



Another level

Designing and building their own home was the only option for construction company owners Julie and Anthony Hayes

Words: Jacky Parker Photography: Alison Hammond

Previous pages (p114-115):

The couple gave a lot of thought to how they wanted to live when designing the layout. They placed the kitchen, dining and family room so that they would open out onto the south-facing garden.

Right: The family spends most of their time in the kitchen and dining area. "The kitchen had to be a nice space to be in. It's not just about preparing food and cooking," says owner Julie Hayes. Tiger extra-white porcelain tiles cover the floor.

Opposite page: "Lowering the ceiling in the kitchen helped to ground and zone the working area," says Julie. "It was the right decision, even though it costs us extra." Bianca Eclipsia double bull nose, extra-deep granite was chosen for the island worktop.



As owners of a building company based in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, creating beautiful homes for themselves and others is something of a habit for Julie and Anthony Hayes. For their latest move, however, they wanted to step things up a gear. "We were ready for a larger home as our sons, Joshua and Max, are now 13 and eight, but we also wanted to take the specification to a much higher level."

Having lived in the area for 15 years, the couple had their eye on some prime locations, so were quick to move when a decent-sized plot became available on a favourite private road. With her vision of a five-bedroom, Georgian-style family home, Julie worked with Peter Knightly of TW-2 Architects to bring the build to life.

"I wanted it to have a traditional feel with full-height windows, columns and porticos, but with contemporary elements, like the open-plan kitchen," says Julie. "It also had to be casual enough for everyday family life but smart enough for the times we entertain formally." Here she reveals more about the project.

What style of kitchen did you opt for?

We were spending a lot of money so wanted it to have longevity. I thought a high-gloss contemporary look might date so I chose something with a traditional, timeless feel. I love the mix of walnut and painted cabinetry with the chrome handles, and the detailing on the panelled doors, which is typically Georgian.

Any special storage features?

We have a pantry cupboard with concertina doors, so the kettle and toaster can be tucked away rather than out on the work surface. We also have a charging drawer. It was very simple to do; we just asked the electrician to put a multi-plug socket at the back, but it means all the phones and tablets can be charged there rather than out on show. The pull-out larder drawers are great too, as you can easily see what's at the back.

What inspired your furniture choices in the bedroom?

I was keen for the house to flow both practically and aesthetically, so I continued the traditional yet timeless feel and the neutral colour palette

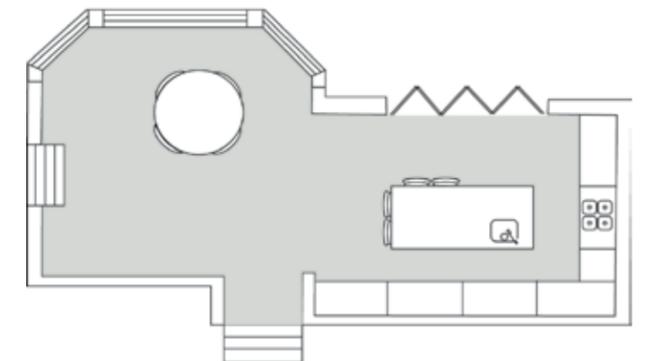
and walnut finishes upstairs. I also wanted to create the right balance between masculine and feminine. Sometimes bedrooms can err too much towards the feminine.

How did you decide on the materials in the bathroom?

I love the luxurious hotel feel, so wanted to replicate that. It also had to blend seamlessly with the bedroom décor, so when I saw the tiles I knew they would work with the colour palette and using them full height on the walls as well as on the floor, with the modern fittings, gives that luxe look. I was keen to have a big walk-in shower, where you can just grab a warm towel afterwards, so allocated less footage to the bath area.

What brassware and sanitaryware have you used and why?

