

## **Kbbreview Industry Awards 2007**

### **CATEGORY: Young Designer for Kitchens - age 25 and under**

#### **FINALIST: Adam Brown**

##### **What was the full brief from the client?**

Our client came to us based on recommendation and, after seeing the quality of our work first hand, wanted to know what we could offer. The property was an interesting one as it is a newly built, brick building on a site of mainly mobile structures. In brief:

- My client does a lot of entertaining so it was important for the kitchen to be the central show-piece of a large, open plan living space, and have the all important WOW factor.
- Even though the kitchen was the main focal point in the home, it needed to be linked with the main dining area and living space.
- Seating for a minimum of five was important, because even though there is a large dining table adjacent to the kitchen; a more informal eating area was needed.
- Keeping the area light was important as they wanted to maximise the feel of a large and spacious living area.
- The kitchen was to have easy access to units to minimise bending and lifting.
- Easy cleaning was a must with minimal dust traps.
- Feature lighting was needed to add to the glitz and glamour of the kitchen.

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

Initially, the budget was in the region of 25k, but early on our discussions were about achieving the right look and not to be tied by the budget. Some important decisions were made in order to free up a proportion of the budget to spend elsewhere. One of these was to use a vinyl wrapped door instead of the higher priced lacquer door. We also decided to use Neff appliances as they met all of my customer's requirements without going to the extravagance of Miele, Gaggenau etc (lovely as they are). These choices were important as they allowed us to introduce the essential curves into the design and also the stunning 60mm composite stone worktop, including the impressive 3000x1300mm one piece island. Final price including installation was £34,200.

##### **Describe the final design and, in detail, the design process?**

I feel we have achieved what we have set out to do, and that is to create a large contemporary showpiece of a kitchen which my client is over the moon with.

Quite early on in the design process we decided on using mainly cappuccino hi-gloss colour, although as the design progressed we added a lighter contrasting cream colour to the accent doors. These being the curved sink drawers, diagonal corner base units and the four curved doors on the

island. This set the colour scheme for the whole house, with cappuccino and cream themes running throughout from couches to carpets to bathroom suites. This has helped to keep the feel of the house very open, spacious and luxurious.

'U' shape was decided as the correct layout for the main kitchen, with tall units and appliances at the either end. This allowed us to get the eye level appliances (single oven, combi microwave and USA fridge freezer) and pull-out larder into the design. By doing this we are not blocking off any of the light, keeping that important open, spacious feel.

To add to the light and contemporary feel we decided on a 60mm thick composite worktop with diamond fleck to add to that all important glitz. This was a good choice as the chosen colour ties in well with the cream doors and along side the light flooring help to frame the slightly darker cappuccino and make it stand out.

A large island was decided as a central showpiece to link to the other areas of the room, but also to create the informal seating area. We placed this on a diagonal to create interest but also to help the flow of traffic between the two door ways in the room. What is a very large piece of furniture does not become an obstacle or obstruction into the room. We added to this element by curving the four corners. The seating area was achieved by having spaces for three stools either side which sit into a small niche.

To keep with the modern look of the design and also to gain easy access to stored items, we decided to use drawers around the room and introduce a consistent horizontal line. Adding to this are the horizontal handles. This helps to elongate the room and make it look even grander and more impressive. Although we have broken this up and softened it with the curved sink drawers, which sit centrally to the window, tying in nicely with the curves on the island.

Either side of the window I introduced splayed wall units to mirror the shape of the window also picking up on the diagonal base units in either corner. They also soften this area as well as letting more light flow into the room.

Flyover lighting cornice was decided as an important addition to the design which includes spotlights with a 10 watt bulb to limit heat output but reflect subtly against the gloss doors. This coupled with under wall unit spotlights and LED plinth lights illuminate the whole kitchen.

We then scribed the lighting cornice to the ceiling to remove the dust trap and seal the kitchen.

So in conclusion, the finished kitchen has met and surpassed both my expectations and those of my clients. I am proud to say that I have designed it, but more importantly that my clients are happy with the outcome. One of the comments relayed to me by the client is from the stone company who said 'it was the most grand and spectacular worktop they have fitted.' Friends and relatives have all been blown away by the finished kitchen with one exclaiming 'it looks like the sort of kitchen you see in a film star's pad'.

