



IN THE DETAIL



Left: The maple cabinets feature bird's eye maple panels trimmed with black beading, which create a distinctive, Art Deco look

Some clients dream of old-world, farmhouse-style kitchens, while others yen for cutting-edge industrial design. However, in today's market, the average homeowner seems to prefer something that is a little bit in between the two.

Striking the perfect balance between traditional and contemporary requires care and – sometimes – patience on the part of the designer, as Jamie Ellis of Charles Yorke discovered when he was commissioned by Gary and Simone Silver to design a kitchen for their new-build house. “The Silvers saw a stand featuring our bespoke kitchens at an exhibition,” says Jamie. “They have two teenage boys and they wanted a kitchen that would be the central core of the house: a warm, inviting family space, with all the practicalities necessary for easy cooking and entertaining.”

The Silvers were content to give Jamie a very open brief, but were, at first, unable to decide whether to opt for a modern or period look for their new kitchen: “They bounced from contemporary to traditional and back again!” says Jamie. “However, they were always receptive to new ideas

Below: A batterie de cuisine is suspended above the island, to provide additional hanging space for pans



Cool, classic styling is lifted with individual touches in this Charles Yorke kitchen



Above: Two maple drawers at the base of the island have been inscribed with "Fruit" and "Vegetables"

Left: The double-door fridge freezer has been clad in the same distinctive maple design as the cabinets

Below: The worktops were made from Venetian gold granite, to complement the maple furniture



and wanted the overall finished look to be very distinctive and extremely eye-catching. In the end, we settled on maple cabinets, with bird's-eye maple centre panels edged with black beading.

"The materials were selected for their light and warm appearance, and to incorporate the modern trend to mix textures. But the black bead detail, the curved handles and the rich, mellow colours also suggested a sleek, Art Deco look, which Gary and Simone fell in love with."

This combination of warm maple and black trim distinguishes the design, without looking too busy or overpowering – an important consideration, given that the room is a spacious 50m² and features a large amount of cabinetry, spread across three walls. However, in spite of the size of the kitchen, Jamie found that the ample storage requirements of the Silver family still required an additional, freestanding storage unit, which he decided to place in the dining area.



Top left: The design appears to include two narrow cupboards, integrated into either side of the range cooker overmantel, but they are actually drawers that open to reveal storage for spices and condiments

Above: A granite overhang on the island creates a convenient breakfast bar

Left: A large, freestanding unit has been designed to create additional storage space in the dining area of the kitchen

“Initially, this unit didn’t exist in the design, but with storage elements still not covered in the kitchen area, an extra unit had to be created that would be easily absorbed into the dining space,” he explains. “Although it was added for practical reasons, I still wanted the unit to be a sleek and aesthetically pleasing, freestanding piece of furniture. So the exterior was integrated with glass, to break up the ‘tall wooden box’ look and reflect light back into the kitchen. Inside, the unit interior was divided into fundamental spaces for different functions: a mobile preparation block, an area for food storage, plus space for cutlery.”

Having taken care of the storage essentials, Jamie was able to turn his eye to the details of the design and has included some charming features that



add to the originality of the scheme. On either side of the range cooker, a pair of narrow spice drawers have been integrated into the overmantel, while a pair of maple drawers on the island unit have been hand-carved with the inscriptions "Fruit" and "Vegetables".

"The Silvers had an eye for detail, which was apparent from the build of their house, so I knew they would be receptive to some individuality in the design," Jamie comments. "The inscriptions were used to highlight the traditional technique of carving, which still exists today, side by side with modern manufacturing. There's a current trend for incorporating old and new techniques together, and I think a mixture of the two can create stunning results." ■ **kbd**

Left: A dresser-style unit links the kitchen and dining areas

Below: The doors on the freestanding unit slide back to reveal a butcher's block, ready to be pulled out when needed



CASE STUDY

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