



You've read about the latest trends in the development of kitchen islands – here, we've hand-picked four examples of the most interesting designs

CURVE APPEAL

Callerton's Retro kitchen painted in Goose Grey has a dramatic island that features distinctive circular true oak food prep areas on the end sections and Zodiac alabaster worktops combined with Corian lavastone. Priced from £12,000 from Kitchens International, excluding appliances. (0131 523 0477/www.kitchensinternational.co.uk)



GLOSSY AND GORGEOUS

This high gloss violet kitchen from Laings has a Paros Light worktop and adjoining breakfast bar in Antique White structured white lacquer. Average prices start from around £10,000 excluding appliances. (0131 555 5500/www.laings.com)

FEEL THE FLOW OF MOWLEM

A walnut veneered teardrop-shaped island and curved breakfast bar makes this Mowlem & Co kitchen appear to flow from one end of the room to the other. Mowlem kitchens start from £35,000, from Kitchens International. (0131 523 0477/www.kitchensinternational.co.uk)

BEAUTY OF A BENCH

The Bulthaup b2 kitchen from Cameron Interiors features a distinctive standalone workbench with work area, hob and water point, complemented by two tool cabinets for appliances, crockery, utensils and ingredients. Workbench from £3,000, tool cabinets from £4,500. (0131 556 2233/www.cameroninteriors.co.uk)



Great designers of our time – Jesús Gasca



Julian Darwell-Stone takes a look at the career of a talented Spaniard who has become a leading designer and an innovator in the manufacture of contemporary furniture.

JESÚS GASCA

Jesús Gasca is the founder and principal designer of Stua, a contemporary furniture company based in the resort town of San Sebastian, Spain.

Gasca originally trained as an engineer, but 30 years ago chose to move into the design and manufacture of furniture. This family company (Gasca's son and daughter manage the day-to-day operations) now produce furniture conceived and executed at an extraordinarily high level of aesthetic



and engineering detail. Gasca's work is innovative and original, usually fluid and sensual in form. He believes that: "Good design is not only about beautiful shapes. It always has to be clever in the solution of functional questions."

This is illustrated by a series of products that Gasca has designed over the last 20 years, including the Gas

chair (pictured), which is suited for use in the kitchen and dining room as much as the conference hall or café. The Gas is a chair with fluid lines that is as 'light as gas', making innovative use of aluminium. Every joint, edge and curve is resolved with an uncompromising attention to detail.

The importance of Gasca's design and the quality of manufacture has been recognised in the recent decision by the Guggenheim Museum, New York to select the Gas (and two other Gasca products) for use throughout the museum.

Julian Darwell-Stone is the Managing Director of Tangram, the leading experts in contemporary furniture and interiors. Visit www.tangramfurnishers.co.uk