

DINING OUT

Danni and Nik Pishavadia have transformed their kitchen-diner with a stylish bespoke booth area and bi-fold doors

Feature **DEBBIE JEFFERY** Photography **MEGAN TAYLOR**
Project **GEORGE AND JAMES ARCHITECTS**

Q WHAT INSPIRED THE NEW STYLE OF SPACE?
We'd been living in the house for eight years, but with two growing boys, our existing kitchen-diner wasn't working for us a family or to our taste. We also had to walk through the old utility to reach a downstairs shower room, which was only used as storage for the boys' scooters and footballs. It was while in the bath reading a magazine one evening that a picture of a dining table with booth seating caught my attention, and made me wonder whether we could find space for something similar. My dad is a retired architect, so sketched out the dimensions to see if it was possible, and although it was a tight fit, we were excited to add more usable space.

Q HOW DID THE DESIGN EVOLVE?
We worked with George and James Architects to fill the kitchen and dining area with light and connect the rooms to the garden. They designed a new corner window above the sink where our back door used to be, and as we live in a Conservation Area applied for planning

permission for the dining space, which has bi-fold doors out onto new decking. Luckily, our neighbours had moved abroad during lockdown and suggested we could live in their house during the project.

Q HOW WAS THE BOOTH CREATED?
We'd originally planned to clad the dining area in aluminium, but our budget just wouldn't stretch, so our builder used grey coloured render for the exterior instead, taking down walls and rebuilding the ceilings. Tiles have been laid in the booth over underfloor heating, with the same flooring running through into the kitchen for a seamless feel. We worked with a carpenter and upholsterer to design the oiled white-ash table and seating, including a dining bench, and were advised that leather-look material – often found on yachts – would be hardwearing and waterproof. For such a small space, it has totally changed the way we use the house, and provides a place to gather and eat, work and play games together as a family. It really has been such a positive change to our home.



GROUND FLOOR
1 Dining area 2 Kitchen 4 Living room
3 WC 5 Hall



BEFORE

THE PROJECT DETAILS

MEET THE RENOVATORS

Danni Pishavadia, a lawyer, and husband Nik, a marketing director, live with their two young sons in this three-bedroom, two-storey Victorian terraced house in East London

BUILD BRIEF

To create a new family dining space beside the kitchen, opening onto the garden through folding-sliding doors, with a corner window added in the remodelled kitchen and a new ground-floor WC

PROJECT COSTS

Dining table & seating **£12,000**
Bi-fold doors **£6,960**
Windows **£2,160**
Kitchen **£14,500**
Worktops **£5,760**
Flooring **£2,108**
Underfloor heating **£2,160**

TOTAL SPEND

£45,648



DEFINE WITH COLOUR Grey render teamed with aluminium window frames differentiate the kitchen and dining area from the rest of the house, with decking relaid to create a sun-trap garden space accessed through a wall of bi-fold doors

DON'T MOVE,
IMPROVE

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CREATE A CURVE With limited dimensions, the new oiled ash dining booth was designed to be as space-saving as possible and upholstered in hardwearing taupe vegan leather



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IMPROVE

“We worked with a carpenter and upholsterer to design the oiled white-ash booth table and seating in a hardwearing leather-look material”

← GO UNDERSTATED Dark blue walls in the new dining space contrast with calm off-white shades in the kitchen, where a corner window above the sink brings in more light

* NEED-TO-KNOW: BI-FOLD DOORS

CONNECT TO THE GARDEN

Folding-sliding doors, also known as bi-folds, are made up of several glazed panels that can both slide and concertina in on themselves, effectively opening the entire wall of a house and allowing unrestricted access, especially when teamed with flush thresholds.

PLAN AHEAD

It's important to plan ahead when fitting bi-folds, to make decisions about drainage and floor levels and ensure building regulations are met. Some companies offer a fitting service, which will mean that the doors are correctly installed by experienced professionals.

LEAVE SPACE

There will need to be space for stacking inward-opening doors, and the design of bi-folds means more framework and less glass is on view when the doors are closed, but once open there is no frame to spoil the connection to the garden.



KEY CONTACTS

Bi-fold doors, £6,960; **corner window**, £1,680; **picture window**, £480, all Express Bi-folding Doors. ProWarm **underfloor heating**, £2,160, The Underfloor Heating Store. Floor **tiles**, £2,108, Eco Friendly Tiles. Bespoke handmade **booth and seating**, £12,000, Moke Wall Furniture. Above table pendant **lights**, £235 each, Louis Poulsen. **Kitchen**, £14,500, Ultimate Supplies. Aura **worktops**, £5,760, Dekton. Metra 83x83cm corner **sink** in Silgranit Pearl Grey, £300, Blanco. Single N70 built-in stainless-steel B57CR22N0B **oven**, £1,049; N70 built-in stainless-steel C17MR02N0B compact **oven** with microwave function, £1,129, both Neff