Hadfield+Noblin

Hadfield+Noblin Architects - The Old Brushworks - 56 Pickwick Road - SN13 9BX - Corsham

January 2024

20:012 Enlargement of the existing opening between the kitchen and the breakfast room at "Falstaff", a Grade II listed building, 39 Marshfield Road, Chippenham, SN15 1JT.

ADDITIONNAL INFORMATION

1/ The transition of the kitchen from work space to social space.

At the time Falstaff Villas were built, Kitchens were considered to be the territory of servants, and would certainly not have been on display to the guest in smaller homes. Beyond the main house would have been what is called a rear projection, which housed the kitchen, pantry and, historically, an outside toilet.

And the range of rooms to the rear, the kitchen, scullery and larder have been in a constant state of flux of Victorian innovation. Invention and modernisation resulting in both, physical and cultural changes, from outside toilets, open fires and heating water in 'coppers' requiring scullery maids and servants, to inside flushing toilets, central heating boilers, and in the kitchen, hot and cold running water and with electricity, the arrival of refrigerators, multifunction and microwaves ovens.

Consequently, the rear range has evolved from the workaday engine of the house (generally out of sight to the gentleman of the house) to the current gathering and entertaining heart of the modern home.

The need to separate the earlier essential functions of preparation, cooking, clearing and cleaning, each in its own dedicated space has been overtaken by the openness of space required for today more relaxed attitudes to living, cooking and eating where all family members share access to the kitchen at all times.

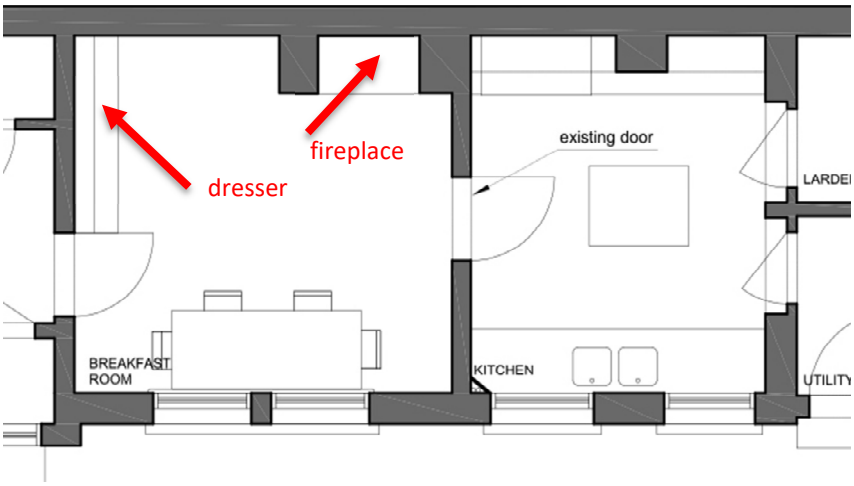
Opening-up the smaller spaces allows this to work and alleviates congestion.

In order to maintain the historic separation division of the kitchen/scullery functions, the doorway in the dividing wall has been enlarged (but returns are kept) to create a more flexible single open space. Whose earlier division remains legible and is reinforced by the retention of the larder/ 'cold press' and the separate utility-laundry and boot room.

2/ Existing constraints of the breakfast room

- Existing dresser cupboard
- Existing fireplace

Those two traditional elements of good craftmanship are significant fixtures in the room but also limit the possibility of using a larger table





Existing fireplace



Existing dresser cupboard

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3/ The proposed change does not affect the historical spatial division of the kitchen area.



Existing layout



Proposed layout

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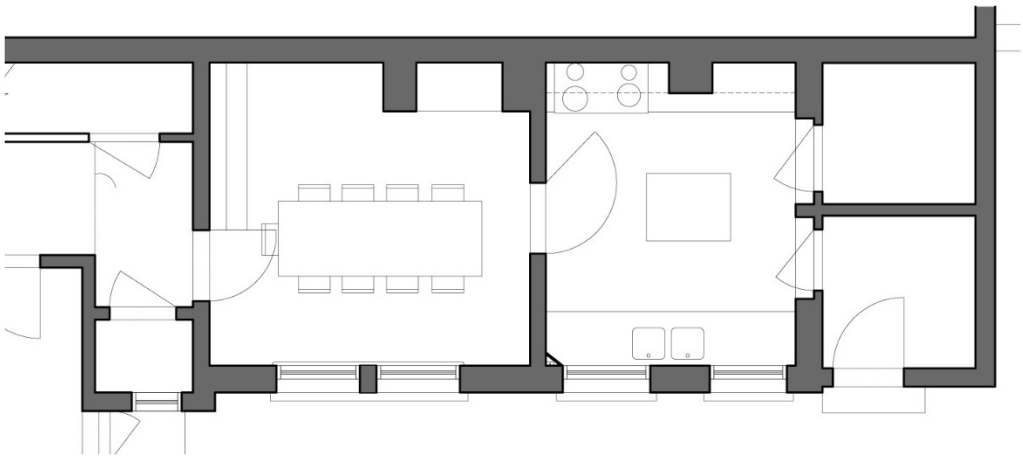
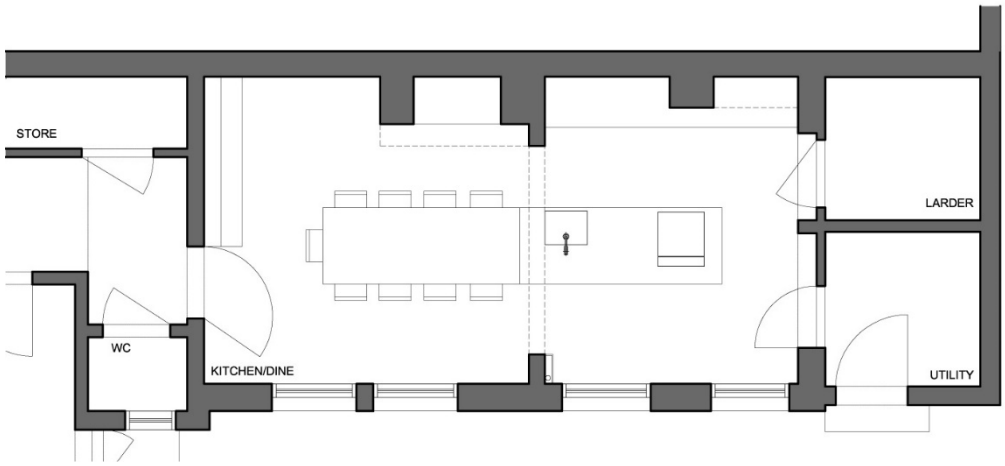
4/ Dining table



Existing dining area and its spatial limitation



Proposed extended dining capacity

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5/ Conclusion

- The existing kitchen is in a subservient position and is less significant than the front rooms and façade, as the listing of the house inform.

- The existing and well-crafted period features are kept and most significant feature are kept: fire place and dresser.

- The proposed alteration is kept to a minimum by conserving evidence of the two separate rooms.

- The Modern kitchen layout supports the future-proofing of the house by reflecting the more relaxed modern life-style of today whilst visually retaining the historic separation.

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