



Compare and contrast

The use of different materials and colours clearly demarcates the three different zones. For instance, the zebrano wood adds warmth and signals a shift from the kitchen into the social areas of the house

DESIGN SOLUTION *Designer Wisam Kamleh explains...*

What was your brief for this project?

Joe and Amy wanted to avoid the mundane – Joe's exact words were 'no beige!' – and for the kitchen-diner and sitting area to be at the heart of their home. The layout, materials and lighting all needed to reflect high levels of comfort and style, be suitable for entertaining and have definite wow factor.

Was the fact that the house is in a conservation area an issue?

It was, and we had to adjust several design options to fall in line with the planning restrictions on the property before we could commit the project to the builders.

Why did you choose the materials used?

Amy and Joe wanted to reinstate original features in the rest of the house, but preferred the kitchen-diner and sitting area to be contemporary without feeling stark. Using concrete worktops and floors in the kitchen suited their practical needs, as well as adding impact. We wanted the dining area to be separated from the kitchen using a warmer material. Zebrano wood fitted the bill and provides a striking contrast to the concrete surfaces.

Do you have any tips for anyone embarking on a similar project?

Period houses were designed to meet very different demands to those of today, so the way in which different areas work together needs to be well thought out. Design the kitchen at the same time as the dining/living space rather than try to fit it into the available space afterwards.



Solid surface

This chunky, concrete-effect worktop gives the kitchen area a modern utilitarian feel, as well as ample space for doing the washing up