



# SURREY LIVING AUSSIE STYLE

*Australian living was the inspiration behind the Battensbys' design of their updated home in a stunning Surrey village*

With the help of L&E (Lofts and Extensions) kitchen designer, Ann Battensby and her photographer husband Simon, have sensitively restored this 1959 *Ideal Home* show house, adding 21st Century thinking and a seamless extension to create a welcoming, light-filled family home.

Australian living was the inspiration behind the Battensbys' design of their property in a stunning Surrey village.

"We have family in Australia and I just love that open, spacious living that they do so well over there," says Ann.

Their new home while "tired and rather draughty", proved the perfect blank canvas, and after living in the house for four years, working with an architect the couple devised a plan to erect a two-storey extension housing a master bedroom and bathroom with a spacious kitchen below, adding depth to what was previously a very narrow building.

With plans drawn up and several building quotes obtained, Ann came across L&E through her design work.

"Ann had designed a couple of kitchens for people who sang the praises of L&E, so we decided to get them round as a comparison. We immediately liked the surveyor's attitude. Nothing was too much of a problem and he had a clear understanding of what we wanted to do. He included every detail in his quote so we really liked the fact that we knew exactly what we were going to get for the

money. The payment plan made a lot of sense too, so we took a leap of faith and chose them," Simon recalls.

The family lived in the house for the duration of the build and while the team did as much as possible from the outside, they had to knock out part of the back wall in the dead of winter.

"They started in the Autumn and really raced on. They just didn't seem to stop working. It was quite chilly at times and I came home one evening to find the team nailing sheets of polystyrene to the temporary wall. The foreman grinned and said, 'It's to keep you warm,' which was a lovely thing to do as it wasn't necessary. But that was just their attitude - they really looked after us."

*"The speed of work was just phenomenal"*

Simon remembers several highlights, one of which was the completion of the framework of the roof.

"I was quite touched when they had a 'topping-out' party. It was a milestone in the build, and they marked it by putting a Christmas tree on the top of the roof. Our son William got on well with them too. The highlight for him was a private lesson on the digger in the garden. He loved it."

Day to day updates were given by L&E's team foreman who was on site every day to oversee progress.

"L&E's foreman project-managed the build and updated us each morning. He



was great, thinking things through to avoid any major hitches. The team had a real 'can do' attitude and, as I could see they were doing such good work, I was completely relaxed," says Ann.

Completed on budget and ahead of schedule, the Battensby family are delighted with the result. The open plan space allows light to penetrate throughout the extension and with the additional bedroom, they have more than enough space for their extended Australian family when they visit.

So would they recommend L&E?

Simon says, "I have recommended them several times and they are now working on our neighbours' house. The quality of the finish is excellent and the speed at which they worked was mind-boggling. The job was done and dusted in just 15 weeks, and our architect couldn't believe there were only 8 items on the snagging list. He said with most builders it's usually 8 pages!"

**L&E (Lofts and Extensions)**  
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Mr and Mrs Battensby are so confident in recommending L&E (Lofts and Extensions) that they are even happy to show you round their new home. Contact them via L&E to arrange a viewing