



Amanda opted for White hi-gloss cabinetry with contrasting Ebony units across the top to break up the block of colour. Patio doors allow light to stream in and make the most of the sleek units. The matching white plinths contain subtle blue LEDs.



‘My two girls love the water dispenser on the Siemens American-style fridge freezer and the first thing they do when they come in the kitchen is get themselves a drink of water.’

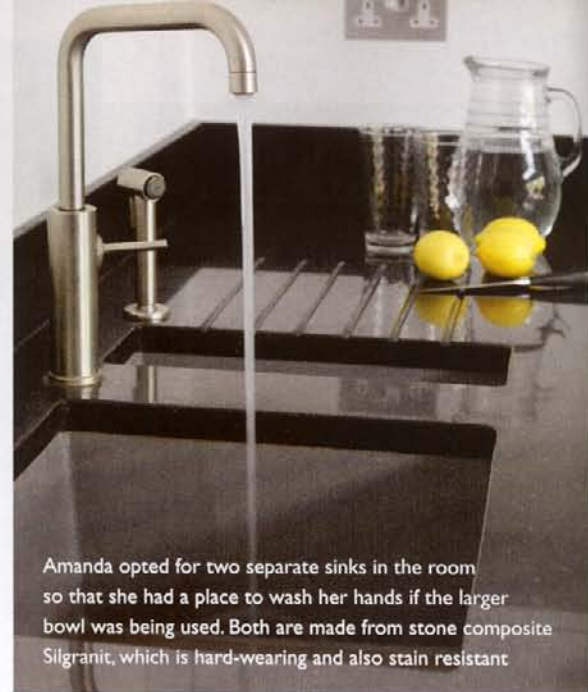
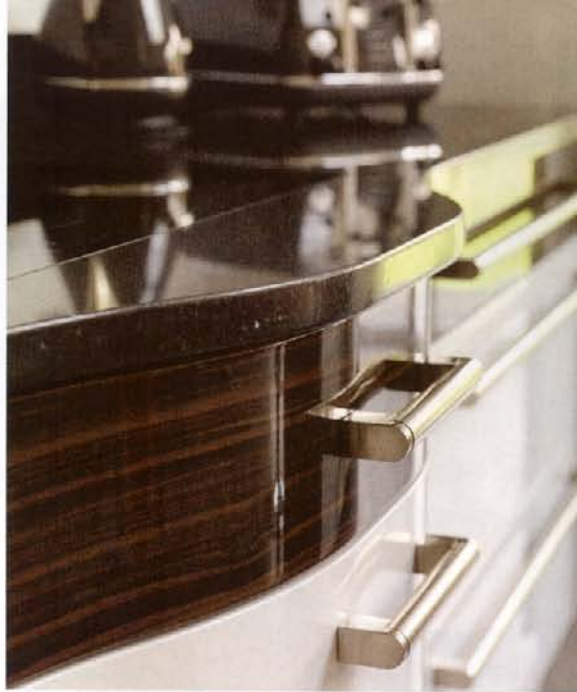
AMANDA TOMPKINS

EBONY AND IVORY

Breaks of dark and light glossy cabinetry with an enticing wave curve to make the Tompkins' scheme a harmonious combination

'I originally wanted a sparkly granite but I changed my mind and asked designer Michael for a plainer pattern,' explains Amanda. 'The silver flecks are really visible when we turn on the lights'

The Alumetallic units, which are made from a sheet of glass over a panel of metal, are sited on either side of the extractor to create a sense of symmetry. The doors are held in place by a cushioned hinge when opened so items can be put away with ease. Task lighting has been integrated under the wall units to provide illumination for preparing meals, while slightly bowed handles mimic the curve of the furniture below. The white fruit bowl came from John Lewis



Amanda opted for two separate sinks in the room so that she had a place to wash her hands if the larger bowl was being used. Both are made from stone composite Silgranit, which is hard-wearing and also stain resistant

I wish... I'd had a crash course on how to use all the appliances! I have so many manuals and I feel as if I could have done with someone to teach me how they work'



Like many people who begin planning a new kitchen, Amanda Tompkins and her husband soon realised that to achieve their ideal open-plan scheme, they would have to extend their property. 'We moved in to our mock-Tudor house seven years ago and although the kitchen was a nice size and bigger than the usual galley style it still wasn't large enough for entertaining,' recalls Amanda, mum to Megan, 13, and Millie, 11.

'The old kitchen had shiny oak units, which made the room seem quite orange, and wall tiles with ducks on,' she continues. 'While we were saving up for the ground-floor extension, I tried to update the kitchen by changing the handles and tiling over the splashback.'

