



It wasn't just the fluffy green carpet, peeling laminate surfaces and dire shortage of storage that made Grete and Brad Dawson decide a new kitchen was on the cards. 'It was cramped, narrow and messy, with an ugly, falling apart lean-to on one side that we used as a dumping ground,' recalls Grete. 'The house had been rented for several years before we bought it and was badly in need of some TLC.'

Stay-at-home mum Grete and company owner Brad decided to extend the kitchen space by building over the side return of the Victorian house in West London, with a goal of creating a much wider kitchen to share with their children Joel, eight, and Skye, six. Following up a recommendation, the couple met architect Patrick Owens of design and build firm Patrick + Ryan. 'When I met Patrick, I instantly felt at ease,' says Grete. 'Left to my own devices, I would have put cupboards on every wall so desperate was I for more storage, but Patrick quickly explained that wouldn't be necessary. He had a vision for the room, understanding how to make the best use of the space, and offering us the potential to create a room for family living and socialising, rather than just a kitchen for cooking and washing up.'

The newly enlarged room features a long run of cabinets along one wall, providing that storage that was much-wanted by Grete, as well as housing appliances. An island creates the prep and wet zone, its compact design chosen to maximise the space left in the room for a dining table, for socialising with friends and for the children to play as well.

Painted a dark green colour, the cabinetry adds definition in the large room, while vintage furniture and industrial-inspired lighting add to the character of the space. 'My taste is eclectic, and I enjoy mixing old and new to create a relaxed feel,' says Grete. 'Now we have a room to be proud of, a wonderful family space which is also ideal for getting together with friends.' **EKBB**

FLUSH FIT
The cupboards run right up to the ceiling to create a streamlined effect



GREEN GLOW
Grete bought the pendant lights on eBay. The green of the shades is a near-perfect match to the cupboards, and I like the brass fittings and filament bulbs.