

## kitchen profile

A curved island in Metallic Silver lacquer with Avonite Cottonwood worktops takes centre stage in this stunningly modern design by Living In Style. In addition, a bank of sleek wall units house masses of storage, along with state-of-the-art appliances, for that perfect balance of minimal form and supreme function.

Living In Style, Unit 1162 Coles Green Road, Staples Corner, London NW2 7HW. Tel: 020 8450 9555. [www.livinginstyle.co.uk](http://www.livinginstyle.co.uk)  
Expect to pay from £50,000.

Complete with smart furniture and an elegant chandelier, the chic dining room offers extra space for those more formal occasions.

Feature by **Zoe Ornstein**

Photography by **Andrew Meredith**

# social circle

When you've four children and regularly entertain crowds of twenty or more, having a spacious kitchen isn't a priority, it's an absolute necessity.

the essential kbb

the essential kbb



As soon as Kemi and Dele Balogun moved into their six bedroom Georgian home in Essex, Kemi knew exactly what sort of kitchen she needed – and the existing one simply didn't fit the bill.

Stylistically, she wanted a very contemporary design in a high gloss lacquer, based around the concept of a circular scheme. Dele, however, needed some serious convincing about both the material and the shape, as his taste is far more traditional and liked the idea of a conventional wooden kitchen.

Functionally, Kemi required ample storage and workspace for her to really spread out and prepare food in large quantities. So, where did her vision of the circular kitchen come from – and how did she go about making it a reality? Says Kemi, "I had been reading a lot of home magazines and had this image of a circular design which had a real 'wow' effect as soon as you walked into the room." She duly approached several showrooms but hadn't been able to find one who could take the project on until she discovered Living In Style, a company that specialise in this type of highly technical design.

Designer Paul Marazzi ensured that the freestanding structure sat comfortably within the space, but that it didn't over dominate the room. He created a substantial circular island which measures four metres in diameter and is the focal point of the room. It is, however, proportionate to the setting, so that there was still allowance for a bank of floor-to-ceiling wall units which house all the major appliances. He also certified that the island could contain all essential cooking accessories – here they are easily to hand, when required. The worktop is made from Avonite; a composite material which can be formed to any shape and, so, was ideally suited to create a flowing, seamless, curved surface.

Three ceramic hobs, each containing three burners, provide ample cooking for several pans at once. Above, three powerful extractors – operated by remote control and able to run simultaneously or independently – minimise odours and steam. Surrounding these, a large curved canopy, also formed from Avonite, and designed to echo the curve of the island, is inset with spotlights and hangs from steel beams in the ceiling.



**above** Double-depth units were vital to conceal tableware and pans and ensure a clutter-free space.

**below** A sweeping surface leads the eye to the light-filled lounge with access to the garden beyond.

**right** Split-level Crema Marfil marble flooring subtly demarcates the cooking and living areas.





Having got her circular design, Kemi knew that the choice of colour was to be a deciding factor in swaying Dele's mind towards lacquer. Whilst tempted by a dramatic red and black scheme, Kemi worried that it might be too strong, so opted for the subtle grey shade, which was neutral and soft enough to still tone with the rest of their house.

Now, with the kitchen of her dreams, did Kemi worry that she had made a mistake at any point? "Absolutely," she says. "Because I'd never seen a showroom display of it, I did panic at the last moment and wonder if it was too late to change my mind about the whole thing. Fortunately, Paul arranged for me to speak to another client who'd had similar. She said that they had just sold their house and that everyone who went to see it had put in an offer. She was convinced that this was one of the main reasons," she adds.

With Kemi's mind at rest, how does Dele feel now that kitchen is installed? "Delighted!" he enthuses. Adds Kemi with a smile, "Actually, he glows with pride with all the compliments from family and friends." ■



**above** Bringing a symmetrical appeal, three circular hobs are harmonised by remote controlled hoods set into a suspended canopy.

**above right** Not just a working kitchen but a room in which to chill out, the family chose a plasma TV which can be viewed from all angles.



### Useful Information

#### Appliances

Cylinder 404 **hoods**, around £2470 each, at Westin. **Tel: 01484 421585.**  
[www.westin.co.uk](http://www.westin.co.uk)

B900s **built-in oven**, around £549; BT187 **oven**, around £295; BECs **built-in coffee machine**, around £505; BTM2 **built-in combi microwave**, around £255; B45 **ceramic hobs**, around £1137 each, at Baumatic. **Tel: 0118 933 6900.**  
[www.baumatic.com](http://www.baumatic.com)

#### Fixtures and furnishings

Crema Marfil marble **flooring**, £64 per sq. m., at Brentwood Tile Centre. **Tel 01277 233772.**  
[www.brentwoodtilecentre.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodtilecentre.co.uk)

Avonite Cottonwood **worktop with sinks**, £620 per sq. m.; Sterling **taps**, £400 each, at Living In Style. **See kitchen profile for details.**

Pioneer PDP-HDE **TV**, around £3000, at Dixons. **Tel: 0870 609 7959.**  
[www.dixons-group-plc.co.uk](http://www.dixons-group-plc.co.uk)