



Feature by **Amelia Thorpe** Photography by **Justin Paul**

wave of fortune

In sympathetic contrast to its traditional Victorian property, this contemporary kitchen is an ultra-sociable setting with a difference.

kitchen profile

Ice-blue Glemmegi Giro lacquer cabinetry with recessed handles is both super-stylish and, thanks to its ergonomic layout, is extremely easy and pleasurable to use. A seamless Avonite Cozumel worktop, sleek steel appliances, ribbed aluminium plinths and ceiling detail that matches the curved workstation below unite to create a unique and unforgettable cooking, entertaining and dining zone 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.

“I love being given a free rein,” says kitchen designer Paul Marazzi at Living In Style. And a free rein was most definitely what he was given by the owners of this Middlesex home. His clients, both busy doctors, had seen one of his kitchens in a magazine. “They walked into the showroom, introduced themselves and held out a piece of paper torn from the magazine, explaining that they’d like something similar,” recalls Paul. “It was the quickest brief I’ve ever received!” he adds.

Paul took them at their word and started putting pen to paper, drawing up one of his trademark curved designs. “I enjoy working with circular, concave and convex shapes. I’m always trying to move away from square box units because they all look the same to me,” he says.

above An Art Deco-style radiator was chosen to echo the rounded forms elsewhere while its long mirror helps bounce light around the room.

right The frosted glass bar with comfortable stools provides an ideal place for friends to have a coffee or glass of wine while catching up with the cook.





He also emphasises the practical advantages of his horseshoe-shaped workstations. "As the cook, you can stand in the middle and everything is within reach," he explains, pointing to the domino hobs and neat under-counter cupboards which curve around the inside of the 'horseshoe'. "You don't have to pace up and down a long worksurface, so this makes a very comfortable and easy to use arrangement," he adds.

Paul also likes to create the most sociable layout in each of his kitchen designs. "It's the way that most of us like to use this room, so there needs to be space to sit and enjoy coffee or drinks with friends, as well as a dining area," he says.

With this in mind, he added a frosted glass bar supported on steel legs and designed the island itself to look out over the dining area so that the cook can chat to guests. But probably the most significant aspect that makes the room its sociable best, is the extraction system. "If you've gone to great lengths to design an interactive kitchen, it seems daft to install a noisy fan that needs shouting over," he says. Paul is a lover of systems with external motors that remove a lot of the sound from the kitchen. "There's no intrusive noise at all, it really is just a whisper," he enthuses. To complete the installation, he added a remote control and hid the cabling in the ceiling.

Something of a perfectionist, it seems, Paul was determined to ensure that the entire worktop should be seamless. "The wavy shape enhances the sense of flow in the room, so it was very important that it should be continuous, without ugly breaks or lines," he explains. He, therefore, specified Avonite Recycled Series Cozumel, made from a recycled solid surface material, which has a cracked ice appearance speckled with blues to pick up the colours of the furniture. The shape is templated, then the material professionally installed on site where it's matched to the cabinetry, chemically bonded and sanded to be given the smoothest finish.

"My clients love the look on their friends' faces as they walk inside."

above The horseshoe-shaped workstation sweeps out along one wall to offer more food prep surface, plus space for sinks and DishDrawers®.

right Offering a place to display fragile or special accessories, an alcove has been lit with blue LEDs to achieve a dramatic ambience at night.





useful information

Appliances

U1442 oven, £791; N4263 induction domino hob, £396; N2462 wok-style domino hob, £369; N2262 gas domino hob, £335; H5642 microwave, £435, at Neff. Tel: 0870 513 3090. www.neff.co.uk

D603HSS DishDrawer®, £799, at Fisher & Paykel. Tel: 0845 600 1934. www.fisherpaykel.co.uk

PC23ss fridge freezer, £2465, at GE Appliances. Tel: 01908 366363. www.isy-appliances.co.uk

Custom-made extraction canopy, £1298, at W.S. Westin Ltd. Tel: 01484 421585. www.westin.co.uk

Fixtures & furnishings

Similar bar stools, Z Bar, £69 each, at John Lewis. Tel: 0845 604 9049. www.johnlewis.com

Gessi Oxygen Professional mixer tap with rinse, around £449; Gessi Oxygen Monobloc tap with pull-out spray, around £269, at Home Creations. Tel: 0845 126 0731. www.homecreations.co.uk

Avonite Cozumel thermoformed worktop with moulded sinks and steel pan supports, £396 per linear m.; bespoke coloured glass splashback with lighting, £388 per linear m., at Living In Style. See kitchen profile for details.

Similar floor tiles, Porcelain Sealed Limestone, from around £32 per sq. m., at Britannia Tiles. Tel: 020 7737 0411. www.britanniatile.co.uk

Hollywood radiator, from £2028; Crea-therm radiator, from around £263, at Bisque. Tel: 01225 478500. www.bisque.co.uk

And what of the sparkling icy-blue colour chosen for the furniture? "It was designed to create the maximum 'wow' factor," says Paul. "The house itself is Victorian with a formal and period-style entrance. My clients love the look on their friends' faces as they walk inside, expecting to find quite a traditional kitchen!" he smiles. Paul admits that designing something with such a free rein had its risky moments but says they are well worth it. He concludes, "This also allows you to be creative, which I enjoy. And best of all, my clients love it." ■

above Essential in a busy, open-plan room, the custom-built extractor hood eliminates steam and cooking smells in an instant while looking fabulous.