Hawk Interiors guided me here, as it knew precisely the spec I wanted to achieve. It would have been easy to cut corners on cost, but we wanted the right standard of fittings. So it suggested certain brands and I chose modern styles that I liked, which would create that luxury hotel feel. [KBB]





Q&A

Owner Julie Hayes says...

What did you find the most useful research tool when starting this project?

I enjoyed using Pinterest for ideas, but I also love nothing more than sitting down with a pile of interiors magazines and a hot chocolate and pulling out pages of things I like.

Did you make any major U-turns during the project?

Yes, we decided to lower part of the ceiling in the kitchen. I wanted it to have height and volume, but at one point it just felt too cavernous so I agreed with Peter, the architect, that we would lower it by a metre over the island space. It cost us extra, but it was a good call. I think it's worth correcting things if they don't feel right, even if it means going against a team of tradespeople and your schedule. Have the confidence to stick with what you want and swallow the cost.

Do you have any advice for someone embarking on a similar project?

Allow some extra time in the schedule for final decorations. If anything overruns during the project, it is always the trades at the end of the job that feel the impact.

Any major lessons learnt from this project?

Create moodboards of what the room should look like for everyone to see, for your morale and theirs. Also consider the lighting at the planning stage. We used a dedicated lighting design company, which took the scheme to another level. The designers were able to create zones and highlight features with pools of light, which look beautiful and give us more control on what we want to illuminate and when.

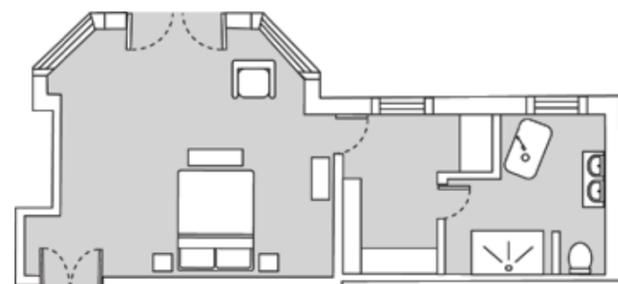


Top left: The walnut cabinetry echoes the walnut used for the stairs and the flooring in the sitting room and study. "We can have the doors open and nothing jars colour-wise between the rooms," explains Julie.

Above: Panelled windows above the huge bi-fold doors retain the Georgian feel and allow plenty of light to flood through into the hallway on the split-level lower ground floor.

Opposite page, bottom: There is a place for everything, including tea, coffee and breakfast paraphernalia that can be hidden away in the handy concertina cupboard. The worktop is Lagoon Gloss Silestone.





"I wanted to create the right balance between masculine and feminine. Sometimes bedrooms can err too much towards the feminine."

Above: The striped wallpaper is Lille in white and the paint colour is Sable, both from Laura Ashley. The white blanket box is an antique piece.

Top right: The pretty floral curtain fabric is Clarissa Silk. To tie the look together in a subtle way, Julie used small sections of the fabric with plain panels in Dupion Silk, in Truffle, for the blinds, both from Laura Ashley.

Right: The soft Tundra carpet by Cormar Carpets creates a warm, sumptuous feel, enhanced by the underfloor heating.



Top left: The huge mirror above the white cabinet and 'his and hers' basins keep the space feeling light and bright.

Left: Julie took the decision to position the bath in the corner, so there would also be enough space to accommodate a generous walk-in shower.

Above: The mosaic tiles in the large walk-in shower are Quattro Avenue from Porcelanosa. They were tiled onto a sloped tray to create a gradient for drainage and have a non-slip texture. Julie meticulously planned the niche that houses the hand-held showerhead. "I was a little obsessive about it," she laughs, "but it all had to fit perfectly."

