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“Richard understood my needs and could fulfil the brief due to being bespoke,” says Tabby. “I wanted something totally unique and with wow factor, so I knew that a bespoke company was really our only option, especially as the island brief was so challenging.”





REAL HOMES

THE owners

Company director Tabby Manning, whose grown-up sons regularly visit, lives with her mother in this new-build mansion in Surrey. The property features outbuildings and a substantial patio and outdoor cooking area.

Photography by: Darren Chung

OPULENCE TO ORDER

A dream kitchen with a simply stunning island as its linchpin requires 'bespoke' craftsmanship in the truest sense of the word.



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f your dream kitchen is a no-expense-spared, no-holds-barred living and entertaining space that exudes luxury and glamour from every nook and cranny, you quickly get to grips with the true meaning of ‘bespoke’.

That’s what company director Tabby Manning discovered when embarking on her plans for a new, spectacular kitchen to complement the rest of her impressive property, which she also had built to her precise design specifications.

“I wanted a grand kitchen with real wow factor. The whole house is opulent and very grand, so I needed the kitchen to be in keeping. Plus, the layout of the ground floor is open-plan, so the style of the kitchen impacts on the rest of the house a lot,” explains Tabby, who appointed Richard Davonport, founder and managing director of bespoke kitchens specialist, Davonport, to undertake the ambitious project.

“When I visited the Davonport showroom, Richard also showed me the workshops. Having visited several other ‘bespoke’ companies, it became clear that some other companies were using the bespoke label incorrectly...it became clear that Davonport really would be able to create what I was looking for, so the decision became very easy.”

Tabby desired a classic look with a contemporary feel that oozed lashings of glamour at the same time – but functionality was also a priority in terms of cooking and entertaining for a large family and guests. And top of her list was a unique, show-stopping island.

A combination of hand-painted, off-white furniture and walnut feature cabinets creates a classic but stunning design scheme. Burr walnut detailing on the circular units at both ends of the island inject added sumptuousness. To echo the curve of the island, spherical corbels are used throughout the room, most notably on the mantel.





REAL HOME



Complementing the chrome bead detail on the Belgravia door, there are chrome details throughout the room, including the handles and trim on the walnut island chopping block.



"The range cooker is amazing for cooking for the whole family and I purposefully chose a big fridge for family gatherings," says Tabby.

Inspired by Davonport's Belgravia style with a signature silver bead detail on the doors, the kitchen was designed comprising a combination of hand-painted, off-white furniture and walnut feature cabinets with a breathtakingly beautiful, one-of-its-kind island taking centre stage.

"I was desperate to have a totally unique island, so when Richard came up with a design that featured a floating island and had found a way to construct what I was looking for, it was so exciting."

Richard comments, "Tabby has a very opulent style and wanted the kitchen to feel glamorous, luxurious and opulent... It's an enormous room, so it was always going to have a bold, large island and this was a crucial part of the brief. Tabby wanted her kitchen island to be totally unique; in fact, the brief even featured a 'floating' kitchen island.



“I wanted total luxury and something that would turn heads, so I loved the walnut aspects and grand scale of the whole design...The island always gets commented on by guests; it’s a real showstopper, which was exactly what I wanted.” **Tabby Manning, homeowner**





Spotlights throughout the room provide the main functional lighting, while there is extensive decorative lighting. The pendant chandeliers above the island add a warm, white hue as well as glamour to the wider scheme. Furthermore, there is plinth lighting and colour change strip lighting above the wall units for entertaining.



THE designer

"If you're planning on creating a kitchen with wow factor, and your budget allows, it's well worth choosing a bespoke company. The floating island is what gives this design its style and distinctive wow factor and the island was only possible because Davonport kitchen furniture is bespoke. Also, be open and honest with your kitchen designer - the more open you are, the higher the chances that they will fulfil your brief."

Richard Davonport, founder and managing director, Davonport





“We’ve never made a floating island before, so it was a case of working with the production team to tweak the technical design, so that the island had the visual impact that Tabby was looking for, whilst still functional and practical,” Richard explains.

“We were able to create an island supported by the circular cupboards at either end, so the middle section floats with no contact with the floor. The whole island is also bowed in profile, so the drawers and cabinetry are all curved.”

The impressive design also features a television behind the toughened glass splashback and a raised, recycled glass breakfast bar.

“It’s a truly stunning kitchen which beautifully demonstrates the possibilities open to you with a bespoke company,” concludes Richard. “Tabby’s kitchen is unapologetically grand, and exudes glamour and opulence. Every aspect is of the highest quality and it shows.”

Tabby adds, “I designed the kitchen with the hope that it would become a main entertaining space for us and an easy place to cook and enjoy meals with ten plus people. This has definitely been the case... and it’s great that when family and friends come over, they just flow in and out of the kitchen.”

THE details

Bespoke kitchen design by Richard Davonport, founder and managing director of Davonport featuring Belgravia hand-painted, off-white furniture and walnut feature cabinetry davonport.com

Westin UKS0036631 bespoke cache extractor westin.co.uk

Gaggenau CX480100 800mm induction hob gaggenau.com

Wolf ICBDF606CG range cooker and ICBCS030PE/S/PH E-series steam oven and Sub-zero ICBIC-30RID-LH fridge and ICBIC-30FI-RH freezer, all in stainless steel subzero-wolf.co.uk

Miele G6582SCVIK20 integrated dishwasher, WKR770WPS freestanding washing machine and TKR350WP freestanding dishwasher miele.co.uk

Kohler 6588-7 Iron/tones cast iron sink in black kohler.co.uk

Blanco BL450889 Subline 350/350U sink in Jasmin Silgranit blanco-germany.com

Quooker 3FRCHR Fusion Round taps in polished chrome quooker.co.uk

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