

## HOME OF THE MONTH



We're big fans of boiling hot tap installations in kitchens as they replace the need for a kettle

### *Nikki's lighting tip*

The best way to do a lighting plan is decide on your furniture placement then light the scheme, not the room. We're not advocates of running lights straight down the middle of a room, we're more interested in looking at the features that need highlighting and then using lighting to do that. There may be three circuits in each room, so you could have a 5-amp circuit, an overhead circuit, low-level lighting and wall lighting rather than one-dimensional items.



The masculine yet elegant design flows throughout the house including the kitchen-dining area, formal dining room and newly opened up hallway

### STOCKISTS

**Architectural features** by  
Counter + King Architects,  
Watford 01923 819222  
counterandking.co.uk

**Fitted kitchen** by Wilson Fink,  
Radlett 01923 856449  
wilsonfink.co.uk

**Bathrooms** by The Showroom  
Ltd, St Albans 01727 899155  
theshowroomltd.com



ceilings were pulled down and there wasn't a pipe, wire, or bit of plaster that was not redone.'

The existing interiors were traditional with floral wallpapers and heavy brocade curtains. The previous entrance had an uninviting dark corridor with a staircase, cloakroom, utility and study that the pair thought was wasted space at the front of the property. 'We took out the adjoining walls to create a large welcoming entrance space that we knew would make a great feature wall for a Jimmie Martin masterpiece,' Paula says.

With the owner relocating for the duration of the rebuild, Paula and Nikki whose studio is based in Radlett had regular evening meetings with their client to present mood boards and

discuss fabrics and furnishing ideas. Nikki explains, 'We like to show people pieces they haven't seen before to spark their imagination and give them the confidence to put design schemes together. We encouraged our client to bring out the fun side of his personality and even discussed using a postbox as a laundry basket!' laughs Paula.

A seamless feel from one room to another was a central design component and Nikki and Paula spent a lot of time getting the floor levels right. Eradicating all the differences requiring re-leveling and screeding.

'Our starting point was to establish a palette – primarily with the flooring for which we selected a beautiful grey stained oak for the downstairs living

areas and a grey limestone for the hall, kitchen and downstairs cloakroom. The tone of the limestone and warm grey stained oak combine beautifully together,' Nikki says.

For the kitchen design, Radlett company Wilson Fink supplied sleek white gloss cabinets with snow coloured Caesarstone worktops and eye-level appliances. Set into the island unit are state-of-the-art fixtures including a metal look ceramic glass hob and concealed USB plug sockets that pop up with the push of a button, eliminating the need for plug sockets located elsewhere. Andy Martin, director at Wilson Fink who has worked with Paula and Nikki for several years says, 'We designed an extremely elegant

