

# The SPECIALIST

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**LATEST**  
NEWS, VIEWS,  
IDEAS & INTERIOR  
DESIGN ADVICE

**Kitchen  
SELECT**  
BEST MODERN &  
CLASSIC DESIGNS

*Comfort  
and Joy*

A super-sized  
kitchen for cooking  
and entertaining

**Kbsa**  
the home specialists association



**GREEN AND PLEASANT**

The island has views out over the living and dining areas, and to the garden beyond



# Sizing **up**

The scale of this super-size kitchen takes your breath away – no wonder Gopa Jagirdar, who loves cooking and entertaining, says it's her dream come true

PICTURES PAUL CRAIG | WORDS AMELIA THORPE

**I**t wasn't just the recipes that inspired viewers of Delia Smith's television programmes. For Gopa Jagirdar, it was the beautiful room in which the 'Queen of Cookery' prepared her famous cakes and casseroles, that sparked a dream. 'I loved watching Delia cooking away with her beautiful garden in the background, and I began to think about creating a lovely, light-filled kitchen like that,' she says.

Having moved into her new-build home in Berkshire in 1997, Gopa says her dream of a larger kitchen with more natural light and an open-plan design grew as the years went by. 'I felt divorced from the other rooms, as I couldn't join in the conversation, and felt increasingly cut off,' she explains. With her family growing again (her first grandchild is due any minute), and with her love of entertaining family and friends in mind, Gopa and her husband decided it was time for action. So, by extending into the garden and demolishing some internal walls, they have now created a sort of super-room which goes across the entire width of the rear of their home, measuring an impressive 15x10m.

'The space is entirely open – there are no pillars obstructing the views of the garden,' explains Gopa. 'It was a major project, and even involved cranes, which were used to carry the massive structural beams over the top of the house. They were brought from the front and into position.'

With her love of entertaining and cooking in mind (Gopa is Indian and enjoys making traditional curries, but also often turns her hand to dishes from Mexico to Thailand too), she specified a large island with plenty of prep space. 'I wanted a kitchen that was very practical for lots of cooking, but warm and welcoming – and with a design that allowed me to be very much involved with what's going on in the rest of the room,' she says.

While her son professes to be disappointed, Gopa laughs, 'he'd have preferred us to spend our money on one of those golf simulators so he could 'virtually' play championship courses around the world.' Gopa herself says it's a dream come true. 'It's such a great space which encourages friends and family to visit more – and I love that,' she says.







## KITCHEN PROFILE

Second Nature Remo handleless furniture in Beige gloss lacquer and Izari wood veneer creates a striking mix in this spacious kitchen. While a large prep island and tall bank of Miele appliances ensure that this is a room designed for some serious cooking, a sweepingly curved breakfast bar topped in solid Wenge makes friends and family welcome too.

### ELEMENTS KITCHENS

8b Portman Road, Reading, Berkshire,  
RG30 1EA. Tel 0118 959 9919.

[elementskitchens.co.uk](http://elementskitchens.co.uk)

Kitchen prices from £20,000.

*Kitchen case study*

**CITRUS FRESH**  
Zingy bar stools introduce an accent colour, enlivening the space and adding character

**MIRROR, MIRROR**  
The splashback is finished in bronze mirror, designed to introduce more warm tones and bounce light back into the room



**TIME FOR TEA**  
Gopa relaxes at her new Wenge wood bar







## Michael Taplin

DIRECTOR, ELEMENTS KITCHENS

### Q&A with designer

#### HOW DID YOU BEGIN THE PROJECT?

In such a large space, it is important to think about the layout of the whole room, and how the areas will connect with each other. Here, it made sense to site the relaxing and dining areas by the sliding glass doors, with the best views of the garden. Then the cooking zone, with separate drinks area, fell naturally into the rest of the space. The island is over-size to suit the proportions of the room, and it is also located so that Gopa can chat to her guests when she is cooking.

#### HOW DID YOU DESIGN THE FURNITURE AND MATERIALS?

Gopa wanted a very contemporary, clean-lined look, so we used handleless furniture. We chose two finishes to provide contrast: the glossy beige lacquer which is sleek and smart, teamed with Izari wood veneer which adds richness and depth to the design. To add some interest and to soften the otherwise strictly linear look of the cabinetry, the breakfast bar is curved and made of solid wenge.

#### CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE CEILING FEATURE?

Gopa is a very good cook who enjoys entertaining, so we knew that a good extraction system would be important in her kitchen. By creating a drop-down ceiling feature, we were able to conceal ducting for a high performance hood, so that all you see is a simple white glass and steel panel for a modern, unobtrusive finish.



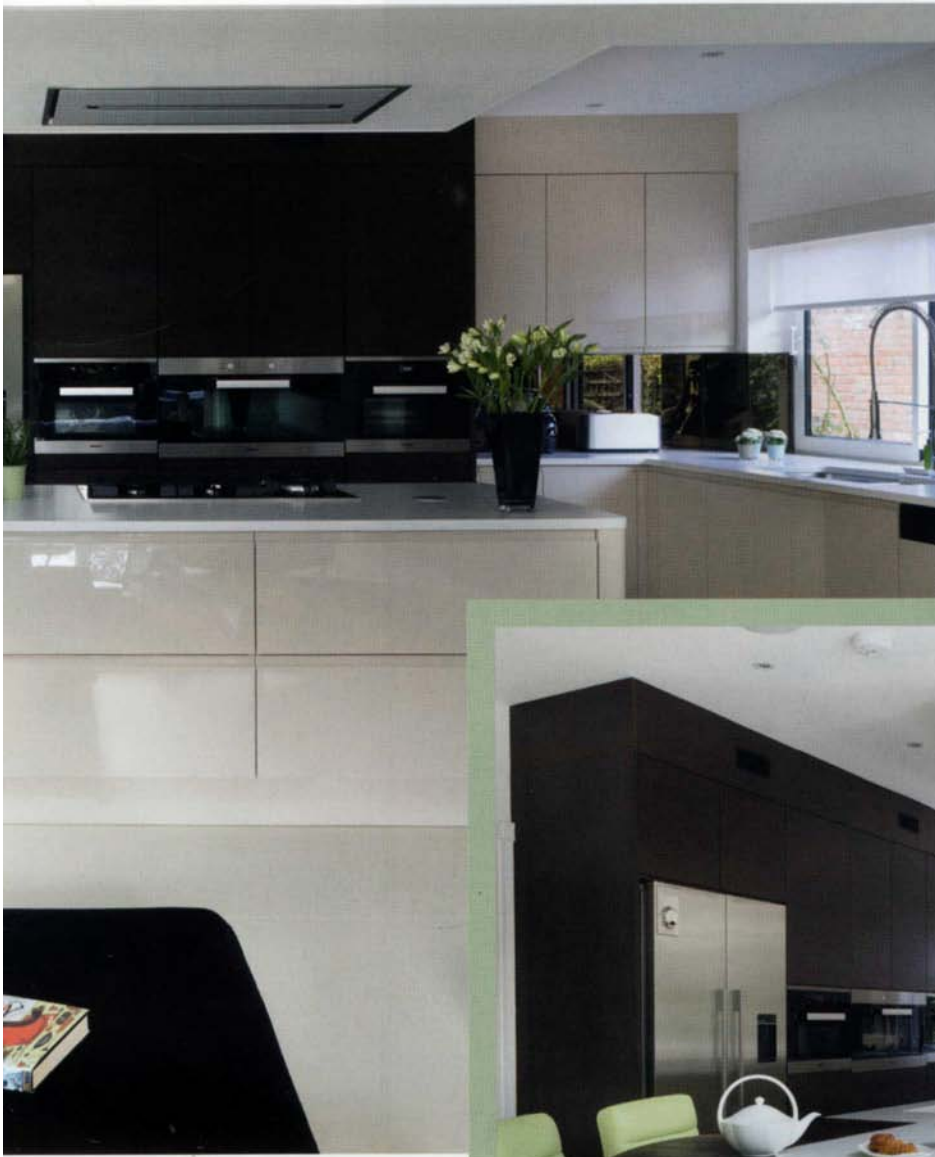
DESIRED TEMPERATURE (Below) The Quooker Fusion round tap dispenses boiling water, as well as 'regular' hot and cold



## Kitchen case study

**ALL THE GLOSS**  
*(Left)* Wide handleless drawers finished in glossy Beige create a sleek look to the island, viewed here from the living area

