



Zeitraum's Twist table sits beneath a brass Largo chandelier by Eichholtz

CASE STUDY

IN THE NAVY

Photography Paul Craig Words Natasha Radmehr

A lot can happen in five decades. Global digitalisation; climate change; the UK doing the hokey cokey with the EU. But while the world was evolving around it, the kitchen in this Edinburgh townhouse remained largely the same from the 1970s until 2018, when the Chisholms moved in. "This was its first complete renovation in more than 45 years," says Ashley Chisholm, who lives here with husband Chris. "We wanted to be respectful of the age of the property (it dates from 1876) and nod to its heritage."

Colinton-based design studio Peden & Pringle was tasked with reimagining the kitchen, as well as creating bespoke cabinetry for ▶

BRIEF To design a timeless kitchen and dining area that would fit with the heritage of a Victorian townhouse in Merchiston, Edinburgh, and aid the flow between the home's living spaces.

DIMENSIONS

The kitchen and dining area combined is approximately 7.9m x 3.9m (30.8 sq.m).

BIGGEST CHALLENGE

The walls and floors were a little squint, which made it tricky to get the cabinetry sitting neatly.

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Peden & Pringle

BESPOKE DETAILS

HANDLES “The handles on the cabinets are by Armac Martin and are made from solid brass with a polished nickel finish, which has a warm, golden tint to it (unlike a bright chrome).”

DOUBLE PANTRY “The double pantry provides the bulk of the storage for the kitchen. The interior is oak, and as soon

as the doors open, the LED lights (by Sensio Lighting) come on. We went for a warm tone, and it’s quite subtle – the best lighting is the lighting that you don’t really notice.”

DRINKS STORAGE “We created a wine fridge with built-in storage and a drinks cabinet painted in the same colour as the rest of the cabinetry. We

went back to the house recently to fit these with locks as Ashley and Chris had a baby and she’s now crawling around!”

CHAIRS The chairs around the dining table are replicas of Hans J. Wegner’s Wishbone design, by Swivel. “Replicas because we have a one-year-old!” laugh the Chisholms.



The cabinets are painted in Little Greene’s Basalt. Their traditional look is lightened by modern touches such as the Qlocktwo clock, above

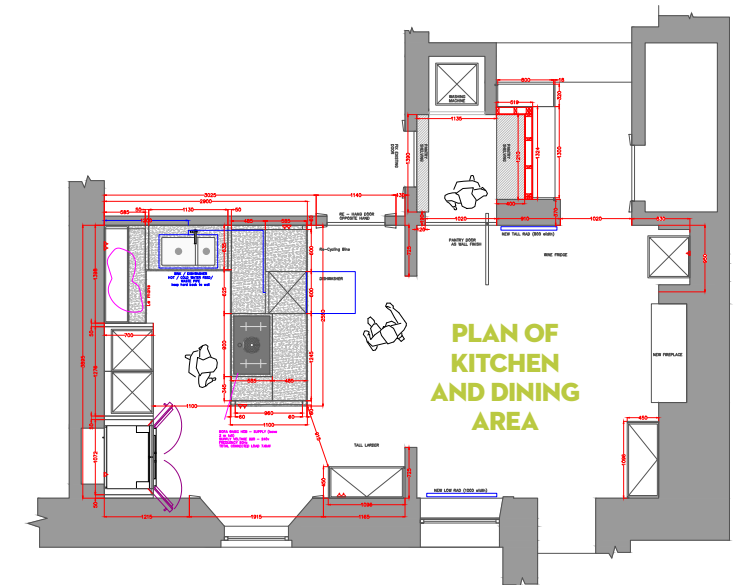
other spaces in the home, including the utility and dressing rooms. Adam Peden, director, describes the house in leafy Merchiston as “spectacular and prestigious-looking”, and was keen for his additions to feel suitably sophisticated. “We went for a traditional, classic style in keeping with the look of the property, but with a hint to modern living,” he says. “That’s the balance we love to strike.”

The old kitchen, he recalls, was “a bit messy and mismatched” – and on the opposite side of the room to where it is now. To get it working better, he swapped the dining and kitchen areas around, a process that wasn’t as destructive as it sounds. “Because there’s a basement underneath, we had full access to the plumbing routes and didn’t need to hack up the original maple floor that was there already,” he explains.

The kitchen flows through to a garden room and living space, and blue features prominently in both: the former is swathed in navy Lelièvre fabric, while the latter is dressed in cobalt. “The colour choice was critical in a pseudo open-plan space because we wanted it to link each living area,” says Ashley Chisholm. Peden & Pringle painted the kitchen’s Shaker-style cabinetry in Little Greene’s Basalt, a refined blue-black that harmonises with the colour scheme and looks crisp against the kitchen’s rugged, exposed stone walls.

“We used tulip wood for the cabinetry, which sands up really well – almost like glass,” says Peden. “It’s not the prettiest wood in the world so we only ever really use it for painting, because you don’t get a raised grain. It’s got all the great qualities of a solid wood such as oak or walnut, but with a much smoother finish.”

Another hardworking material was selected for the countertops and splashback, bringing a contemporary dimension to the ▶



KITCHENS

room: super-white quartzite, which at first glance looks like a luxurious grey-veined marble. “If you put marble in a kitchen, it won’t last ten minutes,” laughs Peden. “It’s very porous so could be stained easily by red wine, or get acid etch from lemon juice. Quartzite, in comparison, is bulletproof.”

The appliances, all sleek and modern, are built seamlessly into the cabinetry. There’s a Fisher & Paykel Goliath French-door fridge (“Probably our biggest-selling appliance – it’s superb quality,” tips Peden) and a Siemens full-sized microwave oven. A Quooker tap presides over the Kohler sink, and the Bora hob has a recirculating downdraft extractor, which Peden reckons is “the way forward” for extraction.

“The extraction unit is built into the hob and sucks the air downwards into a plinth area, where it then blows out recycled

air,” he explains. “Going for this style saved us from seeking planning permission to punch holes out through exterior walls. They also prevent you from losing any heat. Recirculating will become the new norm, I think.”

The gadgetry might be impressive, but the family are most pleased with how the kitchen now feels as a social hub. They gather with loved ones around the Zeitraum oak table and fetch drinks from their handsome custom wine and glassware cabinets. “When we saw the finished space we were elated,” smiles Ashley Chisholm. “The kitchen is really the heart of the home for us; we love cooking together and entertaining. You don’t realise how jarring bad design can be until you have the converse and it opens up the home. The space feels relaxed and inviting now. I know it will be here for years to come.” ■



Peden & Pringle created a kitchen library, seen here through the living room’s archway. [Below] The double pantry is visually impressive whether open or closed. Its oak interior is illuminated by warm Sensio LED lights

