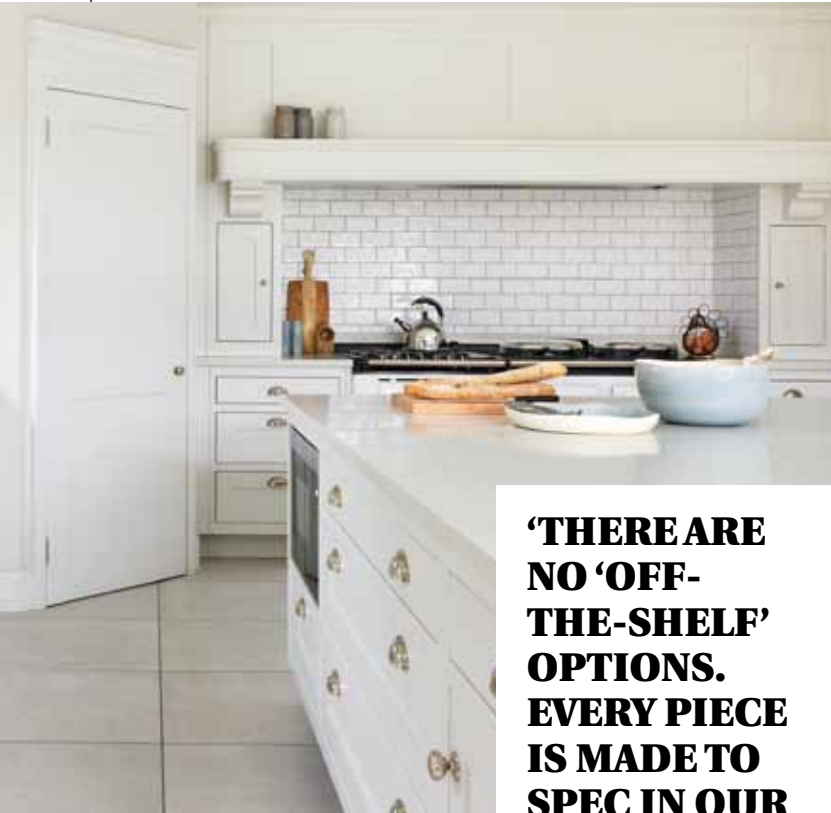


# DAVONPORT

PHOTOS DARREN CHUNG FEATURE HUGH METCALF



**‘THERE ARE NO ‘OFF-THE-SHELF’ OPTIONS. EVERY PIECE IS MADE TO SPEC IN OUR WORKSHOPS’**



*Richard Davonport*

Graham Martin Photography

As Richard Davonport, founder and MD of Davonport says ‘it’s not just a job as the furniture carries my name.’ With a father who was an honorary member of the British Woodcarvers Association, working with wood was introduced into Richard’s life at a young age, culminating in setting up his own small workshop in the early 90s. Now based on a huge 1.2 acre site in Colchester in Essex, made up of a showroom and a 20,000 square foot workshop where each kitchen is intricately produced, Davonport works with over 20 design studios across the UK to produce bespoke kitchens. ‘And they are truly bespoke’, explains Richard. ‘Each piece of cabinetry and furniture is made to specification in our workshops, finished with British-made hardware and eco-friendly, scratch-resistant paint.’ The quality and attention to detail that comes with Davonport’s level of craftsmanship has been widely recognised, winning a British Design & Manufacturing Award in 2017, while all timber used is sourced from suppliers certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

‘In order to create a cupboard that lasts a lifetime,’ Richard adds, ‘we use tried and tested methods as standard. Mortise and tenon joints in our cabinets and doors, dovetail joints on the corners of every box.’ Only after the cabinetry has passed rigorous testing is it deemed fit to have a small metal disc applied bearing the Davonport name.

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The bespoke table and banquette seating, both from Davonport, steal the focus in this kitchen/dining space. An integrated Lazy Susan means a dinner party with up to 10 guests is no trouble at all





## ‘WE COMBINE TRADITIONAL CABINET-MAKING TECHNIQUES WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGIES’

Worktop upstands extend around the butler sink, creating a splash-proof zone for washing up, as well as a shelf to display kitchen trinkets



‘Only after a piece of furniture has passed our quality checks does it receive a Davonport seal of approval – a small metal disc applied to each kitchen,’ says Richard

Richard, ‘and, on the other, gives way to a stylish curved banquette seating area.’ Placing a distinct area for serving drinks in the opposite corner from the Aga-orientated cooking zone, means that when entertaining, the couple can cook and host with ease, without treading on each other’s toes.

### CABINETRY

‘Our Tillingham Shaker cabinetry is our signature style,’ says Richard, and it’s used in this space painted in a soft French Grey Pale from Little Greene. The bespoke pantry and mantel over the Aga run with the Tillingham’s classic good looks, but, while understated from the outside, the bi-fold drinks cabinet opens up into a more dramatic element, filled with mirrored glass, quartz and barware that sparkles in the cabinet’s integrated lighting.

### FINISHES

Pale Bianca Massa worktops, white Dual Control Aga and simple metro tiles keep the kitchen a backdrop to the entertaining space. The bespoke walnut, steel and quartz dining table, which is the centrepiece of the kitchen, can seat up to 10, and incorporates a Lazy Susan, demonstrating this kitchen’s dedication to entertaining guests.

### DESIGN BRIEF

While this space required little in the way of structural changes to create a beautiful kitchen-diner that was well-suited for entertaining, the kitchen these homeowners had actually inherited in this property was far from their dream scheme. ‘The room was dominated by a large dining table and the keen hosts wanted more consideration to be given to different areas,’ says Richard

Davonport. A traditional walk-in pantry, mantel for an Aga and Sub-Zero wine fridge, fridge freezer and cool drawers were all on the wishlist.

### LAYOUT

Three distinct zones were created in the kitchen – one for food prep, one for serving drinks and then the dining space. ‘The focal point of the room is a large island unit which on two sides follows the geometric lines of the walls, explains



'The striking blue used on the island's banquette seating introduces a contemporary edge in keeping with the bi-fold doors and skylights,' says Richard



**‘TRIED AND TESTED METHODS ENSURE A CUPBOARD THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME’**

The drinks cabinet, set into the opposite corner to the kitchen's cooking space, means that the couple can serve guests without disturbing dinner prep



**Project details**  
**CABINETRY**  
Tillingham Collection handpainted cabinetry in French Grey Pale by Little Greene. Davonport bespoke kitchens start from £45,000  
**APPLIANCES**  
Three-oven Dual Control **Aga** with integrated module in White, £14,610, Aga. Bespoke 160cm dual motor **extractor**, £POA, Westin. SN658D00MG iQ500 fully integrated **dishwasher**, £829, Siemens. ICBW-30R **wine fridge**; ICBIT-36CIID integrated **fridge freezer**, both £POA, Sub-Zero  
**SINKS AND TAPS**  
1000mm Shaker double butler **sink**, £737, Shaws. PRO3 Fusion Round **tap** in Polished Chrome, from £1,150, Quooker  
**SURFACES**  
Bianca Massa **worktop**, £POA, Davonport  
**ACCESSORIES**  
Loom **dining chairs** in Light Grey, £138 each; bespoke **dining table** in walnut, quartz and steel, £POA, both Davonport