

Replacing a wall with folding glass doors is the must-have home improvement. Pip and Charlie Henderson fitted theirs between the kitchen-diner and the terrace to create one big indoor-outdoor space.

When Charlie and Pip Henderson moved to their South London house, extending and refitting the kitchen was a top priority. 'We were inspired by a feature in a magazine showing folding glass doors opening onto a patio that was the same level as the house,' says Charlie.

Planning permission was granted for the extension, but work couldn't begin until the local authority's building control department was satisfied that the glass doors wouldn't affect the loss of heat from the house. 'We contacted Architect Your Home, who said that if we increased the insulation in our loft, this would counteract any heat lost through the doors,' says Charlie.

The next step was to knock out a hole for the doors, which had to be measured before the frames could be ordered. After 16 weeks, the doors were fitted and the family could enjoy their new space. 'The doors are a big success,' says Charlie. 'We've doubled our entertaining space and it's so easy to walk out onto the terrace.'

60-second tour

Who lives here. Charlie Henderson, regional director of a mobile phone company, his wife Pip, an IT consultant and their children Jasper, two and Jemima, six months.

The home. A five bed house in Sydenham, South London, bought in 2003.

What they did. The kitchen was gutted and extended, folding glass doors were fitted and the terrace was raised to the same level as the house.

The look. Blue Shaker-style units, a wooden floor and oak-finish folding glass doors create a laid-back family space.

Bought for - £630,000

Spent around - £65,000

Now worth - £1.7 million

What it cost

Architect£1,000

Building works & extension.....£39,000

Kitchen.....£20,00

Folding doors.....£4,000

Decoration.....£1,000

TOTAL.....£65,000

Who they used

ARCHITECT Architect Your Home (0800 849 8505; www.architect-yourhome.com)

FOLDING DOORS Solarlux (01924 204444; www.solarlux.com)

LIGHTING Forbes and Lomax (0207 738 0202; www.forbesandlomax.co.uk)

KITCHEN Peter Youtlen Designs (01937 833316)

APPLIANCES Siemens (0844 892 8927; www.siemens.co.uk)

FLOORING The Natural Wood Floor Company (0208 871 9771; www.naturalwoodfloor.co.uk)