

instant attraction

Feature by **Rebecca Winward**
Photography by **John Houlihan**

A visit to a nearby, exclusive apartment complex inspired Linda and Ian Kent's dream kitchen design.



One of the benefits of a self-build project is being able to specify everything exactly as you want it. But, as Ian and Linda Kent found out, this can be as daunting as it is exciting. After a long search for a suitable plot of land in Mansfield and then a build lasting more than a year, the time came to choose a kitchen design. Says Linda, a Payroll Manager for the family's electrical contractor company, "We were really overwhelmed by all the possibilities. The room was going to be our priority budget-wise, but apart from the fact that we wanted to create a proper living area, not just a functional space, it was a rather difficult to know where to start."

To try and narrow down their options, they visited a number of high-end developments to see what inspiration their showhomes could provide. At an exclusive apartment complex close by, a show-stopping gloss red and black walnut kitchen caught their eye, and, on discovering that the firm responsible was situated a mere ten minutes from their home, the couple's minds were totally made up. Charles Yorke would be the company to complete their dream scheme.

above A row of three stools and trio of pendants sit symmetrically to balance out the curved peninsula.

left An unusual piece of art adds interest to the plain walls while echoing the colour theme throughout.

kitchen profile

Based on Charles Yorke's Porto design, cabinetry in American black walnut with sections painted in a fresh tone of Pale Mortlake Cream has been carefully combined with slate and quartzite worktops to create a striking and sophisticated feel. Built-in appliances have been restricted to one bank of floor-to-ceiling units to maintain a feeling of space, while a breakfast bar provides a divide between the cooking and living areas.

Charles Yorke, Prospect Close, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire NG17 7LF.
Tel: 01623 756080. www.charlesyorke.co.uk
 Expect to pay from £30,000.

below Must-haves for a keen cook, the teppanyaki plate and induction hob are in close proximity for ease of use when preparing Japanese dishes.

right Post dinner drinks and quality family time can be spent relaxing in the comfortable lounge area complete with a boldly upholstered sofa and TV.



below A mix of surface materials and heights differentiates zones for cooking, eating or prepping.



below & right Adjacent to a bank of ovens, the sink is placed to allow the washer-upper garden views.



"As soon as we saw the black walnut, we knew that this particular type of timber was for us," explains Linda. "It had such 'wow' factor, but we thought we might tire of the gloss red. So instead, we looked to combine the wood with something a little more classic, but we weren't sure what," she adds. Jamie Ellis, Designer at Charles Yorke, was on hand to guide them through the process, and a painted finish in Pale Mortlake Cream was chosen. After considering a more contemporary flat panel door at first, the couple decided upon a simple profile, called Porto, for its timeless looks.

While the stylistic considerations had some sort of direction in as much as the pair knew they wanted something that would stand the test of time, the choice of appliances wasn't quite so straightforward. With so many innovations on the market, picking from a brochure or showroom didn't seem hands-on enough. So, when Jamie suggested that Ian and Linda both attend a Miele 'Let's Do Lunch' at the firm's Experience Centre, to watch demonstrations of a variety of models, they jumped at the chance. "It was an amazing day," recalls Linda. "Seeing the various options in action made it so much easier to choose – and enabled us to get to grips with them once we actually started using our new space," she adds.

In accordance with the Kents' brief for a room that functioned for family living as well as a cooking area, Jamie proposed to keep wall units to just one side – resulting in a bank of floor-to-ceiling storage with built-in appliances. "This meant that the other furniture could be at a lower level, maintaining a light and spacious feel as well as giving the kitchen much more of a relaxed lounge-like vibe to it," he explains.



above Casting a subtle glow over the tiled floor, plinth-set spotlights act as an illuminated guide around the kitchen when the darkness of night falls.

left Curves have been utilised throughout to bring visual softness and make the room more inviting when relaxing or entertaining.

below Bespoke storage in the room allows pots, pans, 'goodies' and veg to be kept organised.



Open-plan to include a sitting area, a study and, of course, the softly-curving breakfast bar, the room has certainly become a magnet to visitors and family alike – the couple have two children, Lewis (17) and Heather (13). “Quite often we’ll all spend the whole evening in here,” Linda smiles.

“Rather than use the dining area, we’ll eat in the kitchen, then pop ourselves on the sofa and stay to watch TV. We’ve ended up with the ideal space for our needs. It’s even prompted Ian to become more interested in preparing food himself – he’s now addicted to TV cookery shows!” Linda laughs. ■

useful information

Miele Experience Centre.
Tel: 01235 233191. www.miele.co.uk

Appliances

CVA3660 **coffee machine**, £1384; EGV3060-10 **warming drawer**, £457; DG5060 **steam oven**, £1658; H5080BMS/S **combi microwave**, £2063; CT400P **teppanyaki plate**, £1306; H5460BP **Navtronic oven**, £1580; KM5943 **hob**, £1580, at Miele. Tel: 01235 554455. www.miele.co.uk

DS605IH **DishDrawer**®, £500, at Fisher & Paykel.
Tel: 0845 066 2200. www.fisherpaykel.co.uk

IKE458-4-4T **fridge freezer**, £3758, at Küppersbusch.
Tel: 01235 821288. www.kuppersbuschuk.com

Fixtures & furnishings

Similar **worksurfaces**, Pianoforte Chromatic in Marron Canela quartzite, £392 per sq. m.; Brathay Blue-Black **honed slate**, £557 per sq. m., at Kirkstone.
Tel: 020 7386 5600. www.kirkstone.com

Oberon monobloc **mixer tap** with rinse, around £445, at Perrin & Rowe. Tel: 01708 526361.
www.perrinandrowe.co.uk

Walnut and aluminium Blackbird **handles**, £9 each, at Vonsild. Tel: 0045 8639 4688. www.vonsild.com

Pale Mortlake Cream acrylic eggshell **paint**, around £11 for 750ml., at Craig & Rose.
Tel: 01383 740011. www.craigandrose.com

KBX16045-20 **Kubus sink**, around £623, at Franke.
Tel: 0161 436 6280. www.franke.co.uk

Bombo **bar stools**, from £295 each, at John Lewis.
Tel: 0845 604 9049. www.johnlewis.com

Similar blinds **fabric**, Olansi in Clementine from the Poeme Collection, £35 per m., at Wilman Interiors.
Tel: 0845 271 7333. www.wilmaninteriors.com

Similar Anfora **pendant lights**, £45 each, at Habitat.
Tel: 0870 411 5501. www.habitat.co.uk

Similar **flooring**, Cathedral limestone tiles in Classic, around £134 per sq. m., at Fired Earth.
Tel: 0845 366 0400. www.firedearth.com