



Wooden accents and splashes of steel bring out the glow of the rich, metallic cabinetry, while a bespoke wall of floor to ceiling glass illuminates the chic dining area.

THE MIDAS TOUCH

Glossy swathes of gold lacquer give this curved kitchen its one million pound look.

PHOTOS JUSTIN PAUL WORDS AMELIA THORPE



Above The tear shaped, crackle glazed breakfast bar is highlighted with a 'rope' of LED lights.

Left A Sub-Zero wine cooler and fridge/freezer provide ample chilled storage, while fitting seamlessly into the curved design.

Opposite The striking feature on the ceiling cleverly reflects the shape of the bespoke island.

After living in a house with a very traditional wooden kitchen, Litsa and Jalal Meradji decided they wanted something completely different when they bought their new home in west London. 'We decided to go for something modern with much more wow,' says Litsa. 'This was to be Jalal's dream kitchen – he's fantastic at cooking and he wanted to create a room where he could really enjoy himself.'

While Litsa jokingly describes herself as Jalal's 'commis chef' when they get together to prepare dinner for friends, this couple share a passion for cookery. Says Litsa, 'In our previous houses, we made the mistake of having separate kitchen, dining and living rooms, but now we don't want formality. It's much nicer to have everyone together in one stylish space.'

And so the couple embarked on a major →

KITCHEN PROFILE

Su Misura bespoke cabinetry from the handleless Arena collection sweeps in dramatic curves around this spacious kitchen. Finished in high gloss Italian Bronzео Dorato metallic lacquer for sparkle and shine, a central section of polished Palissandro Wood provides rich contrast. A contemporary colour changing lighting scheme, Corian Clam Shell and Su Misura crackle glazed surfaces, and curved ceiling feature all complete the smart and glamorous look.

Marazzi Design, Unit 1, 162 Coles Green Road, Staples Corner, London, NW2 7HW. Tel: 020 8450 9555. marazzidesign.com.

Kitchen prices from £25,000, excluding appliances.



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project to open up the ground floor of their newly purchased Victorian home to make a family space more suited to life with daughters Natasha, 23, and Tanya, 21. While restaurant-owner Jalal managed the entire project himself, accountant Litsa began creatively planning the interior. ‘It was a major project – the house had been divided up into bedsits and was in a very poor state of repair, so it needed a lot of work to restore it back into a family home, not to mention demolishing some internal walls and adding structural steel supports to create the open-plan ground floor,’ explains Litsa. ‘It took us about 18 months and, by the end of it, we agreed that we could have built a new house from scratch in less time.’

But was it worth it? Designer Paul Marazzi, recommended to the couple for their new kitchen, certainly thinks so. ‘It is an amazing space – over nine metres long – so there was plenty of room to create the kitchen with plenty of ‘wow’-factor that Litsa and Jalal wanted,’ he says. Known for his spectacular curved designs and bold use of shape and colour, Paul immediately began to conceive of a centrepiece island. A circular bar section melts into the main crescent shape, extending the island to an impressive five metres in length. ‘Jalal loves to cook there, rather like a celebrity chef on stage, facing his audience at the dining table,’ says Litsa with a smile. Standing in the middle of the island, a top of the range teppan yaki plate, gas wok hob and electric griddle are all in front of him, with a bank of ovens, another gas hob and large fridge/freezer all handily positioned behind. ‘Paul was fantastic,’ says Litsa. ‘He’s very much a hands-on designer, and helped to guide us at every stage, with a plethora of great ideas.’

The colour choice, however, was mainly Litsa’s. ‘I fell in love with the bronzey-gold right from the start, and think it blends beautifully with the warmth of the wood,’ she says. ‘Normally, I’m such a conservative person when it comes to colour, so I rather surprised myself when it came to this. And I do admit that I panicked before it was unwrapped, thinking it might look terrible, but as soon as it was all installed, I adored it. It’s fun and lively, and really adds character and sparkle to a room as large as this.’

The glamorous effect is heightened with colour changing lighting, positioned at the top of the wall units and used in rope form to highlight the crackle glazed breakfast bar →



The dramatic curve of the island unit give this kitchen a ‘wow’ factor.



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on the island. ‘The enormous open-plan kitchen, dining and living room has all the features for some serious cooking,’ says Paul, ‘but it is designed to make the most welcoming and sociable room where everyone wants to come together and congregate, which is exactly what this couple wanted from this process.’ The couple can now enjoy preparing meals for family and friends, in a breathtaking space which is tailored to their specific needs. The cool curves around the kitchen are grand, without being too imposing and create a scheme which this food-loving couple won’t tire of any time soon. ■

STOCKISTS INFORMATION

APPLIANCES

Wolf ICBCT30G/S gas hob, £1,596; Wolf ICB5030-2U/S E-Series oven, £3,504; Sub-Zero ICBBI-36U over under fridge/freezer, £8,676; Sub-Zero ICBWS-30 wine storage unit, £7,872; at The Westye Group Europe; DG5061 steam oven, £2,205; CVA 3660 coffee machine, £1,680; ESW5080-14 warming drawers, £690 each; DA186 integrated extractor, £540; all at Miele; C54L60NOGB microwave, £572, at Neff; VP421 teppan yaki, £1,565; VR421 electric grill, £1,680; VG411 gas wok, £1,170; all at Gaggenau; Su Misura extractor hood, £7,800, at Marazzi Design; Zip Hydro boiling and chilled water tap and unit, £2,588, at Zip Heaters UK.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Egon Sterling 60921 tap, £539; Egon 60931 tap, £835; both available at Sterling; Corian Clam Shell solid surface worktops and moulded sinks, from £580 per linear m; Su Misura glass splashback and breakfast bar tear-shaped inlay, individually priced to order; all available at Marazzi Design; Similar bar stools, Halo, £60 each, at Atlantic Shopping; Similar cream porcelain floor tiles, from a selection, available at Surface Tiles; Blinds in Consul Trevira TRF5841-01 fabric, £89 per m, available at Osborne & Little.

**All prices are approximate. For stockists, see page 162.*



Above Sliding glass doors open the kitchen directly onto the slate terrace and garden.

Left In the evening, colour changing lighting on dimmable switches changes the mood.