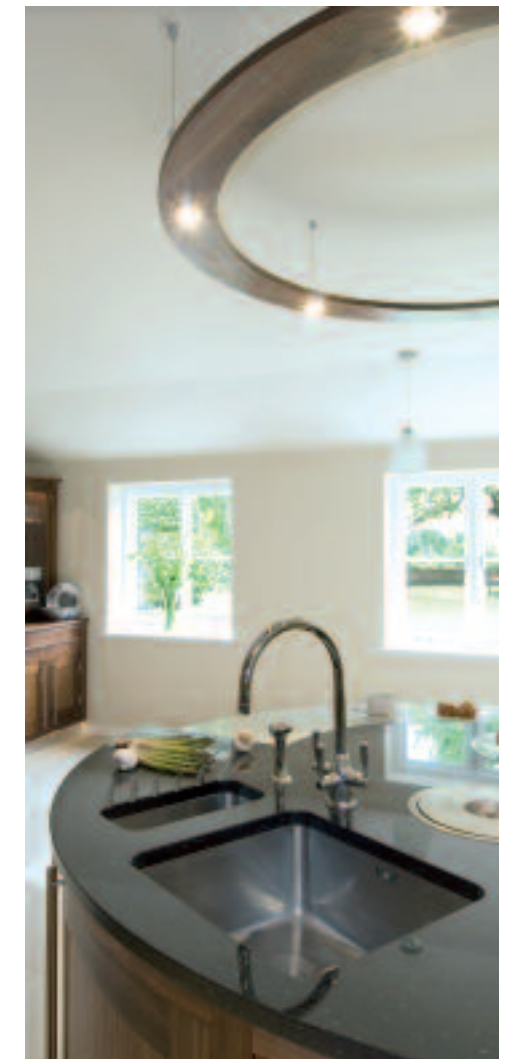


Feature by **Amelia Thorpe** Photography by **Justin Paul**

in stylish circles

A visit to Prague and a desire for all-things different are just two of the inspirations behind the kitchen at the heart of this grade II listed Georgian home in the Wiltshire countryside.



Jo Wheeler likes to do things differently. In fact, she was so determined to get away from the run-of-the-mill when planning a new kitchen, that she even considered creating a completely circular room. "I really love curved shapes and fluid forms," she explains. "I think this might be a reaction to seeing so many of those Shaker-style kitchens with very straight lines," she adds.

In the end, planning permission restraints on the extension to the grade II listed Georgian home she shares with her husband, Andy, the director of a commercial surveying practice, plus children Elliot (11) and Darcey (seven), meant that there would be insufficient space for a circular room. Not one to be beaten, Jo, a beauty salon owner, continued to dream, only this time it was of a round island and smart kitchen cabinetry made from rich walnut. "Although the house is old, we aren't chintzy people and wanted something both classic and contemporary," she explains.

left & above The centre of attention in this chic and spacious setting, a circular island houses a preparation zone and is surrounded by banks of walnut cabinets that provide ample storage.



left & right The central unit comprises an in-surface waste bin, pop-up power sockets and is always completed with Jo's favourite fresh white flowers.

above Deep pan drawers are a must-have addition to any budding or expert chef's home and ensure a clutter-free, user-friendly cook zone.

below Beautifully polished cutlery has its own baize lined compartmentalised sections so that it keeps tidy and in good condition.



The family had moved into the house six years ago, but it was only recently that they began to think about a new kitchen. As renovations and re-decoration on the rest of the home edged towards completion, Jo pulled out a brochure for Guild Anderson Furniture that had fallen through their letterbox three years before. "I had tucked it away because I knew it would come in handy one day," she recalls. Emailing designer Nick Anderson, she asked him if he would create the furniture from walnut. "Nick replied to say it would make a nice change from the painted ones he was producing, so I knew we'd get on," says Jo.

Guild Anderson makes all its furniture in its Wiltshire workshop. "We offer a totally bespoke service," enthuses Nick. "I don't just mean sizes chosen from a standard range of designs – we work with each client to create something from scratch," he explains. Therefore, Nick was able to take Jo's request for a round island in his stride, designing a wide circle around a drum centre to offer a 'working' zone on one side and seating area on the other. There's also cupboards and an integrated dishwasher. "I can safely say I'm never doing a dishwasher with a curved door again. It took me over two days to make!" Nick recalls.



kitchen profile

Offering the best of old and new, bespoke American black walnut cabinetry by Guild Anderson has traditionally-made qualities enhanced by contemporary design. Topped with polished black granite and under-lit glass, a round island takes centre stage and its shape is emphasised by a suspended lighting ring. Smart stainless steel appliances, handles, stools and plinths plus limestone flooring bring visual lift to the rich scheme.

Guild Anderson, Waterways, Watery Lane, Bishopstrow, Warminster BA12 9HT.
Tel: 01985 216044. www.guildanderson.co.uk
 Expect to pay from £15,000.



above From dried parsley to powdered paprika, many seasonings are organised in the spice unit.

right A smart use of space, the powerful extractor and robust range are tucked into a painted alcove.

below right Inspired by a Prague café, the arched, back-lit glass bar is a great spot for enjoying coffee.

Creating a dramatic effect, the glass bar features a row of lights on its inside edge. Says Jo, "The idea came from a café in Prague when Andy and I visited a couple of years ago. It was January and freezing cold, so we stopped in for a hot chocolate." Jo was so taken with the idea that she scribbled herself a note there and then. "I knew what I wanted but just not how to get it. That was where Nick came in," she explains with a pleased smile. As a special finishing touch, a ceiling-suspended light hangs above the island and echoes the form to make it more of a focus.

Having lived with the 'small and dingy' kitchen they previously had for over five years, the family find the new room a very inviting place to be. "It used to be a nightmare when friends came over because there would be nowhere for them to sit, but everyone congregates in here now," says Jo. Even without the new table, due to arrive shortly, friends are happy to perch at the island bar. "It feels so comfortable and is definitely the most fantastic addition to our house," she concludes. ■



"We aren't chintzy people so wanted something both classic and contemporary."

above Mirrored panels have been fixed to the front of the fridge freezer to enhance a sense of space.

below left A simple but effective element of the design, grooves have been sculpted out of the granite worktop for efficient water drainage.



useful information

Appliances

Classic range **cooker**, around £2999, at Britannia. **Tel: 01253 471111. www.britanniainliving.co.uk**

Base **fridge freezer**, around £2195, at Amana. **Tel: 01737 231000. www.amana.co.uk**

F35085Vi **dishwasher**, around £410, at AEG. **Tel: 0870 535 0350. www.aeg.co.uk**

Igloo **extractor hood**, around £499, at Elica. **Tel: 01252 351111. www.elica.co.uk**

Fixtures & furnishings

Doric Triflow **tap**, £474; Kubus 11045 **sink**, £212; Kubus KBX 11016 **sink**, £173, at Franke. **Tel: 0161 436 6280. www.franke.co.uk**

Nero Assoluto granite **worktops**, prices available on application, at Windsmere Stone. **Tel: 01380 827111. www.windsmerestone.com**

Toughened glass **breakfast bar and splashbacks**, around £2559, at Glassology. **Tel: 01235 850518. www.glassology.com**

Limestone **tiles**, £40 per sq. m., at Artisans of Devizes. **Tel: 01380 720007. No website available.**

Zest Cream **bar stools**, from around £184 each, at Net Furniture. **Tel: 0161 792 6026. www.netfurniture.co.uk**

Similar **vase and fruit bowl**, from a wide selection, at Heal's. **Tel: 020 7636 1666. www.heals.co.uk**