

## DESIGNER

# K&H Design

Katie Glaister and Henry Miller-Robinson discuss their work on the kitchen of a Victorian house in west London, in which they have combined painted units with burr walnut elements

TEXT ELIZABETH METCALFE | PHOTOGRAPHS DEAN HEARNE

‘We don’t have a prescriptive look,’ says Katie Glaister, who co-founded K&H Design with Henry Miller-Robinson in 2015. Instead, the pair create elegant, hard-working interiors that are designed to make people feel comfortable. This might explain the diversity of their projects (from a small apartment in Stockholm to a large rectory in Oxfordshire), the broad age range of their clients and why so many of them have worked with the firm again and again. ‘We’ve had repeat business from all our clients,’ says Katie.

The pair came to interiors through different routes: Katie had worked on the sales and marketing side of architectural firms for 20 years, while Henry worked for his family’s commercial construction business in Derbyshire until 2011. By the time they met, Henry had completed an interior-design course at KLC, while Katie – having gutted and renovated several of her own houses – decided she wanted to flex her own creative muscle and make a job out of what was once a hobby.

Like many small businesses, this one started at a kitchen table, but K&H Design now has a team of nine and its own studio in Fulham. Current projects include two houses in west London and a flat in Knightsbridge, and the firm has recently designed a 67-bedroom hotel in Richmond. Much of what they do is completely bespoke. ‘We often experiment with materials that are not commonly used,’ says Henry.



## PROJECT

This large kitchen and dining area sits on the ground floor of Katie and Henry’s first project together – a Victorian family house in west London. The owners had lived there for 18 years and it needed reconfiguring to create more usable space. A tired conservatory was replaced by a brick extension and Crittall doors.

The room had to work hard. The husband is a keen cook, so wanted space for specialist equipment, but it also had to be an inviting room for the rest of the family. ‘We didn’t want it to feel like a kitchen,’ explains Henry. As a solution, they integrated professional-standard cooking appliances into the central four-metre-long island and clad it in bookmatched burr walnut to resemble a smart piece of furniture. They also added a small workstation outside the main cooking area, so the family could make tea and coffee without getting in the chef’s way.

Running parallel to the island, an extendable walnut table from Benchmark provides seating for up to 14 people. ‘It had to work for both family breakfasts and dinner parties,’ explains Katie. Josef Frank dining chairs, upholstered in a selection of ▷

TOP The interior decorators Henry Miller-Robinson and Katie Glaister of K&H Design chose a bold colour palette for this open-plan space, including burr walnut cladding for the four-metre-long island. The wall units are painted in complementary ‘Tanner’s Brown’ by Farrow & Ball. Calacatta Caldia marble was used for the island worktop and splashback. The leather-covered barstool is from Soane. A pair of burr walnut doors on the right conceals a desk area



the designer's colourful fabrics, tie in well with a large abstract painting by Lydia Mammes. At the far end of the room, there is a desk area concealed behind burr walnut doors on the kitchen side and an oak and burr walnut unit in the dining area, which hides the television behind a sliding panel.

The level of detail is impressive – Katie and Henry designed the handles on the island so the owner could use them with just two fingers if he was in the middle of cooking. Units painted in a dark brown by Farrow & Ball were designed around the exact measurements of the owners' china, pans and cutlery. 'We wanted to create a logical space for everything,' explains Katie.

## ADDRESS BOOK

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'We've commissioned Ged to make handles for several projects – from slender bronze to robust stainless steel. He enjoys the challenge of collaborating on bespoke commissions.' [gedkennett.co.uk](http://gedkennett.co.uk)

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TOP LEFT The island, which incorporates a bespoke range cooker and hob, was raised off the floor to make it feel less imposing. Its patinated bronze handles were made by Ged Kennett. ABOVE LEFT The oak and burr walnut shelving unit is painted in xxxxx by xxxxxx provides storage for cookbooks. The tall vase was made by Tom Kemp. ABOVE RIGHT Rose Uniacke's 'Plaster Cone' pendants hang above the walnut table and Josef Frank 'Armchair 695' chairs from Svenskt Tenn