

Kbbreview Industry Awards 2007

CATEGORY: Young Designer for Kitchens - age 25 and under

FINALIST: Felicity Lipka

What was the full brief from the client?

When Mr & Mrs Dunn first came in to our showroom, the only thing they had in mind was a quick look around on a cold Sunday afternoon. However, after a tour of our showroom and lots of tea and coffee we discussed what their dream kitchen would be:

- Comfortable, bright & modern - Recently added extension to kitchen therefore they wanted to make the most of the new light & airy space
- As the Dunn's have two teenage children it was imperative that they had ample seating in the kitchen for socialising & studying
- The Dunn's ideally wanted the kitchen to be the heart of the home. A place where the whole family could come together at the end of a busy day and sit down to eat, talk or just relax!
- Both Mr & Mrs Dunn work full time, therefore it was essential that furniture doors, worktops etc were easy maintenance with nothing too fussy or time consuming to clean.
- As the Dunn's entertain quite often they required plenty of wine storage
- Existing worktop space was not sufficient so they requested that I re-work their existing layout and include some sort of island area for cooking.
- They also requested that I designed and quoted for the utility room.

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

The initial budget set out by my client was between £18-20k.

This budget was to include, if possible, full installation, corian worktops, floor tiles and lighting. In order to give my client a better breakdown in cost I suggested that I give them separate quotes. One quote would include costings for the kitchen design with Corian worktops and the other to include costings for laminate. This would show the Dunns the difference in price for the two materials and allow them to think about which one they would prefer.

I also set up an additional costs quote, which included the flooring and lighting that they had requested.

The decision was made that they would proceed with the kitchen and utility designs but not with the additional costs, as it would take them over budget.

Laminate worktop was chosen, as it was more cost effective for the client.

A couple of weeks after signing the contract Mr & Mrs Dunn came back to let me know that they had been doing some thinking and would like me to take care of flooring and lighting after all. They wanted everything to be taken care of and carried out to the highest standard. Because they were confident in my abilities, they felt it was right for me to organise it.

The final cost of the kitchen including flooring and lighting came to £22,210

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

As Mr & Mrs Dunn wanted something modern and bright to compliment their new light filled room, I decided to choose the colour Ferrara Oak. The structured linear grain gave a modern twist to the flat fronted laminate door. I used a contrasting Arran Grey worktop, which looked fantastic against

the light furniture. My intention was to create three distinct areas in the kitchen: Cooking; Preparation and washing; Seating

I created a large island area with cooking (ceramic hob). A large pan drawer underneath the hob is ideal for storing heavy pots, pans and cutlery. The two full height base units either side are perfect for crockery and any other cooking implements.

In a bank of tall housing units behind the hob the American fridge-freezer, single oven and combination oven can be found.

A large broom unit and pull out larder either side of the fridge freezer created easily accessible means of storage.

To make more of a feature at this area decided to include two tall wine storage units. Not only are they practical for storing plenty of bottles of wine but also look great!

Connected to the island area is a table that can comfortably seat five people. It was created using the same colour as the furniture door in order to keep things consistent.

I feel that the change in height at the island area is a fantastic feature and does a great job of breaking up the worktop and adding variation to the design.

At the other side of the kitchen we have the preparation and sink area. As requested by Mr & Mrs Dunn, have created a long run of worktop space. This is perfect for preparing vegetables and meals etc.

A large stainless steel one and a half bowl sink is ideal for the busy family.

I also created an interesting feature on the back wall using a mixture of light shelves and shelves in carcass material. Full height panels in the same colour as the worktop compliment this. As there was a huge amount of storage throughout the rest of the kitchen, I didn't feel it was essential that there were a great number of wall units. Therefore, I simply used two 90cm short height wall units to finish off the feature wall.

On seeing the kitchen fully completed, Mr & Mrs Dunn were overjoyed with the result. It had everything they outlined on our first meeting and the colour combinations, lighting and flooring finished the whole project off perfectly. They finally have a kitchen which is definitely the heart of the home!

