



Feature by Amelia Thorpe
Photography by Justin Paul

circles in the sky

Hot-pink nail varnish was the original inspiration for this extended home's kitchen, but a change of heart has now resulted in a white wonderland.

Clients often come to see Paul Marazzi at Living In Style when they are looking for something a little bit different. He has built up a reputation for his curved – and very individual – striking kitchens, and says, “I love working with fluid shapes. Organic and sensual designs have now become something of a trademark for me.”

It was this reputation that attracted a recent client to ask Paul to design the kitchen in her London home. Fresh from completing a side extension to her property, she was keen to find a designer who would be able to make the most of the unusually shaped room with its impressive circular skylight. Paul lost no time in heading to the house – at that stage, still a building site – to plan her new scheme. “I could see immediately that the room lent itself to something curvy,” he recalls. “My starting point was the peninsula, built to mirror the shape of the skylight. The rest of this space evolved from there,” he adds. While the rounded unit and wave-like wall are attractive, these zones don’t appeal to Paul solely for their looks. “I like them because they’re friendly, meaning you’re not constantly bumping into sharp corners,” he smiles.

The peninsula is the main food preparation area and cook-station, while the far wall is home to integrated appliances as well as ample storage. “Planned correctly, everything is close to hand. Stand in the centre and ingredients, pans and utensils are within very easy reach,” explains Paul.



kitchen profile

High gloss lacquer Circolo furniture in sweeping curves sets a dramatic scheme – fresh tones and LED illumination adding to the contemporary result. Plus, sparkling Cracked Ice Venetian glass that creates a dining bar and splashbacks with a dazzling difference emphasises and reflects the available natural light in this exciting kitchen by Living In Style.

Living In Style, Unit 1, 162 Coles Green Road, Staples Corner, London NW2 7HW. Tel: 020 8450 9555. www.livinginstyle.co.uk
Expect to pay from £20,000.



left Floor-to-ceiling windows let in ample natural light and offer a glance at other parts of the house.

above & above right Interest is added to the white cabinetry via sections of Cracked Ice Venetian glass.

below A mix of gas and ceramic hobs make easy work of gastronomic greats, from stir-fries to steaks.

right Echoing the skylight’s shape, the rounded peninsula creates a multifunctional cook’s theatre.





A run of cabinets underneath the sloping glass roof creates space to include a washing machine, tumble dryer and dishwasher. "As there wasn't room to have a separate utility area, we decided we should include the appliances in the kitchen, adding a sink to make a combined washing-up and laundry zone, which is well out of the way when cooking, so it doesn't intrude," explains Paul.

He had quite a few meetings with his client to ensure that she was comfortable with the plans as they developed, but, he reveals, there was one surprise along the way. "At one of our meetings, she suddenly produced a small bottle of hot-pink nail varnish from her handbag and asked me to match the cabinets to precisely the same shade. But, we were working on that instruction when she then changed her mind to high gloss white instead," he says. And, although this looks clean and contemporary, there's a part of Paul that might have enjoyed the pink experiment. "Actually, I think it could have looked pretty wild," he laughs.

Instead of pink, it's the sparkling breakfast bar and splashbacks of Cracked Ice Venetian glass that add extra excitement to the design, especially when contrasted with the smooth and cool feel of the steel surfaces and lacquered furniture. "The glass is simply so animated," enthuses Paul. "The way that it picks up the light in the room is beautiful and injects interest to the overall scheme," he adds. It also brings a decorative touch to the kitchen, especially in the evening when it's viewed from the adjacent dining space and shown off to full effect by the integrated LED lighting system.

The finished room has been designed with both cooking and entertaining in mind – and allows the host to enjoy the two. While they are busy 'inside' the peninsula, friends can perch on stools at the breakfast bar to keep them company. "Curved shapes seem to work so much better in the kitchen than linear ones," says Paul. "They just seem to really lend themselves so readily to laid-back, sociable rooms," he concludes. ■



above Thought-out ergonomics are key to a good design, hence the close proximity of appliances, storage and food preparation areas for the user.

right The choice of many a professional, stainless steel makes for hygienic surfaces to slice and dice.

left A quick coffee, midday snack or relaxing glass of wine can be casually enjoyed at the curved bar.

useful information

Appliances
K4624 **fridge**, £750; G4344 **freezer**, £350, at Neff. **Tel: 0844 892 9033. www.neff.co.uk**

W112S140GB integrated **washing machine**, around £799; SE65T390gb **dishwasher**, around £599; HB75L550B **ovens**, around £750 each; HB26D550B **steam oven**, £700; HF26056GB **microwave**, £499, at Siemens. **Tel: 0844 892 9044. www.siemensappliances.co.uk**

CTIM15 wok gas **hob**, £935; CT15G two ring gas **hob**, £935; CT15I induction **hob**, £1125, at Wolf. **Tel: 020 8418 3800. www.westyte.co.uk**

Similar integrated **tumble dryer**, BTD1, £299, at Baumatic. **Tel: 0118 933 6900. www.baumatic.co.uk**

Fixtures & furnishings
Gessi Oxygen **tap** with spray, £340, at Chartley. **Tel: 01785 811836. www.chartley.com**

Arnon **tap** with spray, around £242, at Abode. **Tel: 01226 283434. www.abodedesigns.co.uk**

Cracked Ice Venetian glass **breakfast bar** and **splashback**, £1300 per m.; steel **worktop**, £12,000, at Living In Style. **See kitchen profile for details.**

Similar **floor tiles**, Bianco Luna limestone, priced around £58 per sq. m., at European Heritage. **Tel: 020 7381 6063. www.europeanheritage.co.uk**