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BEAUTIFUL  
KITCHENS  
MAGAZINE

Stained oak and Alabaster hi-gloss cabinetry combine with Corian worktops and white porcelain floor tiles from Ceramic Tile Distributors to create a stylish space. The walls are painted in Natural Hessian by Dulux to complement the furniture. Comfy Monza faux leather bar stools from Atlantic Shopping echo the island's curve

# SWEEPING STATEMENT

Curves abound in Jacqueline and Graeme Davidson's stunning bespoke oak kitchen





Modern and quirky was how Jacqueline Davidson envisaged the new kitchen in her family's four-bedroom cottage in Aberdeenshire. 'Our home originally consisted of two buildings: a cottage, which we lived in, and an old steading, which was probably used for cows,' explains Jacqueline, a secretary. 'In 2001, we joined the two together and put in a run-of-the-mill oak kitchen because we had the rest of the house to do up. Then I got fed up with it. It was so dark and old-fashioned, so I wanted the new kitchen to be the exact opposite.'

Jacqueline, who lives with her husband Graeme, an engineer, and their three children, Darren, 19, Nikki, 18, and Natalie, 15, visited no less than 14 showrooms and waded through an assortment of kitchen magazines, brochures and websites for design ideas. 'I picked out things from different places and had the kitchen all planned out way before I saw any designers,' she recalls. 'Only three kitchen companies could deliver exactly what we wanted and we eventually

went with Kitchens International because it was first to come back to us with drawings.'

Jacqueline's priority was to have a big breakfast bar because family and friends visited them every weekend. 'I also told designer Graham Crane that I didn't want any square edges and that everything should flow,' she remembers. The existing spiral staircase, which the couple put in when the children were younger to create a quick route to their bedrooms, became a source of inspiration for the sweeping design of the breakfast bar and other curved elements.

Stained oak veneer furniture, with cream hi-gloss cabinetry and white Corian worktops, is paired with porcelain floor tiles and cream painted walls to form a calm, contemporary look. However, Jacqueline took some persuading that it was the right colour combination. 'The Corian was a big dilemma for me because in my head white and cream really did not go,' she admits. 'We held off making a final decision for about a week and a half until we got all the materials

together; it was only when I saw them next to each other that I was convinced. Saying that, I now mop the light floor every day, wipe the cream cupboards and clean up spills on the worktops straight away.'

The couple asked Kitchens International to source all of their appliances. 'As well as a basic kitchen, we had very basic appliances before, too – apart from our American-style fridge freezer, which we've kept,' says Jacqueline. 'This time, I gave designer Graham a list of hi-tech appliances and gadgets that I had researched. I haven't read through the instruction manuals yet but I can switch everything on and off and work the dishwasher, and that's fine for me just now. I can't even make a cup of coffee, Graeme does that,' she laughs.

Fresh and contemporary, the Davidsons' new kitchen ticks all the boxes, giving them a grown-up family space. 'It's quirky, too... well, at least when it's compared with the last one,' smiles Jacqueline. 'Although it's much more work to maintain than I expected, I do really love it.'



All of the drawers are compartmentalised, including this clever corner unit with dividers for wine glasses



The smart spiral staircase is both a focal point in the room and the inspiration behind the many curves in the design. A few steps away from the island is a bank of built-in ovens, warming drawers and a coffee machine. 'I've always wanted one and we are now great coffee drinkers,' laughs Jacqueline

**ABOVE** Jacqueline's island boasts a sink at either end. One has a Quooker boiling water tap, so is often used for rinsing teacups – even though there's a dishwasher in the run of units opposite. 'The boiling water tap is fantastic,' says Jacqueline. 'I spotted it while I was researching the kitchen and I just had to have it'

**ABOVE RIGHT** Lightsmart Triple Glass pendants, positioned above the breakfast bar, supplement the ceiling spotlights and Häfele LED strip lighting. They look equally striking whether they are switched on or left off

**RIGHT** An existing American-style fridge freezer is neatly housed within a run of tall units. Either side of it, smart curved cupboards store jars, sauces and oils. Their shape not only reflects the rounded ends of the island but also provide access to the mains water below the floor

*I wish...* I'd known how high maintenance white worktops would be. It's the one thing I didn't research thoroughly. Now I have to clean it with a special product so that it doesn't mark'







'My daughters Nikki and Natalie like to keep me company while I prepare meals at the hob, and I love that when we have people over I can still be involved with what's going on,' says Jacqueline. Beyond, a stainless-steel tambour door hides tea-making items and other breakfast paraphernalia

*I get the most use...* out of the induction hob because it's so quick – it can boil a pan of water within a minute. It's also very safe because it never heats the hob surface up, just the pan'

## DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Graham Crane at **Kitchens International**, Denmore Road, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, Scotland AB23 8JW (01224 824300) [www.kitchensinternational.co.uk](http://www.kitchensinternational.co.uk)
- Bespoke oak veneer furniture from the Ambience collection with hi-gloss Alabaster cabinetry from the Pulse range by Stoneham

## WORKTOPS

- Glacier White Corian.  
Price per linear m, from **£359**

## SINKS & TAPS

- 2 x M410 Mixa round-bowl sinks in Glacier White Corian and stainless steel, each **£940**
- Olympus C-spout monobloc mixer tap in chrome with pull-out spray, Franke **£283**
- Olympus C-spout monobloc mixer tap in chrome, Franke **£181**
- Modern boiling water tap in polished chrome, Quooker **£815**

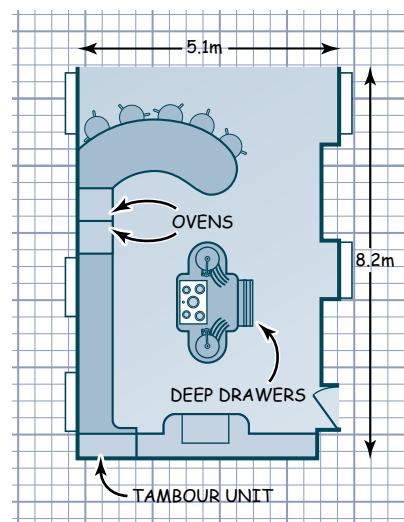
## APPLIANCES (shown)

- 2 x HB75AB550B built-in PyroKlean single ovens, Siemens, each **£776**
- HB84E562B built-in combination microwave, Siemens **£771**
- EH975SK1 IE five-zone induction hob, Siemens **£1,085**
- Iceberg Island extractor hood in glass and stainless steel, Elica **£1,157**
- TK76K572GB built-in coffee machine, Siemens **£1,250**
- Existing American-style fridge freezer; for similar try RSH1DTMH, Samsung **£649**

## APPLIANCES (not shown)

- 2 x warming drawers, Siemens, each **£405**
- Integrated undercounter fridge, Siemens **£385**
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Siemens **£500**

☎ For stockists, see page 136



## GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a Stoneham design from Kitchens International **£18,000**