

Kbbreview Industry Awards 2007

CATEGORY: Designer Award for Kitchens - project cost up to £25k

FINALIST: Robert Burnett

What was the full brief from the client?

Our client was hoping to match the pattern of a piece of art on the front of her kitchen cabinets. The art had been produced by a friend and consisted of a three dimensional 'ripple' or 'wave' travelling across a board approx 2 meters in length and one meter in height. She was hoping therefore to transfer this 3D design on to her tall cabinets and show a 3D ripple travelling across all cabinets. The kitchen opens on to the living area, and the objective was to make the kitchen look less like a traditional kitchen, adding interest to the living area as opposed to detracting from it.

What was the overall budget, including installation, and how did you manage it?

The overall budget for the cabinets and the worktop, including installation was 20K. We achieved that because we are always good value!

Describe the final design and, in detail, the design process

A lot of time was spent on the practical elements. Specifically:

The ripple is created by carving out 12mm MDF board, which at low spots is only 4mm deep, and is 11mm deep at the high spots. Therefore to ensure stability and durability of the doors, we had to mount the rippled MDF on an 18mm plywood base, making the doors very thick in places and requiring 36mm hinges.

The thickness of the doors created challenges due to their weight, so a few doors had to be adapted to lighten the load

The centre point of the wave had to be planned for it's optimum visual impact and agreed with our client.

The 'finger bar' added to the complexity of the design as it created additional depth to cabinets with already very thick doors. For example, the only way to integrate the fridge freezer was to cut through the metal 'pin' joining the upper door with the lower door, and adapt it in our workshop.

Even carcasses had to be designed to different depths.

The colour of the tall cabinets was matched with the corian worktops. The tall cabinets and corian worktop was contrasted with a dark stained oak.

The room itself is very narrow and the cabinets around the hob were constructed at a reduced depth.

The kitchen peninsula which fronts onto the living room, 'wraps' the wall between the two rooms to help soften the transition between Kitchen and living area.

