

# IN THE ROUND

The undulating shape of the Curtis family's oast house presented them with a real design challenge

“The curvaceous roundels of traditional oast houses are part of their unique look. It seems such a pity to fight against the distinctive architecture – far better to enhance it. I now have an efficient kitchen with everything where I need it”

FRANCES CURTIS

Frances and Mark share this beautiful three-roundel oast house in Kent with their two sons, George and Felix

Frances Curtis and her husband Mark, who runs his own football agency, decided that after living with the kitchen in their Kent oast house home for 14 years, it was time for a complete change. ‘We had a beautiful maple finish that looked lovely but the layout was totally wrong,’ explains Frances, mum to George, 17, and Felix, 13. ‘No one had taken the shape of the room into account and I suspect the inefficient layout was the result of trying to make a square kitchen work in a round space,’ she continues.

Working with the problems of her old scheme in mind, Frances mapped out a list of requirements but after discussions with several kitchen companies, she realised that they were in danger of repeating the flaws.

Deciding that the solution was a custom-built kitchen, Frances began searching for a company that specialised in bespoke designs. ‘We were very fortunate to find local company Danmar Kitchens,’ recalls Frances. ‘After chatting to designer Martyn Ive, I was confident he was the person I needed. He really tried to deliver everything I wanted and throughout

A scheme of rich American walnut furniture combines with hand-painted cabinetry to sweep around Frances and Mark's kitchen, accentuating the circular shape of their room. With a spacious drum cupboard, the island boasts three different tiers of worksurface to mimic the unusual contours of the layout



the whole process I don't think I once heard him say "we can't do that". Nothing was too much trouble.'

As well as ensuring the kitchen worked as a circular space, a priority for Frances was lots of storage. Keen to avoid tall cabinets as she thought these would detract from the layout's sweeping curves, she asked Martyn to design something that would complement and enhance the room's shape.

Taking everything on board, Martyn proposed a scheme that combined rich American walnut furniture with hand-painted cabinetry to lighten the look and smart stainless-steel appliances.

With the large proportions of the room in mind, Martyn was able to include plenty of options to help the couple entertain friends and family. Two flying glass breakfast bars provide guests with an ideal spot to perch, while an integrated table and chairs are perfect for more formal meals.

'Now that the kitchen has been redesigned it's become the focal point of the house,' enthuses Frances. 'Everyone loves to gather in this room. It works perfectly when we have guests and there is a place for everyone to feel comfortable.'



The broad sweep of striking curved cabinetry hugs the walls and works with the room's shape. Flanking the sink, two stainless-steel dishwasher drawers give a sense of symmetry to the scheme



For more smart wine fridges see our Kitchen kit feature on page 144

In addition to the dark American walnut furniture and worktops, Frances and Mark have also included cabinetry that has been painted in a specially mixed shade of off-white. For a similar colour try Farrow & Ball's Pointing. Walls painted in Albany's Chesil Beach combine with large creamy porcelain tiles from Danmar Kitchens to keep the room bright and spacious. A flying glass breakfast bar is the perfect place for guests to linger with a glass of wine while they chat to the couple

A ceramic sink works beautifully with the subtle tones of the Giallo Ornamental granite worktop, while the Silk Steel finish of the tap maintains the understated elegance of the wet area. The American walnut that is used elsewhere forms an unusual splashback

MY FAVOURITE APPLIANCE: 'It would have to be the warming drawers. I use them daily to keep food at the perfect temperature. If you leave dishes in the oven they overcook and dry out but the warming drawers keep them just right for eating'



Situated beneath each of the couple's two Miele ovens, built-in warming drawers have been a real boon for Frances as they heat crockery and keep food at the perfect temperature. 'I pop my crumble in to keep it warm so it's ready after the main meal,' she smiles



## DESIGN & CABINETS

- Martyn Ive at **Danmar Kitchens**, 51 High Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6QH (01732 848333) [www.danmarkitchens.co.uk](http://www.danmarkitchens.co.uk)
- Bespoke American walnut furniture with hand-painted tulipwood cabinetry

## WORKTOPS

- American walnut. Price per sq m, including cutting **£500**
- 30mm Giallo Ornamental granite. Price per sq m **£194**
- Toughened glass. Total cost **£925**

## SINK & TAP

- GAKI 1039 Galassia undermounted single-bowl ceramic sink, Franke **£260**
- Olympus C-spout monobloc mixer tap in Silk Steel, Franke **£198**

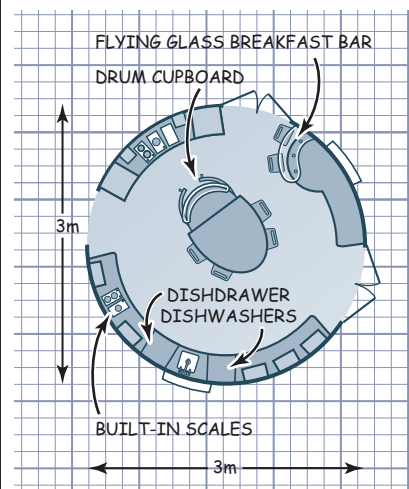
## APPLIANCES (shown)

- Built-in single oven, for similar try H5240, Miele **£963**
- Built-in single oven, for similar try H4212, Miele **£631**
- 3 x domino induction hobs, for similar try CS12121, Miele, each **£733**
- Stone chimney extractor in stainless steel, Elica **£425**
- 2 x warming drawers, for similar try ESW5080-14, Miele, each **£609**
- KWT4154UG1 integrated wine cooler, Miele **£1,143**
- 2 x single DishDrawer dishwashers, for similar try DS605FDH, Fisher & Paykel, each **£513**

## APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Chimney extractor in stainless steel, Elica **£425**
- Fully integrated fridge freezer, Neff **£300**

☎ For stockists, see page 152



## GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a Danmar Kitchens design **£35,000**



Symmetry has been a strong influence on the layout of Frances and Mark's stunning new kitchen and the cabinetry housing the two ovens balances the design, echoing the open display shelves either side of the extractor hood. Slim bar handles further emphasise the horizontal lines of their scheme and serve to draw the eye around the room's curves, while the drum-shaped cupboard mirrors the concave shape of the facing furniture

As a keen cook who enjoys entertaining, Frances had very firm ideas about her choice of appliances. Here, a set of worktop scales has been placed alongside one of three domino induction hobs. 'I chose to split the hobs for practical purposes as well as for reasons of design,' she says. 'When cooking for large numbers it is really practical to have a hob near the ovens'



Frances and her eldest son George enjoy chatting at the walnut dining table that makes up the lower level of the island. Frances was adamant about the oval shape, which comfortably seats six



One of Mark's favourite features is the wine room. 'He is passionate about his wine collection,' explains Frances. 'When he spotted a wine room on holiday, he decided the area just outside the kitchen was the perfect place to create his own'

