

# Beautiful KITCHENS

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OCTOBER 2011

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*'I would recommend discussing your project with an architect and getting a kitchen designer on board as soon as possible to make sure you're maximising the potential of your space'*

**JAMIE TELFORD**, DIRECTOR, ROUNDHOUSE DESIGN

## CASE STUDY 1: FAMILY-FRIENDLY SPACE

Marcus Watkins of Kitchen Architecture designed this elm-wood veneer kitchen for a large open-plan room.

The owners of this 1970s house in Oxfordshire wanted to create a multifunctional room that would incorporate the kitchen, dining table, seating overlooking the garden and a pool table – the ultimate family space. 'We started by offering advice on how the individual rooms could be opened up,' explains designer Marcus Watkins. 'I was cautious not to fill the whole space with a kitchen so the proportions were balanced.'

The result is a practical bulthaup b3 design situated towards the rear of the space. It has ample storage and all the necessary appliances, as well as a multipurpose island with a breakfast bar. 'We approached the kitchen as three separate sections (for cooking, dining and a family space) and kept it simple,' says Marcus. 'The island incorporates the hob, which faces the dining area, so the cook has views of the garden to keep an eye on the children. This arrangement works well with a modern, busy lifestyle.'

In this design, elm-veneer cabinetry has been paired with graphite laminate units and sleek stainless-steel appliances. 'Space is a luxury,' concludes Marcus, 'and that's part of the beauty of open-plan design – space, light and flexibility. The key is deciding how much of the area to dedicate to the kitchen.'

■ Prices start from £35,000 for a similar design by Kitchen Architecture

