum storage while retaining access to the garden via a bridge with a glass balustrade. Leaving the kitchen open to a spacious family/reception room at the front of the house provides a large light-filled entertaining space with huge windows at either end. As the couple have five children, even weekday meals benefit from a sizeable dining table. "We often have friends to dinner during the week and at weekends, so there are usually eight or ten children at a time in the house," Carolyn says. "And now at last, we have a table that can sit 14. It's by Monica Armani and has wheels so that you can drive it around," she adds.

During larger parties, Carolyn wheels the table to the front reception room where it sits neatly over the low-backed sofa in the bay window to free up yet more floor space. Although the core of the kitchen features inexpensive gloss-white cabinets by Hacker, Carolyn has incorporated luxury touches such as Calacatta marble splashbacks and contemporary stainless-steel worktops with seamless integrated sinks. Additional statement pieces include the iconic Taraxacum 88 pendants by Achille Castiglioni for Flos and Charles Eames Eiffel dining chairs. "Combined with the beautiful ornate cornicing, high ceilings and direct access to the garden, it's a great space. Several of our friends who live in flats that are too small for big dinner parties now hold them in our kitchen," Carolyn reveals. ▶