



# COPPER HIGHLIGHTS

Inspiration for this dramatic kitchen transformation was taken from a family heirloom.

Guro Eide, 40, lives in a 1930s semi in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, with her husband Tony, 42, and their children Oliver, seven, and Elissia, three. Needing more space, they extended their home to create a bright and airy open-plan kitchen living area that lends itself perfectly to family life.

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**DINING AREA**  
A zinc-topped table and leather chairs add texture, toning with other natural materials used in the scheme

**LIGHTING**  
Elegant pendants  
continue the  
copper theme

**OPEN SHELVING**  
Chosen to match  
the colour of the  
walls, they almost  
disappear so the  
pieces on display  
really stand out

**SPLASHBACK**  
Copper provides  
an interesting  
and economical  
alternative to tiles

**ISLAND**  
Charcoal laminate  
with a bespoke  
walnut overlay  
creates a stylish  
contemporary look

**COOKER**  
Set into a bank of  
units, the double  
oven appears sleek  
and unobtrusive

## BEFORE



## ACTION PLAN

BUILD 2-METRE-DEEP EXTENSION AT THE REAR

FIND A KITCHEN DESIGNER

FIT ENGINEERED OAK FLOORING

INSTALL CABINETS AND ISLAND





**READING CORNER**  
The seating area is flooded with natural light through the glass doors

## HOUSE BEAUTIFUL SAYS...

‘This room shows how to mix textures and very dark and pale colours together to great effect. The warm copper accents brighten the scheme and give a retro feel.’

### Why did you extend and redesign the space?

The old kitchen wasn't very family friendly and it was hard to keep an eye on the children while I was cooking. I really wanted the kind of big, open-plan space I was used to from growing up in Norway.

### Tell us about the kitchen you chose

We had the help of a local company called Planet Furniture that produces handmade kitchens. At first we thought they were going to be too expensive, until we discovered that they also import units from the German brand Schuller. Using a combination of ready-made cupboards and a bespoke walnut section meant that we could achieve the look we wanted within our budget.

### What was the inspiration for the design?

A gorgeous round copper tray I inherited from my grandma was the starting point. It used to hang on the wall of her living room in Norway and I've always loved it. I'd also seen a few black kitchens in Norway, which I really liked, but I didn't want the scheme to be too gloomy so I combined dark and pale units.

### Describe the style you've opted for

I like the Scandinavian minimalistic approach but we needed somewhere a little more welcoming, warm and relaxing to come home to. That's why there are lots of natural materials such as walnut, leather, copper, zinc and reindeer hide.

### Did you have any other requirements?

Tony and I are often in the kitchen together so we wanted enough space for us to be able to work side by side. And there needed to be

plenty of storage – we have carousels in our corner units to maximise the space – but at the same time I didn't want wall units so, instead, chose open shelving to keep things light and airy.

### Did everything go smoothly?

Pretty much. The only major hitch was having to level the floors because once the walls had been knocked down we discovered that there were three or four different levels on the ground floor. We also had to rewire and replumb the entire house but we hadn't thought that would be necessary at first. The whole refurbishment, including remodelling the entire house, took six months, which wasn't too bad, all things considered.

### What advice would you give to someone embarking on a big renovation?

Don't assume the lowest quote will be the most cost-effective option in the long run. Our builders, DB Sharp & Sons, weren't the cheapest but they have an excellent reputation. They're also quite a big company, which meant they were able to tackle everything – plumbing, flooring, decorating – as well as the building work. And they also saved us money along the way by doing jobs such as making a set of built-in book shelves, for which they only charged us two days' labour.

### How do you feel about the space now?

The new design brings the family together. I can be making dinner in the kitchen while the children are painting or doing homework at the table. It's such a sociable space now. We love it!



IN  
DETAIL

## KITCHEN

Favourite trinkets in copper, brass and lusted ceramic reflect the light on these 'floating' shelves



## THE NEW LAYOUT

A run of base units beside a floor-to-ceiling bank with an island in front is an efficient arrangement in this open space



## GET THE LOOK



Medium Lattice 950ml glass **jar** with copper-finish lid, £5.99, T&G



Copper **cladding** (10cm square pieces on mdf board), £219.60 a sq metre, Indigenous




Utility enamel **bread bin** and ash board, £85, LSA International

## WHAT IT COST

Paint .....	£120
Units .....	£8,810
Walnut worktop .....	£1,009
Sink and tap .....	£356
Appliances .....	£2,803
Flooring .....	£941
Lighting .....	£720
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>£14,759</b>

## SHOPPING LIST

**Walls** painted in Polished Pebble and Noble Grey matt emulsion, £21.60 for 2.5L, Dulux. Xylo Kensington R11 engineered oak **flooring**, £49 a sq metre, Galapast. Schuller Nova kitchen **units** in Crystal Grey and Lava Black, £8,810; Walnut **worktop**, £1,009; all Planet Furniture. Hallviken **sink**, £250, Ikea. Tre Mercati Little Venice **tap**, £106, Bathroom Trends. Slide & Hide single **pyrolytic oven** in stainless steel B57CR22, £799; compact **steam oven** in stainless steel C17FS32, £977; 30cm Domino **induction hob** with bevel-glass steel trim N54D30N2, £558; 30cm Domino **gas hob** with front-control bevel-glass steel trim N24K30N0, £469; all Neff Appliances. Copper **splashbacks** and **upstands**, £210, Metal Sheets. Botkyrka **shelves**, £20 each, Ikea. Copper **saucepan**, £50; copper **kettle**, £30; both Sainsbury's. Industrial brown leather bar **stools**, £140 each, Rockett St George. Marlow pendant **lights over island**, £65 each, Habitat. Pendant **lights over table**, £295 each, Tom Dixon at John Lewis. Similar zinc-topped **table**, £745, Loaf. Similar dining **chairs**, £130 each, Rockett St George 

LIVING AREA  
Elissia, three,  
loves cosying  
up on a soft  
reindeer hide