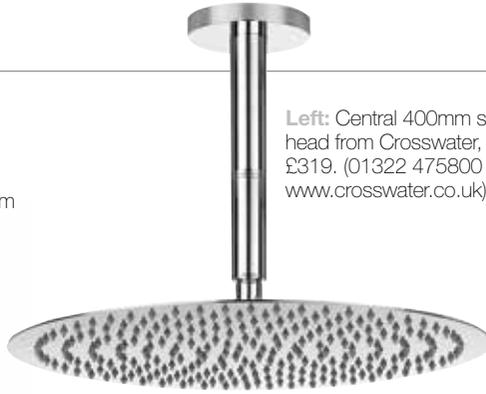
Opposite page: Julie created tonal flow between the master ensuite, dressing room and bedroom by using neutral shades and plenty of white accents.

GET THE LOOK

Below: Metal lanterns from House of Fraser in large, £70, and medium, £50. (0845 602 1073 or www.houseoffraser.co.uk)



Left: Central 400mm shower head from Crosswater, £319. (01322 475800 or www.crosswater.co.uk)



Left: Codie rise and fall pendant in polished aluminium from Original BTC, £269. (01993 882251 or www.originalbtc.com)



Left: Hamilton armchair from Marks & Spencer, £499. (0845 302 1234 or www.marksandspencer.com)



Right: Bramley blue large dresser from Laura Ashley, £1600. (0333 200 8009 or www.lauraashley.com)



Left: Grosvenor bed frame from Barker & Stonehouse, £599. (0330 134 7875 or www.barkerandstonehouse.co.uk)



SourceBook

DESIGN

Architect TW-2 Architects (01494 512717 or www.tw-2.co.uk)
Construction company Frithsden Construction (01442 870495 or www.ourdreamhouse.co.uk)
Kitchen and bathroom Hawk Interiors (01442 842634 or www.hawkinteriors.co.uk)
Lighting design The Light Corporation (01442 216200 or www.lightcorporation.com)

KITCHEN

Cabinetry Walnut and painted units, Hawk Interiors, as before
Worktops Granite and quartz, Alpiana Stone (01923 678741 or www.alpianastone.co.uk)
Appliances Ovens, microwave and hob, Siemens (0344 892 8999 or www.siemens-home.co.uk); Wine storage unit, Rangemaster (0800 804 6261 or www.rangemaster.co.uk), all from Hawk Interiors, as before
Sink and tap For similar try Franke (0161 436 6280 or www.franke.com)
Barstools Atlantic Shopping (0121 230 1644 or www.atlanticshopping.co.uk)
Dining table and chairs Jan Cavelle Interiors (01440 760970 or www.jancavelle.com)
Pendants Light Haus (0161 928 8008 or www.thelighthouse.co.uk)
Flooring Tiles from Ebbens (01442 368417 or www.ebbens.co.uk)
Dining table and chairs For similar try Go Modern (020 7731 9540 or www.gomodern.co.uk)

BEDROOM

Bed, bedside tables, lamps and chest of drawers For similar try Laura Ashley (0333 200 8009 or www.lauraashley.com)
Curtains and blinds Laura Ashley Design Service (0333 202 1197 or www.lauraashley.com)
Carpet Cormar Carpets (01204 881234 or www.cormarcarpets.co.uk)
Pendant Laura Ashley, as before
Storage chest For similar try Marks & Spencer (0333 014 8000 or www.marksandspencer.com)
Armchair For similar try Swoon Editions (020 3137 2464 or www.swooneditions.com)
Quilt and bed linen For similar try Sheridan (0871 700 0118 or www.sheridanaustralia.co.uk)

BATHROOM

Bath and basins Villeroy & Boch (020 8875 6006 or www.villeroy-boch.co.uk) from Hawk Interiors, as before
Sanitaryware and brassware Grohe (0871 200 3414 or www.grohe.co.uk), from Hawk Interiors, as before
Tiles Porcelain, Porcelanosa (0844 481 8952 or www.porcelanosa.com/gb)
Vanity unit For similar try Porcelanosa, as before

COSTS

A similar kitchen would cost around £50,000, a similar master bedroom around £7500, and a similar master bathroom around £9000