



Feature by **Julia Faiers**

# learning curves

Put the pzazz back into your kitchen by developing some sweeping lines and voluptuous shapes.



The Americana kitchen by Gimmegi at Living In Style is a vibrant combination of retro colours, futuristic stainless steel worktops and sensuous units. The pale yellow harks back to the days of Fifties diners, while the design and shape is very much of the 21st century. It costs from around £15,000. Tel: 020 8450 9555. [www.livinginstyle.co.uk](http://www.livinginstyle.co.uk)



*“Be aware that curvy kitchens work better in large rooms, as the cabinetwork tends to take up more space than standard rectangular units.”*

*Jamie Telford, Director, Roundhouse.*

*“Single curved units are best positioned centrally in a run of units to accentuate features and add a focal design point to the kitchen.”*

*Cath Wigzell, Product Manager for kitchens, Magnet.*

Straight lines may look sleek, chic and smooth, but if you want your kitchen to exude va-va-voom, curves are the way to go. When it comes to kitchen designs, follow the lead of female fashion legends – Twiggy may well be up there with the best, but it’s Marilyn Monroe who tops the polls. Her sensuous curves beat Twiggy’s pencil-thin silhouette every time. There are plenty of ways to bring voluptuous glamour to your kitchen, be it with a retro fridge, a shapely peninsular, or the full shebang – with wavy units and worktops,

or rounded sinks and gadgets. The trick is to find your level and think curvy!

### well-formed individuals

The most subtle way to introduce curves into your kitchen is by choosing cupboards with bevel-edged doors. This allows you to opt for regular, straight units, but without the harsh, angular feeling of some rectilinear kitchens.

For a unique appeal, try incorporating individual curved units into the overall design. Cylindrical units, both base and wall-mounted,

make for a stylish solution to the traditional problem of dead corner space. Many kitchen companies offer these with specialist storage ideas such as carousels and magic corners. Alternatively, a long run of conventional cupboards will benefit from a single bow-fronted design to break the uniformity of the overall result, and could also provide the perfect position for a hob and extractor fan.

Another way to bring curves to the fore is by including an island or peninsular unit. A circular design is particularly striking.



**above right** Create a visual focal point in a linear kitchen by including one central curved unit. The Futura from Matchmaker incorporates a curved sink unit and a wall-unit above into a straight run of units creating rhythm and shape. Prices start from £5000. **Tel: 01622 675695. [www.matchmaker-kitchens.com](http://www.matchmaker-kitchens.com)**

**centre right** This striking bespoke island unit from Mirari's 04 range features stainless steel units, a mahogany and stainless steel worksurface, plus a sink and tap by Blanco. Price on application. **Tel: 0870 837 1444. [www.mirarikitchens.com](http://www.mirarikitchens.com)**

**below right** If you're intending to give your kitchen that wow-factor, set your sights on this utterly impressive Ola by Snaidero, which displays its bold curves to the fullest. Available at Asselle, it is priced from £20,000. **Tel: 020 7253 2806. [www.asselle.co.uk](http://www.asselle.co.uk)**

**main picture** If funky appliances, sexy accessories and oh-so-cool curvy kitchen units aren't enough to make a real statement of style, check out Terry Lowe's striking island unit with moulded sink. Available from Comma Design, it costs £4750, excluding tap. **Tel: 0870 746 0001. [www.commadesign.com](http://www.commadesign.com)**



Alternatively, go for a square island unit with a shapely worktop, or an angular worksurface with an over-hanging hemispherical ledge on one side, which also serves as space for a seating area. Peninsulars look particularly effective with a rounded worktop at one end, as it will soften its naturally jutting, sharp effect.

Adventurous fans of the curve can go one better by choosing a kitchen that shuns right angles completely. Italian company Giemmegi offers some stunning designs that include not only convex units, but stainless steel worktops



This Memory kitchen by Leicht, available from Connaught Kitchens, teams a semi-circular peninsular unit and a rounded sink station with flat-fronted high-gloss repro wood cupboards. As well as curved drawers and cupboards, the worktop features smooth edges for a softer, child-friendly design. A 600mm base unit costs from £329.

Tel: 020 7706 2210. [www.connaughtkitchens.co.uk](http://www.connaughtkitchens.co.uk)





**left** Curvy worktops alleviate the angularity of this Alnosound kitchen from Alno. The clean lines of the Birch Montana doors are tempered by arc-shaped corner units and the aluminium grey worktops of the peninsular units, which can also double up as seating areas. A 600mm base unit costs £440.

