



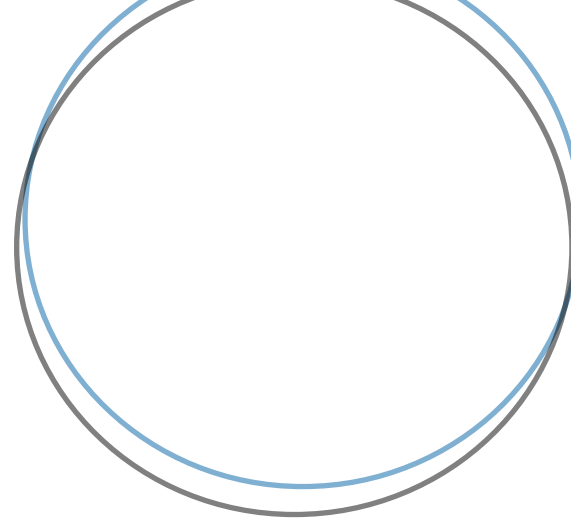
# *What goes around...*

This couple's dream kitchen wishlist involved the words 'fun' and 'sociable', so Paul Marazzi's signature curved units were just the ticket





Main photo: Jonathan Little [www.jonathanlittle.co.uk](http://www.jonathanlittle.co.uk)





With a new-build, simultaneously the best and worst part of the project is the opportunity to work with an utterly blank canvas. And so it was for Nicola Ash and Andrew Forkes when it came to deciding upon the right kitchen for their distinctive four-bedroom detached home in Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire. "We knew that we wanted the space to be practical for everyday, but also function as a social hub for entertaining, and with this in mind we had a notion that certain elements should be included – such as a wine chiller," explains Nicola. "But style-wise we were a bit less sure, and apart from hankering after a minimalist kitchen with a 'wow factor', we were open to suggestion – however as soon as we saw the designs Paul Marazzi had worked up, we knew we'd found the ideal man for the job."

"It was a perfect meeting of tastes," agrees Paul. "Nicola and Andrew explained that they

wanted something with a sense of fun, and that ergonomics and practicality were also important. The project fitted my personal sense of style beautifully – organic, sensual and inviting." The finished design is all these things and more, without being too overstated, thanks to a restrained colour scheme. The predominant shades are silver and white, punctuated with a few flashes of red – although since this brighter hue is only found in accessories, the accent shade can easily be changed on a whim.

A voluptuous curved peninsular with a seamless Volcanics worktop demarcates the transition between kitchen and living space, echoed by a ceiling feature with inset spots. It's a cunning aesthetic and practical device – not only does this arrangement of units allow the cook to chat sociably while standing in front of the hob, but it creates a more fluid feel, with the kitchen zone

melding more harmoniously with the living space beyond. "The Circolo cabinetry is bespoke, so I was able to dictate the exact arc of the installation to suit the space and the flow of the traffic across the room," Paul explains. "It's the crux of the design, since it is what ensures the sociability of the layout, as well as creates that show-stopping feel that Nicola and Andrew had asked me for."

Also contributing to the visual impact is the lighting scheme, which has been carefully considered, with plinth LEDs and wash lights above the taller cupboards throwing an edgy blue-toned glow, as well as the more functional under-unit LEDs to provide worktop illumination. "The mood lighting is the icing on the cake, and it's a pretty marvellous cake anyway," smiles Nicola. "I still think 'wow' every time I walk into the room!" ●●●

### **Advice from the designer**

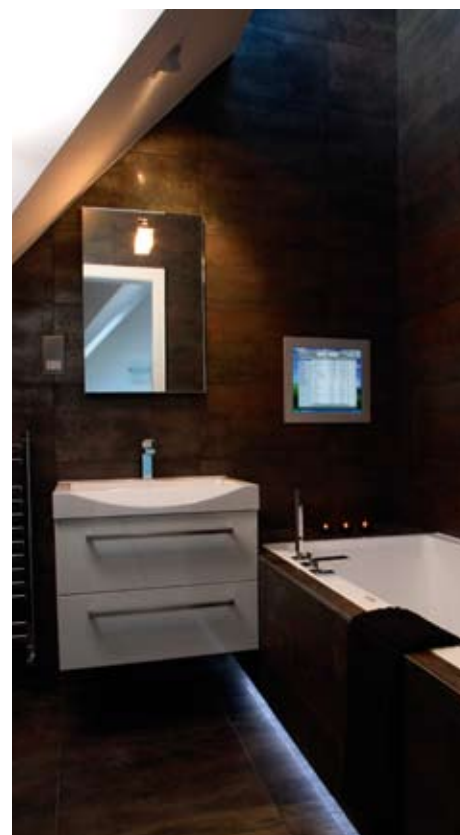
"With all spaces, it is important to establish and prioritise your own requirements, and convey them to your designer. I feel it then becomes my job to try to facilitate all the features and desires you would like to achieve, within a practical, workable design. No two people work in the same way, or have the exact same wishlist, so every project throws up new and exciting challenges."

