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Kitchen CONFIDENTIAL

Paul and Claire Brivati transformed their Putney property with a luxurious kitchen makeover, says LORRAINE CRIGHTON-SMITH

PAUL AND CLAIRE BRIVATI moved from Bethnal Green to Putney three and a half years ago – and haven't looked back. When they bought the two-bedroom flat, on Lower Richmond Road, it was the top floor of a property that had been split into three apartments. In a bid to create more space, the couple decided to gut their property, knocking through walls to open up the space and rearrange the layout. "Open-plan living space was first on the agenda," says Paul. All in all the work took three months, with the help of professional builders, but the kitchen took just two days. Paul, a manager for bulthaup – a designer

kitchen company launching into SW15 this month – didn't spend long deciding what he wanted to do with their kitchen. A space-consuming boiler room was taken out of the then walled-in and cramped kitchen area. Next, with the help of the professionals, the kitchen wall was taken out to open up the space between the kitchen and the living room. Paul and Claire (and the builders) created a utility room to house the washing machine, ironing board and vacuum cleaner – all the things you want to hide away. The bulthaup brand is big on open-plan living, which suited Paul and Claire's lifestyle perfectly. "We've always been

advocates of open-plan living," says Paul. "There are things we choose not to integrate into the kitchen – it's for preparing food and entertaining." Design-wise, Paul and Claire wanted to keep things as simple as possible – and user-friendly. The bulthaup h3 model kitchen, which was fitted more than three years ago, looks immaculate today – and Claire assures me it hasn't been especially preened for the shoot. "It was light, and elegant, and lent itself to the room perfectly," she adds. Clever storage and a wall-mounted box-cube oven keeps clutter to a minimum – despite the fact the couple now have a ten-month-old baby, Oscar.

"Moving to Putney was a nice and refreshing change," says Paul. "Old Street and Shoreditch were great places to go out but not so great when you have kids." Claire is also impressed with the number of children's activities in the area: "it's great for babies and toddlers, there's so much to do." The Brivati's kitchen – and property – is just down the road from bulthaup's brand-new Putney showroom, due to open on 20 April. Be the first to check it out! ●

bulthaup kitchens start from £20,000
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