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SEAMLESS SPACES

Boundaries between kitchen and living are no more, as **Arabella St John Parker** discovers how to design the most important room in the London home



Our kitchens have long been the hub of the home, but perhaps never more so than during the past 12 months. In addition to functioning as a combined schoolroom and office, place for craft, music and play, somewhere to party online or en famille and put the world to rights over a cup of coffee or glass of fine whisky, we have also expected our kitchens to have the same panache as our favourite restaurant and to operate as efficiently as a cordon bleu cookery school, with professional chef appliances and the latest technology.

At the heart of it all, the room must feel comfortable, says Robin Chatwin, head of Savills south-west London. "During a property viewing, if people don't feel comfortable in the kitchen, they move on mentally before they look round the rest of the house." »

ULTIMATE KITCHENS **Left:** Lago Wildwood kitchen using 100-year oak cabinetry by Living Space, livingspaceuk.com **Above:** Kitchen by Roundhouse Design, roundhousedesign.com



INNOVATIVE DESIGN

Left: Kitchen collaboration between Alison Henry Design and bespoke Florentine kitchen maker, Officine Gullo, alisonhenry.com **Below:** Ledbury Studio designed pied-à-terre kitchen, ledburystudio.com

Saying the kitchen is the heart of the home is one thing, but making it truly play this role means that all eyes and all paths through the house should lead into it, says interior architect Alison Henry (alisonhenry.com), whose show-stopping white and nickel-trimmed kitchen by Officine Gullo (price on application, officinegullo.com/en) and set within a new orangery is, together with the garden beyond, the very first thing you are greeted with as soon as you step foot through the front door.

“I wanted a kitchen that would complement the Georgian architecture and look and feel like a glamorous space for entertaining guests – the Calacutta Caldia Italian marble looks so pretty when lit up at night and all the appliances are professional performance quality but suitable for everyday use within the home too. I also wanted the space, which I created with the architect Rod Massey (morenomassey.com), to be easy and comfortable to use as a family, and for the garden to be as much a part of the kitchen as the dining room at the front of the house.” **L**



KITCHEN ADDITIONS

Clockwise from above left: Sensa granite by Cosentino, in Siberia and Silver Grey, cosentino.com; copper collection by Samuel Groves, samuelgroves.com; Minerva 4-in-1 electronic tap in copper, franke.com