*Paul Marazzi, Living in Style*



But this is certainly not a case of a design that's all show and no substance. As well as boasting a unique aesthetic, the kitchen is most definitely up to the challenge when it comes to creating culinary delights, as Nicola explains, "We wanted to create an almost-pro environment, and so specified high-end appliances from Wolf, Miele and Fisher & Paykel," she says. "The modular hobs allowed us to have a combination of gas and induction, and I'm really pleased we opted for twin dishwashers as it makes entertaining much more pleasurable. And they may not have a place in the professional kitchen, but we just adore the inclusion of electronic touch control drawers and a touch-screen media centre." The kitchen was intended to form the social hub

of the home, but in fact it ended up forming the inspiration for the whole interior scheme, and the rest of the rooms evolved around this key space. The minimalist look was carried through to the bathrooms, although on the whole curves were out, and geometry in. A similarly restrained palette of natural shades, chrome and white ensures a sophisticated feel, while the same bold pillar-box red was used to stunning effect in the master ensuite. "We wanted a luxurious, elegant look," explains Nicola. "Sleek and simple were our watchwords, and Steve Douglas at Tiles & Baths Direct was excellent. He helped us to specify the sort of exclusive fixtures and fittings that ticked all the right boxes, including the flush-fitting shower trays that we'd set our hearts on." ●



#### Details

Kitchen, from £xxx, Living in Style  
**020 8450 9555 | [www.livinginstyle.co.uk](http://www.livinginstyle.co.uk)**

LG Hausys Europe Volcanics worktop  
**01732 424 240 | [www.himacs.eu](http://www.himacs.eu)**

Liebherr CUP 3021 fridge/freezer x2  
**0844 412 2655 | [www.liebherr.co.uk](http://www.liebherr.co.uk)**

Fisher & Paykel drawer dishwasher x2  
**0845 066 2200 | [www.fisherpaykel.co.uk](http://www.fisherpaykel.co.uk)**

Miele H4250B ss oven x2, M8261 ss microwave, CVA2660ss coffee machine, KWL4712 two-zone wine cellar  
**0870 755 4466 | [www.miele.co.uk](http://www.miele.co.uk)**

Wolf gas wok hob, two-zone induction hob x2,  
**020 8418 3800 | [www.westy.co.uk](http://www.westy.co.uk)**

Westins 403 gl island extractor with external motor  
**01484 421 585 | [www.westin.co.uk](http://www.westin.co.uk)**

Zip filter tap **0845 602 4533 | [www.zipheaters.co.uk](http://www.zipheaters.co.uk)**

Abode Alto Professional tap  
**01226 28 34 34 | [www.abodedesigns.co.uk](http://www.abodedesigns.co.uk)**

KitchenAid toaster & kettle  
**0800 988 1266 | [www.kitchenaid.co.uk](http://www.kitchenaid.co.uk)**

Mastella Byte tall cabinet in Glossy Red, Gioca mirror with Desire lamp & Marte Uno washbasin (master ensuite), Byte Basin unit in White & Byte Veat washbasin top (main bathroom), Byte basin unit in Grey & Byte Veat washbasin top (shower room); Signorini Dream wall-mounted basin mixer (master ensuite); HIB Tokyo mirror (main bathroom); Eurobath Notion basin mixer & bath taps (main bathroom); Banacril Kubik 1800x800mm bath (main bathroom); Daryl Aroco extended 1000x800mm quadrant shower (shower room); Hansgrohe Talis single lever shower mixer (shower room); Duravit Starck 3 back-to-wall WC (shower room); all Tiles & Baths Direct  
**020 8282 2223 | [www.tilesandbathsdirect.co.uk](http://www.tilesandbathsdirect.co.uk)**

