



The family wanted the kitchen to be somewhere 'to cook, eat, relax and entertain'. Vicky was careful to choose a timeless design, which includes polished stone floor tiles from Ceramic Tile Distributors (0191-276 1506), so the room won't date

'It made sense to stay here and make it more inviting'



When Vicky and her son Thomas moved into her partner John's bachelor pad in Darlington, the whole family were faced with the challenge of turning a bland new-build into a family home with character

◀ The new over-garage extension Vicky and John added hasn't spoiled their home's well-proportioned appearance and now looks as if it was always part of the house

John Wilson's new-build, four-bedroom house suited him fine when he was living there on his own, but when Vicky and her son moved in, she found the house cold and uninviting. 'The magnolia walls made it feel light and airy,' explains Vicky, 'but it lacked personality.'

John and Vicky considered moving and looked at what was available locally in Darlington, County Durham. 'Everything we saw seemed to need renovating, which would have been too ▶

Now Vicky has the kitchen she always wanted – units in European Birch and black granite worktops, both from Second Nature (01325-505539), and stainless-steel appliances. The double oven is by Neff (0870-513 3090)



▲ With a much larger kitchen, Vicky had room for a bank of storage units, including a pull-out larder, all fitted around an American-style fridge-freezer from Amana (01275-343000)