**Tel: 020 8898 4781. [www.alno.co.uk](http://www.alno.co.uk)**

**right** This elegantly rotund drawer unit with maple veneer fronts from Stoneham Kitchens comes in two-drawer, £892, or three-drawer, £969, combinations. Its surrounding unit is available in oak or beech veneer or painted alabaster finish. **Tel: 020 8300 8181.**

**[www.stoneham-kitchens.co.uk](http://www.stoneham-kitchens.co.uk)**

**far right** Shapely kitchens are ideal for tucking away cooking items, as their rounded designs complement the natural lines of anything from pans to plates. Leicht's fully extendible drawer is a great storage solution, and features a self-closing mechanism for smooth-action shutting. Available at Pennybee, kitchens are priced from £8000. **Tel: 020 8947 7224. [www.ukkitchens.com](http://www.ukkitchens.com)**



*"To accessorise a curvy kitchen, go for knobs or bow handles on furniture, rather than long, straight, bar handles."*

*Vicky Shudell, Showroom Manager, Rhode Design.*



“The trick is to find your level and think curvy!”



with chunky rounded profiles. The effect is sinuous, organic and not for the faint-hearted. Look out for their Air Florence, Americana and Irise ranges.

### wondrous worktops

There are several ways to include curves in your worktops. Go for a subtle approach on a straight run of units by choosing a surface with a smooth, rounded edge. Alternatively, if you want to add a focal point of interest, include a curved section of worktop that extends out from a run of units – this looks good in many materials, such as wood, glass, composites and granite. For the full sweeping worktop that follows round corners, it's vital to choose a material that can be easily shaped to suit your requirements. Solid surfaces such as

**above** Mowlem & Co have used a winning combination of contemporary materials to bring you this impressive peninsular unit. Featuring a two-tone, frosted glass worktop, with a carousel unit below housing side-opening stainless steel tambour shutter doors, expect to pay from around £18,000 for a Mowlem kitchen. **Tel: 0191 281 3443. [www.mowlemandco.co.uk](http://www.mowlemandco.co.uk)**

**above right** Give your kitchen a grand, sweeping worktop for a flowing, harmonious effect. This extra-deep Platinum CaesarStone design from Taurostone's Nova collection is made from engineered stone (94% silica and quartz) with elements of glass and mirror, which gives it a sparkly sheen in daylight. It costs around £350 per sq. m. **Tel: 0800 169 2374. [www.taurostone.com](http://www.taurostone.com)**

**right** Introduce subtle curves into the kitchen by including the occasional rounded unit, such as this stunning cylindrical metallic corner design from William Ball's Summer Cherry range. Its aluminium satin sheen contrasts with the high gloss woodgrain finish of the surrounding cupboards to striking effect. A 600mm base unit costs £170. **Tel: 0800 581107. [www.wball.co.uk](http://www.wball.co.uk)**







Corian®, glass and granite are all ideal, as they can be cut to any design. If you want to keep the worktop completely curvilinear, it makes sense to choose a circular sink, rather than the standard rectangular shape; go for under-mounted or inset styles for a streamlined finish.

### eye-catching appliances

If you're investing in a kitchen that lacks straight lines but is brimming with curves, look out for appliances that will complement rather than detract from the design. Smeg's retro-style FAB fridge or Lofra's contemporary Curva range are perfect.

**right** Dark American walnut units get the star treatment in this kitchen by Mowlem & Co, with the addition of a pale quartz worktop to the multi-functional island unit. The curve of granite provides a natural seating area, which is balanced by an inset butchers block chopping board in maple at one end and a raised kidney-shaped glass shelf at the other. Mowlem & Co. kitchens cost from around £18,000. **Tel: 0191 281 3443. [www.mowlemandco.co.uk](http://www.mowlemandco.co.uk)**

**below left** A large room will showcase the charms of a curvy kitchen beautifully. Rational has a fantastic selection of designs available for all style ideals, including the colourful and unforgettable Canto, shown in an artichoke blue finish. Prices start at £10,000 **Tel: 01543 459459. [www.rational.de](http://www.rational.de)**

**below right** The circular shape of the island unit of this Mulberry kitchen by Matchmaker is mirrored in the gently sweeping curves of the run of units behind, creating a harmoniously-balanced design. The concave corner units also provide useful carousel storage inside. Prices start from £5000. **Tel: 01622 675695. [www.matchmaker-kitchens.com](http://www.matchmaker-kitchens.com)**



“Another way to bring curves to the fore is by including an island or peninsular unit.”

