

# bold & beautiful

Feature by Amelia Thorpe  
Photography by Justin Paul

Once a Victorian stable for valuable Arabian horses, this unique property has been totally transformed to provide the Marsdens with a luxurious, comfortable family home.







**top** Entertainers' essentials, both the user-friendly microwave and built-in coffee machine make light work of rustling up beverages and snacks for guests.

**above** Located at the centre of activity, this deep drawer houses necessary pots and pans to ensure they're easily accessible when creating tasty treats.

**above right** Complete with various hob-tops, a boiling water tap and pop-up power sockets, this 'cook's theatre' is a multifunctional masterpiece.

**right** A tall, circular cabinet echoes the curved theme throughout whilst providing a capacious spot for those delicate glasses and tableware.

## kitchen profile

Magnificent in both shade and shape, the Marazzi Design Colosseo island takes centre stage in this 'wow' kitchen created by Living In Style. A metallic lacquer finish brings a glossy, sleek look; its drama echoed by the 'flying' shelf above. A smooth Hi-MACS worktop provides contrast to the sweetie-wrapper red while a breakfast bar of Cracked Ice Venetian glass injects additional sparkle and pizzazz to the fun yet functional design.

**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 £30,000 (Colosseo design from £100,000).

**D**rive through the gates to Claire and Paul Marsden's home and it's clear that it's no ordinary property. The house is actually a converted Victorian stable with arched windows and ironwork pillars, surrounded by Hertfordshire countryside. "It was originally attached to the old manor and built for the owner's valuable Arabian horses, so was well constructed," explains Claire.

It wasn't just the history and setting that really appealed to Claire and Paul. They could see the potential of the large rooms and tall ceilings to make a spacious family home to share with sons James (11), and Joe (ten), plus German Shepherds, Lucca and Rocco. But first they had some re-planning to do. "The previous owners created a Medieval-like banqueting hall here complete with suits of armour," recalls Claire. "We decided that it would be better used as a kitchen, as that's where everyone tends to gather. We also wanted an area big enough to make it the focal point of our residence" she adds.

It was vital to find a 'knock-out' design to suit the space. "We wanted the most striking, fun one we could find. Something to make a statement in a big room," says Claire. As fans of a contemporary feel, the couple viewed plenty of options in many showrooms. "The problem was they seemed quite anaemic, without enough 'wow'," Claire explains. Until, that is, they met Paul Marazzi at Living In Style, and saw a circular Giemeggi range in-store. "We'd never seen anything quite like it!" enthuses Claire.

Paul Marazzi takes up the story, "In a room of that size, it was essential to create a centrepiece. The metallic red lacquer finish has great depth and looks very animated when in circular form, because of the play of light when you move around it." He's well-known for his love of curved and fluid lines in his work. "The island 'wraps' around you, so that everything is to hand when cooking," he adds. Paul reflected the rounded shapes in the choice of twin extractor hoods and the illuminated 'flying' panel.

**above** Thanks to the latest in oven innovations and labour-saving DishDawer®, you'll have more time to relish in relaxing with family and friends.

**below** A bank of stream-lined storage helps maintain the sleek, clutter-free design and is complete with a luxury wine chiller – able to hold up to 147 bottles!



Claire agrees that the circular shape makes cooking easy, (so much so that she's started taking lessons to make the most of her new appliances), but she also appreciates the sociable aspects of the zone, including the sparkling glass bar. "The boys like to have breakfast there. It's fun during the evening too – when friends come over, they can comfortably sit, chat and watch you preparing their food," she says.

Never forgetting that this is a family home with tribe-size storage requirements, there's a section of concertina-fold doors along one wall. This has been designed to provide more cupboard space and house the drinks section with coffee machine. This is now a great spot that works really well. "It's a fabulous addition to the house," Claire says. And the red? "I admit that it was a bit scary when they were building it, but now I'm so glad that we were brave. It fills the room superbly," she concludes. ■

**right** Teamed with a trio of contemporary stools and crescent breakfast bar, a horseshoe-shaped island sets a scene for tea breaks and brunches.

**below** Cracked Ice Venetian glass was chosen to bring extra star-like sparkle while emphasising the random flecks of the durable HI-MACS surfaces.



## useful information

### Appliances

ICBDO30U/S double oven, £5325; ICBIS15/S electric steamer cook-top, from £1585; CT151/S two zone induction hobs, £1425 each, at Wolf. Tel: 020 8418 3800. [www.westy.co.uk](http://www.westy.co.uk)

ICBBI-36RG fridge freezer, £7690; ICBWS-30 wine cooler, priced around £7680, at Sub-Zero. Tel: 020 8418 3800. [www.westy.co.uk](http://www.westy.co.uk)

CVA3660 coffee machine, priced from £1560; EGW3060 warming drawer, around £650; M8261 integrated microwave, around £7560, at Miele. Tel: 01235 554455. [www.miele.co.uk](http://www.miele.co.uk)

Double DishDrawer®, £825, at Fisher & Paykel. Tel: 0845 066 2200. [www.fisherpaykel.co.uk](http://www.fisherpaykel.co.uk)

MO404 extractor hoods with remote control, expect to pay from £2946 each, at W.S. Westin. Tel: 01484 421585. [www.westin.co.uk](http://www.westin.co.uk)

### Fixtures & furnishings

Zip Hydro tap, around £2366, at Zip Heaters (UK). Tel: 01362 852222. [www.zipdesignerrange.co.uk](http://www.zipdesignerrange.co.uk)

Evoline pull-up port, from £288, at Schulte. Tel: 01225 330242. [www.schulte.com](http://www.schulte.com)

Gessi Just Light monobloc tap, expect to pay £1058, at Sterling Distribution. Tel: 01684 299555. [www.sterlingdistribution.co.uk](http://www.sterlingdistribution.co.uk)

Cracked Ice Venetian glass breakfast bar, £3000; HI-MACS Gemini worktop, £500 per sq. m., at Living In Style. See kitchen profile for details.

Similar porcelain tiles, from a selection, priced on application, at Pentagon Tiles. Tel: 01279 626662. [www.pentagon-tiles.co.uk](http://www.pentagon-tiles.co.uk)

Similar bar stools, Forma, priced around £84 each, at Danetti. Tel: 0844 804 2222. [www.danetti.com](http://www.danetti.com)