





Pole position

Exquisite materials combine with quirky shapes and bold colours to create a truly unique showpiece kitchen, despite a couple of architectural constraints

Any seasoned designer will tell you, when it comes to pillars and posts, they often have an uncanny and inconvenient knack of being positioned in a room just where you don't want them to be! And when it's impossible to remove or relocate them, it takes some ingenuity to design around them; a challenge that Martin Holliday, design director at Chiselwood succeeded at when he came to re-imagine this kitchen room in an 1850s-built cottage near Nottingham.

The space is formed from three separate areas that have been opened up to form one 60m² room. Homeowners Elena and James Molendino, who live here with their teenage children, wanted their new kitchen to encompass zones for cooking, seating, dining and informal eating, which all flowed seamlessly together despite the presence of two hefty brick-clad pillars. They also wanted to brighten the feel of the low-ceilinged space without adding additional windows.

"The clients wanted a sociable space for their family to relax in, and in which to entertain," says Martin. "The brief required distinct areas, but with a fluidity to the design. The biggest constriction to this was the pillars in the centre of the room, which had to stay, as they were supporting the upper floors. However, we replaced them with thinner, painted steel columns, which did not dominate in the room as much. I am really pleased with how the newly streamlined supports are incorporated within the island area so that the whole space is opened up. And I'm delighted with how the circular shelving has transformed the pillar from a bugbear into a beautiful and useful feature!" ●●●



Advice from the designer

"A large room can be more difficult to plan, as the user may end up walking long distances to access things. Keep the kitchen working triangle smaller and more manageable by using an island or peninsular unit. Attaching seating to these allows sociable interaction without hindering the cook, and is great for breakfast times. Try not to over-complicate a scheme either – less can sometimes be more."

Martin Holliday, design director, Chiselwood



The cooking zone, complete with a triple-oven Aga, was placed to one side of the pillars, using furniture to create a natural barrier to contain the cooking space. Cabinetry with curved doors was used to soften the run of units, preventing the creation of a corridor-like feel. On the other side, Martin incorporated a padded seating area in the peninsula, facing towards the TV. The screen was framed in a studded veneer to match the detailing used on the units. Neighbouring this is the dining zone, where Martin made a round table with a glass top and oak base, trimmed with a steel plinth to match with the rest of the kitchen furniture.

In addition to reducing the bulk of the pillars, Martin moved the door of the utility room from the corner of the end wall, which allowed for two huge pantry cupboards to flank the entrance, creating an aesthetically pleasing symmetry. The ceilings and beams were painted in Chiselwood's Horseradish cream to aid the lighter ambience that was desired, and pale limestone flooring was installed throughout. Low voltage spots have been installed in the ceiling, with feature track-lights hung above the oak breakfast bar and peninsula boundaries. There are also LEDs positioned internally in the larders.

A variety of finishes were utilised on the drawer fronts, doors and panelling throughout the space to aid the visual divisions, and add a luxury dimension, yet all sit harmoniously together to aid continuity. These include a dynamic mix of character oak, walnut and zebrano, as well as painted units in Cool Mint and Ice Cube white (on the tall larders), Crème Liquor cream (below the oak end-grain chopping block), Loganberry red (to either side of the zebrano breakfast bar) and Mustard Seed brown (on the columns and TV wall). The glossy Pegasus white granite worksurfaces are highly variegated, adding further character and echoing the various tones of timber used on the cabinetry. ● ● ●





“The artisan combination of materials is the thing I most love about the room – especially as it took me a while to find a bespoke company who could offer this,” says Elena. “My main wishes were for a curved design, which used lots of differing finishes, to create a warm and relaxed look. I am very pleased with the way the kitchen has been softly divided into areas for dining, catering and TV-watching, and the breakfast bar is great for a coffee and a chat. We use the room all the time as a family area, so it’s much more than just a kitchen.” ●

Details

Kitchen design, dining table & paints, Martin Holliday, Chiselwood Ltd **01522 704 446 | www.chiselwood.co.uk**
 Aga three-oven electric with electric companion in Pewter **0845 345 2823 | www.agacookshop.co.uk**
 Miele M 8261-1 ss microwave, CVA 3660ss coffee machine, G1222 SCi clst dishwasher, F9757ld fridge, FN9752i freezer **0870 755 4466 | www.miele.co.uk**
 Elica 1000cm remote extractor **01252 351 111 | www.elica.co.uk**
 Kohler Icerock 3352W under-mounted stainless steel sink **0870 850 5561 | www.kohler.co.uk**
 Perrin & Rowe MGS Boma 4021M taps **01708 526 361 | www.triflowconcepts.com**
 Quooker Modern Brushed boiler tap **020 7923 3355 | www.quooker.co.uk**
 For similar Desert Cream Brushed limestone flooring, try **www.natural-stone-tiles.com**
 For similar barstools, try the Gabello **0844 804 2222 | www.danetti.com**
 For similar dining chairs try **www.arredo.co.uk**
 Soft furnishings by Jamie Hemsall **01777 248 463 | www.jamiehemsall.com**