Amanda and her husband decided that the new space needed to allow as much daylight in as possible, so although their drawings included knocking down a conservatory, they decided to add a large skylight and patio doors that would lead to the garden instead. 'We wanted to feel as if we were living in the garden and be able to spill out onto the decking and lawn during the warmer months,' explains Amanda.

While the extension was being built by Dan Sullivan at Sullivan Brothers Construction, Amanda started to spend time thinking about the sort of scheme she wanted to install. 'The last three kitchens I'd had were all wooden, so I fancied having something a bit more contemporary, which would also be conducive to entertaining,' she says. 'It was while I was having coffee with a friend that I saw her new black and white scheme, which was designed by C & C Kitchens, and I knew then that a two-tone look was what I was after.'

Amanda and her husband went to visit the C & C showroom shortly after and were introduced to designer Michael Percy. 'He was so friendly and keen to help us achieve the modern look we wanted,' recalls Amanda. In between visits to the showroom, Amanda found a black and white Second Nature kitchen, which had some zebrano-effect hi-gloss, in a magazine and although she had decided that she didn't want to have another wooden kitchen, she couldn't stop looking at it. Finally, she showed the page to Michael who said he would send for a panel of the glossy material so that the couple could look at it next to the white units they liked. 'As soon as Michael took it out of the packaging I knew it

A frameless hob blends seamlessly into the granite worktop and is just one of Amanda's best buys. 'I had never heard of induction cooking before Michael showed me this model. It's safe to use when the children are in here and looks so stylish,' she smiles. An OM black glass hood whisks away any cooking odours



would look lovely as a trim around the top of the base units, so we went for it,' recalls Amanda.

When it came to choosing their appliances, the couple had their hearts set on an American-style fridge freezer to give them plenty of cool storage and for when they entertain, a neat bank of ovens and a coffee machine.

With the addition of a stunning glossy island in the same zebrano-effect panels as the decorative drawers, the Tompkins have created a beautiful room for their family, whether they are grabbing breakfast or chilling out. 'It's ironic that we do a lot of entertaining, as I don't actually do an awful lot of cooking,' smiles Amanda. 'Our kitchen is the perfect place to welcome guests and the living room is almost redundant. That will have to be my next project.'

BK

Two slim wine coolers have been integrated into Amanda's island. 'Michael suggested having one for each type of wine and he found me these super, tiny chillers and mounted the doors in the centre so they look like a single large appliance,' she explains



A granite overhang serves as a smart breakfast bar and is accompanied by low-back Loop bar stools sourced from Dwell. The charcoal grey porcelain tiles came from London Tile Centre

DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Michael Pearcy at **C & C Kitchens**, 797 Great Cambridge Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3PN (020 8363 7244) www.candckitchens.co.uk
- White hi-gloss cabinetry with Ebony hi-gloss units, both from the Avant range by Second Nature, and Alumetallic glass units

WORKTOPS

- 30mm Cosmos granite. Price per linear m **£345**

SINKS & TAP

- BlancoSubline 500-U undermounted single-bowl Silgranit sink in Alumetallic, Blanco **£369**
- BlancoSubline 160-U undermounted half-bowl Silgranit sink in Alumetallic, Blanco **£249**
- BlancoTube Rinse BM2600SS single-lever monobloc mixer tap with separate rinse in brushed steel, Blanco **£425**

APPLIANCES (shown)

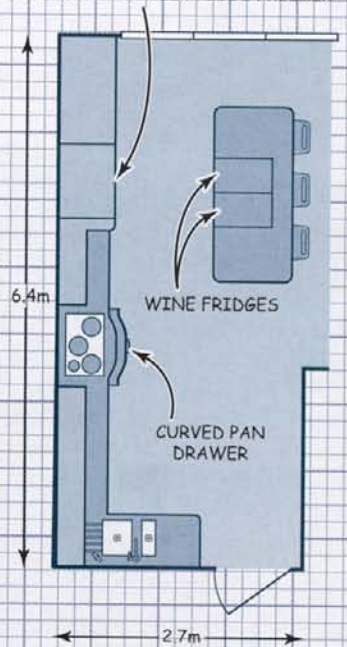
- 2 x HB131550B built-in single ovens, Siemens, each **£435**
- HB86P570B built-in multifunction oven, Siemens **£1,004**
- EH785002E four-zone induction hob, Siemens **£799**
- OM designer extractor hood in black glass, Elica **£1,354**
- TK68E57B built-in coffee machine, Siemens **£998**
- KA58NP90GB American-style fridge freezer, Siemens **£1,862**
- 2 x integrated wine coolers, for similar try CWC300SS, CDA, each **£310**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated dishwasher, Siemens **£339**

📞 For stockists, see page 144

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