**AHEAD OF THE CURVE**  
*(Below)* The semi-circular shape of the breakfast bar is echoed in the rounded Beige gloss base







**ABOVE** Made of white glass and stainless steel, the Cloud Nine extractor fits sleekly into the false ceiling for a minimalist look. It has high performance levels, ideal for large kitchens that see lots of constant cooking activity

**RIGHT** Designed to seat 12, the large, burnt wood dining table is in keeping with the other rich, dark tones of the homely room

## Customer Experience

### HOW WAS THE PROJECT FOR YOU, GOPA?

'Some people say that any building project is a nightmare but I can honestly say that I enjoyed it all. Nothing went wrong, and the whole team were fantastic. Why? I think they all understood what I was trying to achieve, and they worked together to make it happen. I believe that local businesses, which stand or fall by their reputation, understand the importance of good communication and great service.'

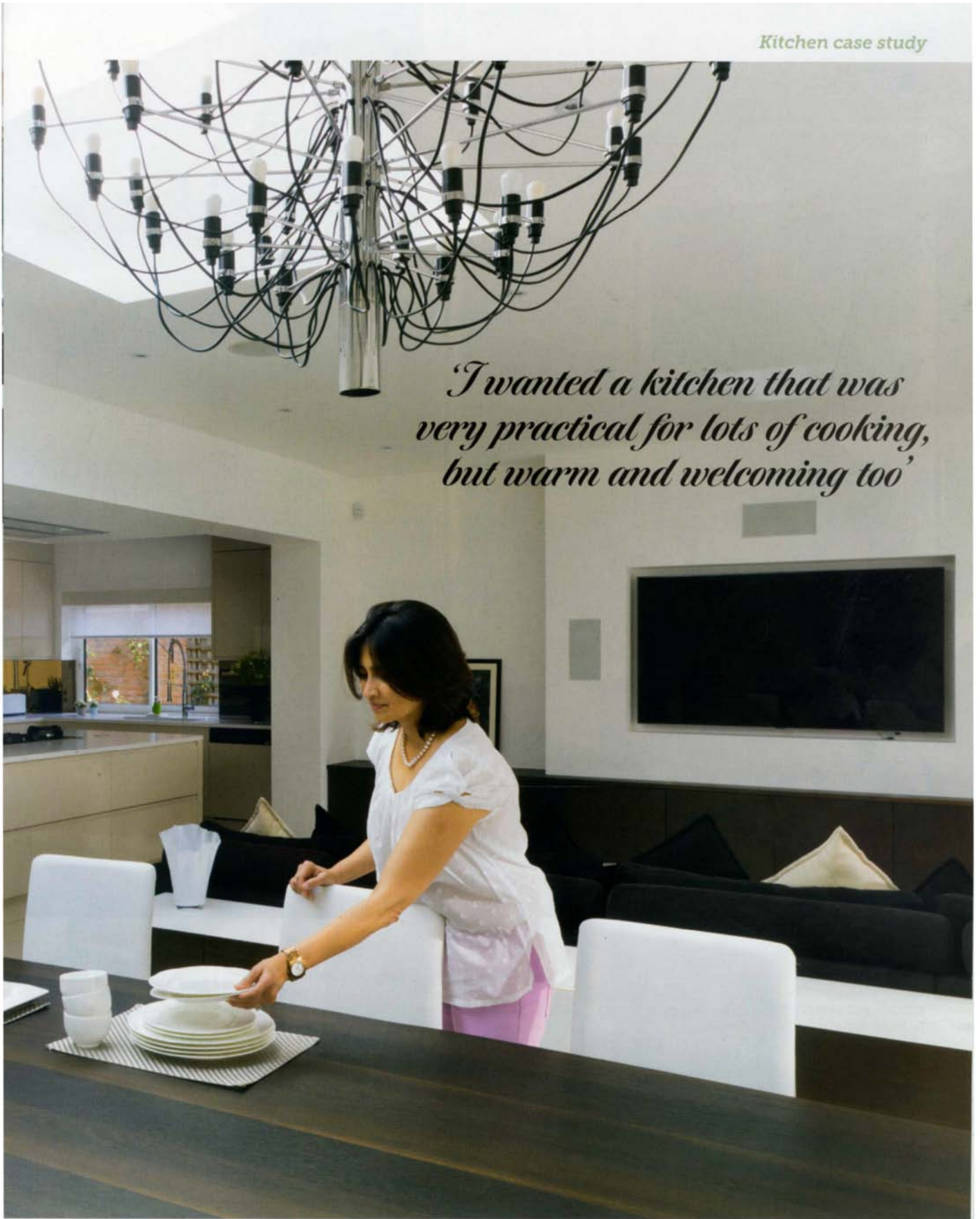
### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS PARTICULAR ELEMENTS KITCHENS?

