

BE INSPIRED: *Make bold decorating work for you*

REAL HOMES

MAKE YOUR DREAM HOME A REALITY

CREATE A
STATEMENT
GALLERY
WALL

'WE NEARLY
DIVORCED!'
THE HIGHS
(& LOWS) OF
YOUR KITCHEN
EXTENSIONS

THE £10
HOME HACK
YOU WILL
ALL WANT
TO COPY

NEW
MODERN
INSPIRING

REAL HOMES PACKED
WITH PERSONALITY

Easy style updates for renters | Why it's time for a digital detox | Statement doors
| Hot high street looks | Extensions that will change the way you live | Is open-plan
living for everyone? | Nail working from home in style | No-fuss decorating ideas

DOOR OPTIONS

Sliding or bi-fold doors with minimal framing opening to the garden are definite winners, but using a more traditional door style can make a new side-return extension feel at one with a period property. Or consider industrial-style steel-framed doors that will provide snapshot views to the garden. A design like this can harmonise beautifully with an exposed brick wall, or industrial details in a kitchen.

THINK ABOUT THE ROOF

A single pitch roof can make a side return feel loftier inside, and look attractive viewed from the garden. But, flat glazed roofs or one with a series of rooflights, can be equally as effective. Pitched roofs have a more traditional appearance, while a flat roof can appear sleeker. The latter is also worth considering as a good way to focus light on a dining area.



THE INDOOR-OUTDOOR FAMILY SPACE

Kelly Nutt-Edson and her husband, Tom, freed up space for a playroom for their twins, Scarlett and Florence, by extending into the side return of their home

‘Widening the room completely changed the use of all the ground-floor rooms,’ says Kelly. ‘Before, the kitchen was separate from the dining room, which we can now enter directly, and which has become a kids’ play area.’

The girls didn’t have any space apart from the lounge previously, but now we have an actual sitting room, with all their stuff in the middle room. And it’s very flexible; as they get older and need study areas, they can use that room, and ultimately we can use it as a formal dining room.

‘When we bought the house, extending into the side return was something we knew we wanted to do. We visited a couple of neighbours’ homes and could see it worked really well. We primarily wanted an open space to spend time together.’

We entertain a lot, so now we have the garden as part of the inside, and there’s full access to the kitchen without having to go away to prepare

MATERIAL MATTERS

Should a side-return extension match or contrast with the original house? Both are possible – and can be successful. Matching materials will create a harmonious feel, whereas contrasting contemporary finishes make the new addition overt. Call on an architect to help with your plans.

food. The bi-fold doors were critical. They're a foot higher than standard, and open to the ceiling rather than having a drop down. So far, when we've been entertaining we've been able to push the doors aside. I think we fitted 30 people in easily at one gathering.

There are also rooflights in the side return. With the big doors there was always going to be a lot of light, but it's nice being able to look up and see the sky, too.

'I've never been a country kitchen type and I like the simplicity of the new one, which works well with the micro-

ceмент floor. The island extends bench space and the girls can sit up and help me cook. It's a better place to stand and prepare meals.

'We're pleased we could extend as soon as we did, and we started the summer in a really nice way with the doors open as much as possible.'

COST AND CONTACTS

Project cost £72,000

Designer/builder Build Team,
020 7495 6561, buildteam.com

STAY SPACE EFFICIENT

If the new room is still of relatively modest proportions once the side return is incorporated into the interior, a single line galley kitchen can provide functional cooking and preparation areas. In this scenario, too many wall units can be oppressive, so plan in shelving or glass-fronted units to keep the feel open. Make sure there's worktop space either side of the hob as well.



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PHOTOGRAPHS BUILD TEAM

THE PLANS

