

All together now

This kitchen project in Nottinghamshire wasn't just about designing a comfortable new room for cooking, but enabling a new kind of lifestyle for the family



A brand-new home often brings with it the opportunity of a fresh start, and this house, specified by property developer Troy Griffiths, was purposefully designed to provide a more family-orientated way of living, for himself, his wife Lisa and their two sons, Kurtis and Ryan.

Situated in Nottinghamshire, the property has been built in a traditional style, with stone-mullioned windows and other architectural features that reflect the look of the local, original buildings. "We built this house for ourselves and had a ticklist of features we wanted to include. At the top of the list was a kitchen that would form a meeting point for the whole family," explains Troy. "We had plenty of space to play with, so we wanted to make the most of it with a large, open, family kitchen inspired by the American style, where things are done on a grand scale, but with a comfortable feel. We asked Jamie Ellis at Charles Yorke to create a kitchen that would sit at the heart of the home and be a room that we could all use at the same time. We chose the company as we were impressed by their flexibility, knowledge and enthusiasm to tackle some of the more unusual elements of our project, and their designs had a younger, fresher look that suited our style. I think it's important that you can get on with the designers too, as they are going to be spending a considerable amount of time in your house!"

The Griffiths opted for a traditional furniture style that would tie in with the exterior architecture of the house, which has strong influences from America, seen in details such as the turrets. The kitchen focuses around a huge island unit – three metres long – that encourages the whole family to use the room together. "It gives everyone space to do what they want, and it's perfect for entertaining friends and family," says Troy. "There is also a seating turret and a small family area just off the kitchen; both of these get used more than the main living room, because we tend to gravitate to the kitchen now."

Oak was chosen for its classic and warm feel, while the painted pieces and panelling were added as a contrast to make the wood and the decorative details stand out. There are three arched windows and two arched entrances into the room; the detailing around these emphasises their shape and continues the traditional vibe, allowing the furniture to flow around the entire room, creating a seamless and unified look. ●●●





The cabinetry itself was based on Charles Yorke's Victorian in-frame range, with some adjustments to intensify the details in the design. "This is a large kitchen with lots of impact," says Jamie. "All the furniture was made to suit the size and proportions of the room, and each corbel was individually carved in relation to each furniture element to ensure the correct scale."

Though the couple had a clear vision of what they wanted, their design did evolve along the way. "The thing that changed most was the choice of materials," says Troy. "We had a good idea of what we wanted, but Jamie convinced us to be more daring, and I am really pleased that he did. I would have opted for a very uniform and consistent timber, but he suggested that the variations of grain and colour in the oak would bring the room to life – and he was right. I think the plainer timber would have looked flat in comparison. We also selected an unusual granite for the island unit, which looks really striking, without being over-the-top. There's no doubt that choosing a bespoke kitchen is more stressful than following a tried and tested route – though the element of choice is exciting, it also presents worries – so you need to be able to trust the designer to understand what the completed project will look like."

"I am particularly pleased with the arches above the doors, and with the island unit, the scale is just right," says Troy. "I also really like the hand-carved elements. It was great to be able to work with craftsmen like Ian the hand-carver, to decide all the little details that make the kitchen our own – it adds something special that we saw all the carvings take shape. I am really pleased with the new space – it delivers all the lifestyle benefits we wanted and looks great. We now really enjoy cooking for friends and family here, but it works equally well when it's just the four of us, too. The new house was designed to help us achieve a particular way of life. We wanted a family-focused kitchen that would bring us all closer together, without feeling crowded, and that's exactly what we got." ●

Details

Kitchen & dining table area designed by Jamie Ellis, Charles Yorke
01623 756 080 | www.charlesyorke.co.uk

Miele G1270SCVi integrated dishwasher, CVA 2660 integrated Nespresso coffee machine, M8261-W combination microwave, KWT4154UG wine cellar & K9457-1 fridge
0870 755 4466 | www.miele.co.uk

Sub-Zero 700 BFI freezer drawers 020 8418 3800 | www.subzero.com

Westin Synergy extractor 01484 421 585 | www.westin.co.uk

Britannia Classic 120cm range oven in Graphite 01253 471 111 | www.britannialiving.co.uk

Perrin & Rowe Athenian mixer tap and rinse in Nickel finish & Parthian tap in Nickel finish
01708 526 361 | www.triflowconcepts.com

Kohler Ice Rock 3339 prep sink 0870 850 5561 | www.kohler.co.uk

Franke KBX11034 undermounted single bowl sink 0161 436 6280 | www.franke.co.uk

Tiles above range oven by Welbeck 01736 762 000 | www.welbeck.com

30mm Bale Beige worktops from Quality Marble 020 8805 6600 | www.quality-marble.co.uk

Advice from the designer

"If you have strong traditional features, such as these curved arched doorways and steps up or down into the kitchen, try to follow their natural lines through into the design and make them a part of it. Ignoring such factors could have disastrous results. I would also suggest making a statement with strong elements like the cooking and refrigeration appliances do in this design, allowing them to stand tall rather than shying away from them. In a large space you can afford to be bold and generous – if you're cautious it's not always that pleasing on the eye – so don't be shy! Also try to introduce different levels in the design, whether it is a raised island or a stepped floor, to create an interesting landscape for the kitchen."

Jamie Ellis, sales director at Charles Yorke Ltd