'I looked at quite a few companies as well as my friends' kitchens. One friend had used Elements years ago, and her kitchen still looks absolutely great which I think says a lot. Timeless design and good quality products are always worth the investment.'





*'I wanted a kitchen that was very practical for lots of cooking, but warm and welcoming too'*



#### LIGHT UP MY LIFE

In addition to the floor-to-ceiling sliding glazed doors, the roof lantern measures 5.5x1.5m to introduce still more natural light into the space



## Stockists

**BUILDING CONSTRUCTION** M & S Developments.  
Tel 01628 477709. [msdevelopments.co.uk](http://msdevelopments.co.uk)

#### APPLIANCES

H6090B oven, £3,399; M6262 TC microwave, £1,199; DGC6400 combination steam oven, £2,249; KM3054 gas hob, £1,600; Similar semi-integrated dishwasher, G6410 SCi, £1,200, all Miele. Tel 01235 554455. [miele.co.uk](http://miele.co.uk)  
● Similar fridge-freezer, RF540ADUSX4 3-door, £1,999, Fisher & Paykel. Tel 0845 066 2200. [fisherpaykel.co.uk](http://fisherpaykel.co.uk) ● Similar wine cabinet, from £2,600, Eurocave. Tel 020 7935 4679. [eurocave.co.uk](http://eurocave.co.uk) ● Cloud Nine ceiling extractor hood, £2,009, Elica. Tel 01252 351111. [elica.co.uk](http://elica.co.uk) ● Fusion round boiling water three-in-one tap I chrome, £1,150, Quooker. Tel 020 7923 3355. [quooker.com](http://quooker.com) ● Model 65+ waste disposal unit, £237, Insinkerator. Tel 0800 389 3715. [insinkerator.co.uk](http://insinkerator.co.uk)

#### FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

K7 mixer tap with spray head, £687, Grohe. Tel 0871 200 3414. [grohe.com/uk](http://grohe.com/uk)  
● BlancoPerforma 1¼ bowls stainless steel sink, £865; BlancoAndano 400-U stainless steel sink, £317, all Blanco. Tel 0844 912 0100. [blanco.co.uk](http://blanco.co.uk)  
● Silestone Blanco Maple worktops; Bronzed glass splashback, all about £8,000, Elements Kitchens ● Pop-up socket port, £390, EVoline. Tel 01225 330242. [evoline.co.uk](http://evoline.co.uk) ● Porcelain floor tiles, from a selection, FEET International. Tel 020 7394 9468. [feet-international.com](http://feet-international.com) ● Lush bar stools, £97.50 each, Atlantic Shopping. Tel 0121 230 1644. [atlanticshopping.co.uk](http://atlanticshopping.co.uk) ● Flos 2097 suspension light by Gino Sarfatti, from £1,085; Cattelan Italia Ikon dining table, from £4,030; Eugene dining chairs, £199 each; Gallotti & Radice Sole wall mirror, from £1,195; Jesse Novara bespoke sideboard, from £1,050; Natuzzi Drop coffee table, £710; Similar Natuzzi sofa, from a selection, from £1,800; BeadleCrome Interiors. Tel 01189 581356. [beadlechromeinteriors.co.uk](http://beadlechromeinteriors.co.uk) ● Similar armchairs, from a selection, House of Fraser. Tel 0345 602 1073. [houseoffraser.co.uk](http://houseoffraser.co.uk)



*Kitchen case study*



**ABOVE** Accents of fresh green are echoed in the choice of armchairs beside the contemporary fireplace **BELOW LEFT** The bar and drinks zone is away from the main cooking area, so that everyone can help themselves to drinks without getting in the way of the chef **BELOW RIGHT** The drinks cabinet contains racks for hanging wine glasses, as well as pull-out drawers for cups and saucers for tea and coffee

